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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 100, Old Series.)

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No. 24.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 100, Old Series.]

Sir C. C. SMITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Singapore,
August 25, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the report by the Colonial Secretary on the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1890.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

REPORT on the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK for the Year 1890.

Finance.

1. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1890, amounting to $4,269,125, was less than that for 1889 by $140,802. The principal decreases were under licenses, $149,977, of which about two-thirds is due from the opium and spirit farms and is nearly all recoverable, while the remaining third represents an absolute loss on pawnbrokers' licenses owing to a change in the law which involves a loss of about $100,000 a year; revenue stamps, $19,375; fines, fees, and forfeitures, $11,418; miscellaneous receipts, $34,721. On the other hand there were increases under postage of $17,462; and under interest of $50,953. There were outstanding on 1st January 1891 arrears of revenue amounting to $115,950, of which $110,000 is probably recoverable; this latter sum includes a sum of $104,000 due under the head of licenses for the opium and spirit farms of Singapore and Penang.

2. The expenditure for 1890 amounted to $3,757,693, and shows a decrease as compared with 1889 of $54,920. There were, however, considerable increases under some heads in 1890 as compared with 1889, namely, under salaries, $104,081, accounted for in part by a liberal increase to the salaries of the higher civil appointments; under pensions, $13,483; police, $8,626; gaols, $16,425; military expenditure, $49,770; to which should be added $585,262 paid early in 1891 as arrears of military contribution for

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

1890. The principal decreases were under postal services, $11,813; under public works, $268,285.

3. The assets and liabilities on 31st December 1890 show a balance in favour of assets of $1,223,447, as against $1,541,102 on 31st December 1889, being a decrease of $317,655; the balance to the credit of the Colony amounting, as shown above, to $1,223,447. This sum in fact represents mainly outstanding assets of the Colony awaiting recovery and leaves only a small working cash balance. The balance of $1,223,447 does not include the "Investments" given under the head of dependencies, amounting to $1,318.752, being loans to the Native States and to the municipalities, which cannot be classed as marketable securities, though in course of time they will be doubtless recovered. At the close of 1890 the balance on the public debt of the Colony amounted only to 5,800*l.*, and on the 15th November 1891 the whole of the small loan of 100,000*l.* raised under Ordinance 1 of 1877 will be paid off and the Colony will be free from debt.

4. Towards the latter end of the year the Penang opium farmer became bankrupt, and later it became necessary to give some relief to the Singapore opium farmer; and at the end of the year it was finally decided by Her Majesty's Government to raise the military contribution of the Colony from 50,145*l.* to 100,000*l.* per annum; consequently the financial outlook at the close of 1890 was worse than that at the close of 1889 by no less than $971,272, for on the revenue side the revenue from opium and spirits shows a decrease of $576,600, of which, $336,600 is in Penang and $240,000 in Singapore, while on the expenditure side the military contribution shows an increase of $394,672. There will fall to be paid in 1891 a sum of $84,858 in redemption of the remainder of the Malacca land annuities: this is a capital investment, and not expenditure out of current revenue. The transaction results in a permanent gain to the revenue of about $2,000 a year.

5. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities on the 1st January 1890 and 1891, including dependencies under assets of $1,318,752, and under liabilities of $31,636:—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
—	1st January 1890.	1st January 1891.	—	1st January 1890.	1st January 1891.
	$	$		$	$
Cash on current account with local banks -	394,261	839,047	Balance in favour of the Crown Agents - -	1,901	7,295
Investments, gold - -	1,013,762	1,013,762	Debenture loan - -	103,233	31,636
Invested in Government of India loans - -	350,000	350,000	Deposits, &c. - -	526,345	650,640
Loans to Native States -	527,044	765,452	Expenditure in arrears -	19,217	686,297
Loans to municipalities -	553,800	553,300		650,696	1,375,778
Other investments -	175,631	188,459			
Miscellaneous advances, &c., &c. - -	145,196	60,371	Net balance to the credit of the Colony -	2,559,977	2,510,564
Singapore defences -	41,262	—			
Revenue in arrears -	9,717	115,951			
Total - -	3,210,673	3,886,342	Total - -	3,210,673	3,886,342

6. The course of exchange is shown in the following table:—

Bank Bills.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
On London:— Sterling, on demand, Highest -	3 3	3 2⅝	3 2⅛	3 4¾	3 5½	3 6	3 8	3 10¾	3 10⅝	3 7	3 6¾	3 7¼
Lowest -	3 2⅜	3 1⅜	3 1½	3 1⅞	3 4¼	3 4½	3 5½	3 8⅜	3 6½	3 5½	3 4¼	3 5½

The highest rate of exchange during the year was in August, viz., 3*s.* 10¾*d.*, and the lowest rate of exchange during the year was in February, viz., 3*s.* 1⅜*d.* The average rate for the year was 3*s.* 6⅛*d.*

Public Works.

7. The following are the principal works undertaken, carried on, or completed in 1890:—

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	
Singapore.	$	c.
Telok Ayer reclamation - - - -	300,000	00
Improvements to Singapore River and Esplanade - -	230,000	00
New river wall and quay at Kampong Saigon - - -	72,763	00
New Johnston's pier - - - - - -	90,000	00
Tanjong Pagar police station - - - - -	20,000	00
New Quarters for 40 married constables - - -	10,000	00
Beach Road (Raffles Institute) reclamation - - -	30,000	00
Reconstruction of river walls in Government charge - -	25,000	00
Penang and Province Wellesley.		
New Government offices - - - - -	250,000	00
Resident councillor's house - - - - -	48,000	00
Reconstruction of south wing Government Hill bungalow -	12,000	00
Pontoon for landing jetty - - - - -	5,500	00
New police administration block - - - -	18,500	00
Clerks' quarters, Balik Pulau - - - - -	5,820	00
New convalescent bungalow - - - - -	18,000	00
Construction of sea wall in front of beach property - -	10,000	00
Water supply to Bukit Mertajam Village - - -	38,900	00
Metalling road from Balik Pulau to Pulau Betong - -	19,000	00
Construction of road from Tanjong Tokong to Batu Feringgi -	50,500	00
Construction of pontoon bridge, Nibong Tebal - - -	31,000	00

Singapore.

8. The Telok Ayer reclamation has been in progress for the last ten years and is now approaching completion. By this undertaking a large bay has been filled in and a wide extent of valuable building land secured in a direction where the town had become most congested. A direct road has been opened to the

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

docks, and a steam tramway brings them in close connexion with the commercial quarters of Singapore.

9. The works at the mouth of the Singapore River are those recommended by Sir J. Coode. They have been completed, and with the mud from the river the esplanade has been doubled in width, much to the satisfaction of the European and Eurasian community, who find there the necessary accommodation for various means of recreation.

10. Kampong Saigon is an island which was a few years ago covered with huts upon piles occupied by some of the worst characters in Singapore. They were cleared out, the island raised several feet with town refuse and mud from the river, and the whole has been surrounded by a neat river wall on a novel and economical plan. One portion has been given to the municipality for an abattoir, and that body have constructed one handsome iron bridge leading thereto, and contemplate building another.

11. The construction of a new Johnston's Pier, a much desired work, made rapid progress during the year, and was completed in the middle of 1891, with the exception of the wave screen, which is intended to secure smooth water alongside the landing pontoons.

12. The growing importance of the docks and wharves called for the construction of a more commodious police station at Tanjong Pagar than the one which had existed from the early days of the Colony. The new station has been built on a commanding site at the corner of the Keppel Road, the ground for the purpose being given to the Government by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company.

13. It having been represented that it was subversive to the discipline of the police force that many of the married constables were obliged to live in hired lodgings on account of the paucity of Government quarters, the remedy has been provided by the construction of 40 new quarters on a site adjacent to the People's Park. They are now quite complete and are much appreciated by the force.

14. By the Beach Road Reclamation two advantages are secured—(*a*) the flat beach in front of the town is reclaimed in continuation of the esplanade and provides room for the recreation and amusement of the large community living in Kampong Bencoolen; (*b*) it provides a place of deposit for the dredgings from the river which otherwise would have to be taken out to sea.

15. The vote for the re-construction of river walls has for its object to gradually put in proper order the river walls and quays still in charge of the Government and to hand them over to the municipality, when their annual maintenance will be no longer a charge on the revenues of the Colony.

Penang.

16. The new Government offices have been completed, and now furnish every facility for carrying on the administration of the various departments located therein.

17. The Resident Councillor's house provides that officer with a commodious residence well suited to meet the requirements of the executive head of that Settlement.

18. The south wing of the Government Hill Bungalow (Bel Retiro) has been completed in a solid and permanent manner. Attention is still required to the laying out of the grounds.

19. The small quarter formerly occupied as a residence and office by the Superintendent of Police having proved far too cramped for the efficient administration of the Department, and the building itself being in a tumbledown condition, it was determined to build the new administrative block in which accommodation could be conveniently provided for carrying on the different duties. A new site was selected at the corner of Leith Street just opposite the public offices. A fine building has now been erected, and the various police requirements fully met.

20. Beach property was acquired by Government from the Presbyterian Mission. For long past the sea during the south-west monsoon has been making serious inroads on the foreshore. The substantial sea-wall which has been erected will stop any further changes in this respect.

21. Bukit Mertajam is one of the most thriving centres of Province Wellesley, and during times of drought it suffers greatly from want of water. An excellent gravitation supply was found on the far side of the range of hills and is being brought by a line of iron pipes to the village, which will greatly benefit thereby.

22. The road traffic in the Balik Pulau district has immensely increased since the opening of the Ginting Road which connects Balik Pulau with George Town. The earthen road from Balik Pulau to Pulau Betong was found to be unable to stand this traffic, and had to be properly metalled.

23. The commencement of the Batu Feringgi Road marks a policy which has obtained general approval by which a circular road will run round the island of Penang. It is rather a heavy undertaking, and will gradually be carried out in four sections that now commenced being the first section only.

24. Of the Province Wellesley roads and bridges, the only one requiring any particular notice is the pontoon bridge at Nibong Tebal. It was originally proposed to construct this bridge lower down the river at Telok Epil, but the site was subsequently changed. The work is now complete, and roads in the Trans-Krian are in progress.

Malacca.

25. No works of importance were undertaken in Malacca, except some preliminary steps in connexion with the new water works, which will bring a much-needed supply of water into the town from the northern side of Bukit Bruang, some eight miles distant.

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MUNICIPALITIES.

26. The following statement gives the actual revenue and expenditure, cash balances, and outstanding loans of the municipalities of the three Settlements respectively, for 1889 and 1890:—

Municipalities.	1889.	1890.
	$	$
REVENUE:		
Singapore - - - -	664,684	635,082
Penang - - - -	330,946	237,940
Malacca - - - -	26,990	25,245
	1,022,620	898,267
EXPENDITURE:		
Singapore - - -	600,915	703,748
Penang - - - -	203,217	314,251
Malacca - - - -	23,626	23,244
	827,758	1,041,243
CASH BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - - -	233,769	333,333
Penang - - - -	204,228	127,862
Malacca - - - -	6,364	2,001
	444,361	463,1[illegible]3
LOANS OUTSTANDING AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - - -	400,000	550,000
Penang - - - -	250,000	250,000
Malacca - - - -	24,000	23,500
	674,000	823,500

27. The following shows the amount of the rates and taxes for the three Settlements outside municipal limits; and the amount expended on roads and bridges in the same districts during the year:—

Amount of Rates and Taxes collected in 1890.			Amount expended by Government during 1890 on Roads and Bridges.		
	$	c.		$	c.
Singapore - -	2,617	25	Singapore - -	59,147	18
Penang - -	66,819	67	Penang and P.W. -	186,105	27
Malacca - -	12,427	80	Malacca - -	155,650	98

Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.

	$	c.
Singapore - - - -	56,529	93
Penang - - - -	119,253	04
Malacca - - - -	143,583	18

LEGISLATION.

28. The Legislative Council met 17 times during the year, and 16 Ordinances were passed, in regard to none of which has Her Majesty the Queen exercised Her power of disallowance. Among these may be mentioned:—

An Ordinance (II.) relating to reformatories and industrial schools, adapted from the English Act which had already been brought into operation in Ceylon and Hongkong.

An Ordinance (IV.) for the protection of coco-nut trees from the ravages of certain beetles. Very great destruction was going on among coco-nut trees in the Colony owing to the attacks of these beetles (the *Oryctes rhinoceros* and the *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*), so much so that it seemed likely that, unless some steps were taken to remedy the evil, coco-nut cultivation would cease. By this Ordinance it becomes the duty of owners of coco-nut trees attacked by beetles to destroy such trees.

An Ordinance (VII.) to consolidate and amend the law relating to passenger ships.

Ordinances XI. and XII., which are adaptations of English Acts of Parliament—(1.) relating to the law of evidence with respect of bankers' books, by which bankers are relieved from the necessity of producing their books in court; and (2) consolidating the law relating to arbitration.

29. The most important matter discussed in the Council was the demand of Her Majesty's Government for an increased military contribution, which was strongly opposed by all the unofficial members of the Council.

30. During the year two commissions were issued by the Governor, upon requisitions from the Legislative Council, the first for an inquiry into the management of native religious trusts in Penang, and the second for an inquiry into the state of labour in the Colony and in the protected Native States, with a view to devising a scheme for encouraging immigration, and thereby supplying the demand for labour.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS AND REGISTRY OF BILLS OF SALE.

31. The amount of fees collected under "the Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1886," was $7,498 25, as against $8,852 75 in 1889, and the amount of fees collected under "The Bills of Sale Ordinance, 1886," was $1,509 25, as against $1,648 in 1889. A Bill to amend "The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1886,"

was published towards the close of the year. The principal changes proposed by the Bill were—(*a*) an alteration in the form of the certificate of identity on deeds; (*b*) better provisions for enabling the Registrar to refuse to register deeds not duly stamped, and deeds relating to land on which an arrear of land revenue is due to the Colony; and (*c*) a provision for the protection of registering officers, so long as they act *bonâ fide*. In November a solicitor from England was appointed deputy registrar of deeds, and was also appointed by the Supreme Court a Commissioner to administer oaths for the purpose of enabling him to attest and explain bills of sale and to take statutory declarations under "The Bills of Sale Ordinance, 1886."

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

32. The business of this Department exhibits a satisfactory increase. In 1890, 2,276,258 articles were received, and 2,285,628 were despatched, as compared with 1,996,113 and 2,097,609 in the previous year.

33. The revenue during the year under review was $148,001, being $17,454 more than was collected in 1889. Every post office in the Colony contributed to this increase, but the improvement is most noticeable in Penang, which shows a total nearly 100 per cent. higher than 1888.

34. The expenditure for 1890 amounted to $110,708, being $37,393 less than the revenue.

35. The operations of the money order branch amounted in 1890 to the large sum of $395,834, which is an increase of $139,674 over the transactions of the previous year. The principal business done was with the United Kingdom, India, and the Native States.

36. The postal service in Province Wellesley and Malacca was improved and extended, and it is satisfactory to note that greater efficiency is reported of all the subordinate offices.

37. The registration and late fees were reduced from 8 and 12 cents respectively to 5 cents, and arrangements were completed for the adoption, on the 1st January 1891, of an uniform rate of postage for letters of 5 cents the half-ounce to all parts of the world beyond the Colony and the Native States, the local postage remaining unchanged at 2 cents.

SAVINGS BANK.

38. The total amount deposited in the three savings banks of the Colony during 1890 was $112,020, being $382 less than the sum withdrawn. The sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December 1890 was $126,961 46, and the aggregate sum lodged in the bank from its establishment in 1887 to the same day was $785,706.

39. Particulars of the business transacted by the branches in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca respectively are given in the following statement:—

——	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	465	220	24
Accounts closed - - -	346	106	23
Accounts open at the end of the year -	743	206	38
	$	$	$
Deposited, 1890 - - -	82,085	25,581	4,354
Repaid, 1890 - - - -	83,786	24,203	4,413
Balance due to depositors at close of 1890 - - - - -	95,655	27,289	4,018

EDUCATION.

40. The population of the Colony, while including all nationalities, consists principally of Malays, Chinese, and Tamils from the Madras coast of India.

41. In addition to private schools which give instruction in English and the native languages, the schools of the Colony may be divided into two classes:—

(1.) Schools both Government and aided, in which English is taught to all nationalities.

(2.) Government Malay schools in which Malays are taught their own language.

42. There are also in Singapore and Penang mission schools for Tamils receiving Government aid, in which instruction is given either in Tamil alone or in Tamil and English.

43. From the returns of the 1881 census the number of male children of a school-going age, viz., between the ages of 6 and 15, is as follows:—

Europeans, Eurasians, &c. - -	845
Chinese - - - - -	6,501
Malays - - - - -	18,937
Klings - - - - -	2,590
Other Asiatics - - - -	2,142
Total - - -	31,015

44. The school-going age extends over a period of nine years, while it is found that a Malay boy can acquire a knowledge of the reading and writing of his own language in three years. The total Malay population will, therefore, have been educated if about one third of the number of boys of a school-going age are constantly

at school. In the case of other languages, and of English, a course of study of about nine years is required. The number of male children for whom education has to be provided may, therefore, be considered to be as follows:—

Europeans, Eurasians, &c. - -	845
Malays, about - . - - -	7,000
Other races - - - -	11,233
Total - - -	19,078

This is, however, subject to some doubt as regards the figures for other races, the greater number of whom are male adults unmarried.

The number of male children at present attending is:—

Europeans, Eurasians, &c. - -	744
Malays - - - - -	7,267
Other races - - - -	3,880
Total - - -	11,891

45. The educational progress made during the past 10 years is shown by the following figures:—

——	1880.	1890.
Attendance at boys' schools :—		
Government English schools - -	623	1,002
Aided do. - -	2,337	3,793
Government Malay schools - -	1,290	7,072
Total - - - -	4,250	11,867

Not only is there this large increase in the number of pupils in attendance, but there has been a considerable improvement in the condition of the schools, and a very much larger proportion of the pupils now remain at school until they have completed their education. From every point of view, therefore, the progress made during the past 10 years has been most rapid. Great difficulty is still experienced in extending female education. The total number of female children at present receiving instruction in the Government aided and in the private schools of the Colony is about 1,216.

POPULATION.

46. The number of births registered in 1890 in all the settlements was 10,010, of which 5,261 were those of male, and 4,749 those of female children.

47. The deaths registered in 1890 numbered 16,813, as against 18,206 in 1889, or a decrease of 1,393, the highest rate of mortality having been recorded at Singapore. The greatest number of deaths occurred among persons between the ages of 25 and 35, the death-rate being 21·63 of the total number.

48. The following table gives the number of births and deaths registered in each Settlement during the past two years :—

Settlement.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Singapore - -	2,837	2,799	6,385	6,557
Dindings - -	84	97	104	119
Penang - - -	2,166	1,864	3,998	4,002
Province Wellesley -	3,014	2,697	3,571	2,624
Malacca - - -	3,417	2,553	4,148	3,511
Total -	11,518	10,010	18,206	16,813

49. The population of the Colony, according to the rough totals of the Census taken on the 5th April 1891, as compared with the Census of 1881, is as follows:—

Settlement.	1881.			1891.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Singapore - - - -	105,423	33,785	139,208	141,330	43,224	184,554
Penang, Province Wellesley, and Dindings - - -	124,205	66,392	190,597	149,419	82,061	231,480
Malacca - - - -	52,059	41,520	93,579	49,695	41,255	90,950
Total - - -	281,687	141,697	423,384	340,444	166,540	506,984

Total population of the Colony, 1891, 506,984

Total increase since 1881 - - 83,600 or 19·7 per cent.

Increase in males since 1881 - 58,757 or 20·8 „

Increase in females since 1881 - 24,843 or 17·5 „

Singapore.

Total increase since 1881 -	- 43,346 or 32·5	per cent.
Increase in males since 1881	- 35,907 or 25·4	„
Increase in females since 1881	- 9,439 or 21·3	„

Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings.

Total increase since 1881 -	- 40,883 or 21·4	„
Increase in males since 1881	- 25,214 or 20·3	„
Increase in females since 1881	- 15,669 or 23·5	„

Malacca.

Total decrease since 1881 -	- 2,629 or 2·8	„
Decrease in males since 1881	- 2,364 or 4·5	„
Decrease in females since 1881	- 265 or 0·6	„

50. The population of the Protected Native States in which a census was taken at the same time as that of the Colony is as follows:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Perak - - - -	156,408	57,846	214,254
Selangor - - -	67,048	14,373	81,421
Sungei Ujong - - -	17,234	6,368	23,602
Negri Sembilan - - -	23,327	18,290	41,617
Pahang - - - -	28,032	24,771	52,803
Total - -	292,049	121,648	413,697

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

51. The total number of Chinese immigrants—men, women and children—was 127,936; this shows a decrease of 22,873 in the number of Chinese immigrants, as compared with the number of Chinese immigrants in 1889. An analysis of this decrease shows that of free immigrants there were 16,625, of unpaid immigrants 6,248, and of female immigrants 529, less than in the previous year.

52. Chinese immigration to the Straits increased steadily from 1880 up to 1888, when it began to steadily decline. It has still continued to decline in 1890. This decline is due to natural

causes, and not to any failure on the part of the Straits Settlements as a Colony to offer less attraction to Chinese immigrants than before. This decline in Chinese immigration is chiefly due to the falling off in the demand for tin labour in the Native States; for example, in 1887 as many as 16,714 Chinese immigrants were signed on to work in Perak and Selangor in the tin mines; in 1890 only 3,934 contracts were made by Chinese immigrants for the two States. The competition of Sumatra and Borneo for cooly labour has further diminished Chinese immigration to the Straits. Since the planting associations of these two countries have opened up a direct route from Swatow and Hong Kong to Borneo and Sumatra, the immigration from Swatow and Hong Kong to the Straits has fallen off very considerably. There can be no doubt, too, that the general depression of trade in 1890 decreased the demand for labour throughout the Colony and Native States. The number of unpaid Chinese immigrants that arrived in the Colony was 14,965. Of this number 8,152 entered the depôts licensed by the Government in Singapore, and 6,813 were admitted into the licensed depôts in Penang. The number of unpaid Chinese passengers that arrived in the Colony in 1889 was 21,213. This shows a decrease of 6,248 in 1890 in the number of Chinese immigrants whose passages were unpaid. The same causes that have tended to decrease the general flow of Chinese immigration into the Colony, have no doubt acted on the unpaid passenger immigration in a similar way. A decision of the Supreme Court as to the meaning of "unpaid passenger," when the judges construed it to mean a passenger still owing money to the vessel which brought him, caused a panic among the depôt-keepers in the Straits and the recruiting agencies in Hong Kong and China, in consequence of which Ordinance I. of 1891 was passed.

53. There was a falling off of 529 in the number of women who arrived in the Colony as against 1889. Of the 5,542 females who arrived, 3,820 landed in Singapore, 1,710 proceeded to Penang, and 12 to other ports.

54. There were 26,204 contracts to labour executed in the Colony, as against 32,666 in 1889, showing a decrease of 6,462 in the number of contracts signed for the year. Coolie contracts to the Dutch possessions decreased by 3,140, and to the Native States by 1,525, as compared with 1889. The number of contracts made for Province Wellesley was only 1,235, the lowest number of contracts on record. This falling off in the number of contracts can only be attributed to the fact that the Dutch are succeeding in getting their labour direct from China, and that the surface tin mining industry of the Native States does not now pay as well as it formerly did. The general tightness of the money market, too, has no doubt tended to diminish the demand for labour. Of the total number of contracts (26,204) signed in the Colony, 6,502 were made for labour in the Colony and Protected Native States, and 19,702 for labour in other places.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

55. During the year, 2,960 statute immigrants with 158 dependents arrived in the Colony for service in the Settlements and Native States, showing an increase of 213 on the figures for the previous year. 18,301 immigrants not under agreements also arrived in the Colony, showing an increase of 3,016 as compared with the number in 1889.

56. The following table gives the statistics of the department since 1880:—

——	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Immigrants under indenture -	1,191	879	1,452	1,450	1,539	1,642	2,748	4,736	4,684	2,747	2,960
Dependents - -	107	159	209	176	177	49	244	310	317	104	158
Free immigrants	3,755	5,769	8,276	8,979	14,365	19,819	17,316	12,156	15,812	15,285	18,301
Total arrivals -	5,053	6,807	9,937	10,605	16,081	21,510	20,308	17,202	20,813	18,136	21,419
Returned to India	—	5,269	5,947	9,041	10,749	13,417	18,105	12,596	13,190	14,099	15,276
Remained in the Colony - -	—	1,538	3,990	1,564	5,332	8,093	2,203	4,606	7,623	4,037	6,143

The years 1885 and 1886 were, however, exceptional years, as extraordinary facilities were afforded to immigrants by the competition that existed between two rival lines of steamers. The figures for the past year compare favourably on the whole with those for the two preceding years.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

57. Towards the close of the year the import and export branch of the Master Attendant's Office was re-organised, and a registrar of imports and exports was appointed. The trade returns are now dealt with in a more systematic and thorough manner, conducive to as great accuracy as the conditions of a free port will allow.

58. The following tables give the value of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1889 and 1890 respectively:—

Imports.

——		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	1890	15,862,524	4,000,856	—
	1889	15,512,690	3,543,618	—
British Possessions - -	1890	23,634,101	15,718,175	—
	1889	26,295,625	13,417,584	—
Foreign Countries - -	1890	53,224,760	18,378,036	461,502
	1889	55,087,572	19,079,141	610,372

—		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE – *cont.*		$	$	$
Between the Settlements -	1890	6,735,380	1,802,293	1,616,896
	1889	5,575,497	1,984,126	1,470,272
Total Value of Merchandise	1890	99,456,765	39,899,360	2,078,398
	1889	102,471,384	38,024,469	2,080,644
TREASURE.				
Total Value of Treasure -	1890	13,177,195	3,889,040	149,953
	1889	8,275,206	5,156,928	190,430
Total Imports of Merchandise and Treasure.	1890	112,633,960	43,788,400	2,228,351
	1889	110,746,590	43,181,397	2,271,074
Grand Total Value of Imports of the Straits Settlements - - - -	1890			158,650,711
	1889			156,199,061

Exports.

—		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	1890	18,246,593	6,512,954	—
	1889	18,944,967	8,303,661	—
British Possessions - -	1890	11,113,835	7,694,000	—
	1889	9,349,489	5,504,158	—
Foreign Countries - -	1890	47,629,595	16,017,040	279,326
	1889	50,635,375	16,914,808	356,695
Between the Settlements -	1890	2,059,115	5,205,232	1,733,204
	1889	1,735,726	5,237,387	2,049,559
Total Value of Merchandise	1890	79,049,138	35,429,226	2,012,530
	1889	80,665,557	35,960,014	2,406,254
TREASURE.				
Total Value of Treasure -	1890	15,082,666	5,920,021	231,563
	1889	8,017,577	5,873,474	296,405
Total Exports of Merchandise and Treasure.	1890	94,131,804	41,349,247	2,244,093
	1889	88,683,134	41,833,488	2,702,659
Grand Total Value of Exports of the Straits Settlements - - - -	1890			137,725,144
	1889			133,219,281

59. It will be seen from the above tables that while there is an increase in the total value of both imports and exports compared with the previous year, this is entirely due to the trade in treasure,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

and that there is a decline under both heads in the real trade of the Colony.

In the total imports, Singapore and Penang show increases, while Malacca declines; and in the total exports, Singapore alone gives an increased value.

60. The falling off is accounted for by the severe depression of trade which existed throughout the year. The local money market was depressed in consequence of mining speculations in the first half of 1889, which seriously crippled the resources, more especially, of the Chinese trading community, and resulted in a large number of business failures. This state of affairs was intensified by falling prices in th home markets.

61. In looking at these figures it is to be remembered that in comparing any two or more years a not insignificant factor has to be considered in the fluctuations in exchange. Thus in 1890 the average value in sterling of the dollar gave an increase of over 9 per cent. above the average of 1889, and it is obvious that in any comparison of quantities and values this difference must be kept in view, as a smaller value might not mean a lesser quantity, or a cheaper class of goods.

62. A very considerable decrease in the export trade with the Netherlands India is observable, and there are also decreases in value from Selangor and Sungei Ujong; but a greater quantity of tin was received from Selangor than in 1889. The tin imported from Malacca and the West Malay Peninsula was less by 730 tons.

63. It will be noticed that, for the first time, the value of treasure is shown separate from that of merchandise.

64. The following are a few of the principal imports to and exports from the Straits Settlements:—

Imports.

—	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton piece goods -	Pieces. 4,674,674	Pieces. 7,117,374	2,442,700	—
Coal - - -	Tons. 367,528	Tons. 324,624	—	42,904
Rice - - -	Pikuls. 5,131,015	Pikuls. 6,762,772	1,631,757	—
Opium - - -	Chests. 15,511	Chests. 14,448	—	1,063
Silk piece goods - -	Pieces. 277,167	Pieces. 377,905	100,738	—

Exports.

——	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Coffee - - -	72,975	47,657	—	25,318
Gambier - - -	720,931 $\frac{40}{100}$	769,704 $\frac{40}{100}$	48,773	—
Gums - - -	165,582	173,051 $\frac{40}{100}$	7,469 $\frac{40}{100}$	—
Spices - - -	731,037	785,371	54,334	—
Tapioca - - -	391,955	544,404	152,449	—
Tin - - -	554,747	537,190	—	17,557

65. The following shows the amounts of revenue collected by the Marine Department in each Settlement during 1889 and 1890:—

——	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
1890 - - -	73,728	75	27,217	60	1,731	91	102,678	26
1889 - - -	77,822	06	29,517	53	2,186	76	109,526	35

66. The following is a summary of the shipping of the Colony during 1889 and 1890:—

SHIPPING.

Square-rigged Vessels.

——	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals, 1890 -	3,646	2,989,059	3,050	1,653,285	1,414	217,376	8,110	4,859,720
Do. 1889 -	3,867	3,065,732	2,935	1,592,626	928	183,286	7,730	4,841,644
Departures, 1890 -	3,621	2,955,975	3,028	1,644,976	1,419	217,988	8,068	4,818,939
Do. 1889 -	3,848	3,048,245	2,917	1,584,910	927	182,151	7,692	4,815,306
Total, 1890 -	7,267	5,945,034	6,078	3,298,261	2,833	435,364	16,178	9,678,659
Do. 1889 -	7,715	6,113,977	5,852	3,177,536	1,855	365,437	15,422	9,656,950

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals, 1890 -	5,546	208,689	5,650	118,181	2,141	33,059	13,337	359,929
Do. 1889 -	6,619	254,722	5,483	127,416	2,387	46,162	14,489	428,300
Departures, 1890 -	5,515	212,636	5,641	117,887	2,178	33,701	13,334	364,224
Do. 1889 -	6,563	253,467	3,712	91,715	2,417	46,837	12,692	392,019
Total, 1890 -	11,061	421,325	11,291	236,068	4,319	66,760	26,671	724,153
Do. 1889 -	13,182	508,189	9,195	219,131	4,804	92,999	27,181	820,319

REGISTRY OF SHIPPING.

New Vessels built.

—	No.	Tonnage.
Singapore, 1890 - - -	79	4,727
Do., 1889 - - -	87	5,288

67. Singapore has a decrease in number and tonnage in both classes of vessels, Penang an increase all over, and Malacca an increase in square-rigged vessels only.

68. The decreases in revenue are caused by the falling off in shipping and a change of system in collecting the light dues from local vessels.

69. The relative importance of shipping and commerce in 1889 and 1890 for Singapore and Penang is shown by the following returns:—

SHIPPING (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVE CRAFT).

Singapore.

1889 - 7,715 vessels measuring 6,113,977 tons.
1890 - 7,267 „ „ 5,945,034 „

Penang.

1889 - 5,852 vessels measuring 3,177,536 tons.
1890 - 6,078 „ „ 3,293,645 „

TRADE.

Singapore.

	$
1889 - - - -	199,429,724
1890 - - - -	206,765,764

Penang.

	$
1889 - - - -	85,014,885
1890 - - - -	85,137,647

LIGHTHOUSES.

70. The lighthouses, launches, buoys, and beacons have been kept in an efficient condition. The newly appointed engineer has arrived, and commenced work.

The lightship on Ajax Shoal was established in February 1890, and has proved an immense boon to shipping, enabling vessels to gain considerable time in approaching the new harbour in the mornings, and to leave at a later hour in the afternoon with perfect safety.

The new and more powerful harbour gas light on Fort Canning was exhibited in May 1890, and now shows over 20 miles. Numerous reports have been received from shipmasters stating that it gives an entirely satisfactory light and can no longer be mistaken for the riding lights of vessels at anchor.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

71. The health of the Straits Settlements has been good during the past year, there having been, with the exception of an outbreak of influenza in the early part of the year throughout the Colony, no prevalence of any epidemic disease in any one of the Settlements.

72. A new hospital was opened during the year in Province Wellesley, at Bukit Mertajam, one that existed formerly at Bukit Minyak having been pulled down. The situation of the new hospital appears to be far more advantageous in every way than that of the former one.

73. The following table gives the number of patients treated, and of the deaths among them, during 1890, as compared with 1889:—

—	Number of Patients treated.			Number of Deaths.			Percentage of Deaths to Total treated.		
	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.
1890 - - -	832	19,947	20,779	37	2,414	2,451	4·44	12·10	11·79
1889 - - -	1,030	20,426	21,456	51	2,297	2,348	4·95	11·24	10·94

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

74. The following table shows the number of patients treated, and the deaths that occurred in hospital in each of the Settlements :—

Settlement.	Total treated.	Deaths.
Singapore - - - -	9,632	1,071
Penang and the Dindings - -	5,801	552
Province Wellesley - -	1,908	295
Malacca - - - -	3,436	534

75. The numbers in the leper hospital, Singapore, and leper asylum, Penang, during 1889 and 1890, were as follows :—

Hospitals.	1889.				1890.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.
Leper Hospital - - -	93	26	45	22	132	18	87	27
Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak -	280	100	20	160	155	91	40	24

BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

76. The Official Assignee reporting on the working of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1888, states as follows :—

The total number of receiving orders made and proceeded with during the year 1890 was :—

	No. of Proceedings.	No. of Debtors.
In Singapore - - -	54	60
In Penang - - - -	7	7
In Malacca - - - -	—	—
Total - -	61	67

which, compared with the bankruptcy proceedings in 1889, shows an increase in the three Settlements of 16 estates.

77. The following table will show the estimated loss to creditors in the three Settlements. The estimate is, however, that of the debtors themselves, and the actual loss will probably far exceed this estimate :—

Settlement.	Estimated Assets.	Estimated Liabilities.	Nett estimated Loss to Creditors.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Singapore - -	402,065 05	862,627 64	460,562 59
Penang - - -	6,297 60	69,599 84	63,302 24
Malacca - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	408,362 65	932,227 48	523,864 83

78. Six compositions or schemes of arrangements were sanctioned by the Supreme Court, as against three in 1889. Out of 829 creditors scheduled by debtors in their statements of affairs, 692 lodged proofs of their claims amounting to $940,833 55. The number of proofs lodged exceeded by 278 those lodged in 1889.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

79. The number of joint stock companies registered during the year was as follows :—

—	Number.	Amount of Capital.
		$
Singapore - - - -	5	1,035,350
Penang - - - -	2	509,000
Total - -	7	1,544,350

METEOROLOGY.

80. The following statement shows the maximum, minimum, and mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year :—

—	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	Fahr. ° ′	Fahr. ° ′	Fahr. ° ′
Singapore - - - -	91 2	67 5	78 9
Penang - - - - -	93 0	69 5	80 0
Province Wellesley - - -	93 5	70 0	82 7
Malacca - - - -	90 0	65 4	81 8

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

81. Complete returns of rainfall for the whole year were received from 39 stations in the Colony. The heaviest rainfall was in Penang and Singapore.

82. The following table shows the total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours:—

Settlement.	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Inches.	Ins.	Ins.	Inches.
Singapore - -	117·78	July - 22·28	May - 2·94	6·85
Penang - -	139·69	July - 35·96	Dec. - 0·31	8·95
Province Wellesley.	100·40	Oct. - 24·20	Dec. - 0·42	10·00
Malacca - -	72·29	Jan. - 20·50	June - 0·20	8·50
Dindings - -	82·29	Aug. - 11·85	Dec. - 0·41	4·50

POLICE AND CRIME.

83. The report of the committee appointed in 1889 to inquire into and suggest remedies for the unsatisfactory state of the administration and work of the police force was issued and dealt with in 1890. Some of the chief recommendations of the committee adopted after full consideration by the Executive Council were:—

(*a.*) The Inspector-General of Police to be Inspecting Officer for the three Settlements, and not, as hitherto, chief police officer in Singapore, the chief police officer at each Settlement, including Singapore, being the Superintendent.

(*b.*) Higher rates of pay to be given to the Native contingent — Sikhs, Malays, and Klings.

(*c.*) Introduction of Chinese constables.

(*d.*) Police regulations to be compiled anew.

(*e.*) The higher appointments in the police to be filled by the cadets of the Civil Service.

84. The authorised strength of the police force at the end of 1890 was:—

1 Inspector-General.
3 Superintendents.
3 Assistant Superintendents.
3 Chief Inspectors.
21 Inspectors.
66 European contingent of all ranks.
229 Sikh contingent of all ranks.
1,813 Malay, Kling and Chinese contingent of all ranks.

But there still was a deficiency in the Malay and Kling contingent in all three Settlements.

85. The report on the conduct of the European contingent is not entirely favourable, and the Malays and Klings show no improvement, but the Sikhs are said to have given satisfaction.

86. One hundred and fifty-eight (158) men were dismissed from the force during the year for police offences, and 56 cases were sent for trial before the Magistrates of Police.

87. The number of cases reported to the police was 962 more, and the number of arrests 3,374 less, than 1889. There was a considerable increase in the number of serious cases.

88. The Inspector-General of Police reports that the secret societies were suppressed under the law on 1st July 1890. In the latter part of 1890 a society having for its motto "Sui Lok Ping On," meaning "Peace and comfort by sea and land," by which name it is called, but more truly and commonly known as the "Broken Coffin Society," the operations of which consisted chiefly in the blackmailing and robbing on board ship of passengers between the Straits and China, showed itself in strength, but the banishment of two of its leaders completely stopped its operations for a time.

JUDICIAL.

89. There was a small increase in the number of prisoners brought before the Supreme Court during the year. The percentage of convictions was 73, as compared with 63 in 1889.

90. The total number of civil cases showed a decrease, but the amount involved was $5,700,000, as compared with $3,100,000 in the previous year.

91. There were 89 bankruptcy petitions, as compared with 49 in 1889.

92. The number of prisoners brought before the police and marine magistrates was less than in 1889, and the cases instituted in the courts of requests (which have jurisdiction when the amount does not exceed $50) also showed a decrease.

PRISONS.

93. The statistics of the prisons of the Colony differ little from those for the year 1889, though there is a slight increase in the numbers, as might be expected with the increasing population.

94. The conduct of the native prisoners was better than in 1889. The number of minor offences showed a decrease, and the serious offences were only about half as many as in the previous year. There were no serious cases of assault on prison officers, and only one escape, the prisoner being recaptured a few days later. Three cases of suicide by hanging, all of Chinese, occurred in the Singapore Prison.

95. The health of the prisoners in all three Settlements was good.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

96. The penal scale of diet used since 1887 for all prisoners of six weeks and under was extended during the year to all prisoners sentenced to three months and under. The reports called for later on showed that the extension had no prejudicial effect on the health or discipline of the prisoners, while a very substantial saving in the cost of the prison rations resulted, the total annual saving to the Colony being between $6,000 and $7,000.

THE DINDINGS.

97. The revenue for 1890 was $1,018 11 below that of 1889, the Opium Farm being reduced in proportion with the Penang Farm. The land revenue was also slightly less than in 1889, being $7,038 50 against $7,626 75. The offices have, with the exception of the Post Office, been all removed from Pangkor to Lumut, where a timber depôt for the Colony has been established.

There have been cases of fever at the new station, but they have generally been of a slight character, and on the whole Lumut appears to be healthy.

(Signed) J. F. DICKSON,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

Singapore, 17th August 1891.

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No. 59.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 14.]

Sir C. C. SMITH to the MARQUESS of RIPON.

Government House, Singapore.
September 7, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the report by the Colonial Secretary, in anticipation of the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1891.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH.

The Most Hon.
The Marquess of Ripon, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK for the Year 1891.

Finance.

1. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1891, amounting to $3,826,603, was less than that for 1890 by $442,523. The principal decreases were under licenses, $403,177; postal revenue, $29,206; revenue stamps, $44,062; miscellaneous receipts, $9,897. On the other hand there were increases under interest of $16,098; land revenue, $54,908. There was a decrease in premia of nearly $20,000, but a sale of land on the Telok Ayer reclamation (the first since 1887) realised $67,594. Land rents also showed a satisfactory increase. There were outstanding on 1st January 1892 arrears of revenue amounting to $64,745; this sum includes a sum of $49,000 due under the head of licenses for the opium and spirit farms of Singapore and is recoverable.

Although the revenue derived from the Excise Farms (licenses) shows such a large falling off, it may be stated that the rents were higher than for 1886 to 1888 ($2,292,600 per annum) while the farms have been let for the three years 1892–1894 at $2,364,000 per annum.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1891.

2. The expenditure for 1891 amounted to $4,598,978, and shows an increase, as compared with 1890, of $841,285. There were, however, considerable decreases under some heads in 1891, as compared with 1890, namely, under public works, $186,007; land and houses purchased, $14,702; police, $8,892. The principal increases were under salaries, education, steam launches, postal, interest, miscellaneous services, and special expenses. The payments in respect of the military contribution during the year, including arrears, amounted to $1,087,649.

3. The assets and liabilities on the 31st December 1891 show a balance in favour of assets of $1,302,153, as against $1,221,593 on the 31st December 1890, being an increase of $80,560. The balance of $1,302,153 does not include the "Investments" given under the head of dependencies, amounting to $886,564, these being loans to the Native States and to the Malacca municipality, which are not at call, though they are of course ultimately recoverable. At the close of 1890, the balance of the public debt of the Colony amounted only to 5,800*l.*, and since then the whole of the loan of 100,000*l.* raised under Ordinance No. 1 of 1877 has been paid off and the Colony is free from debt.

4. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities on the 1st January 1891 and 1892, including dependencies under assets of $886,564:—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
—	1st January 1891.	1st January 1892.	—	1st January 1891.	1st January 1892.
	$	$		$	$
Cash on current account with local banks -	839,047	914,742	Balance in favour of the Crown Agents - -	7,205	—
Do. with Crown Agents -	—	120,356	Debenture loan - -	31,636	—
Investments, gold - -	1,013,762	1,013,762	Deposits, &c. - -	650,641	681,174
Invested in Government of India loans - -	350,000	796	Temporary loan -	—	745,135
Loans to Native States -	765,452	1,062,564	Expenditure in arrears -	685,738	184,561
Loans to municipalities -	553,300	330,500		1,375,220	1,610,870
Other investments -	188,459	242,253			
Miscellaneous advances, &c., - - -	60,371	49,869	Net balance to the credit of the Colony -	2,508,709	2,188,717
Revenue in arrears -	113,538	64,745			
Total - -	3,883,929	3,799,587	Total - -	3,883,929	3,799,587

5. The course of exchange is shown in the following table:—

Bank Bills.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
On London:— Sterling, on demand, Highest -	3 6¼	3 4½	3 3¼	3 2¾	3 3	3 4	3 4	3 3¾	3 3¼	3 2¾	3 2¼	3 3¾
Lowest -	3 5½	3 2¼	3 2¼	3 2¼	3 2¼	3 2¼	3 3¾	3 3¼	3 2¾	3 2¼	3 1¾	3 1¾

The highest rate of exchange during the year was in January, viz., 3*s.* 6¼*d.*, and the lowest rate of exchange during the year was in December, viz., 3*s.* 1⅜*d.*

6. The total bank note circulation of the Colony on the 31st of December 1891 was $5,820,870.

PUBLIC WORKS.

7. The following are the principal works undertaken, carried on, or completed, in 1891 :—

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	
SINGAPORE.	$	c.
Drill Shed for Volunteer Artillery	12,000	00
Telok Ayer reclamation	300,000	00
Beach Road reclamation	51,183	00
Reconstruction of river walls	25,000	00
New Johnstone's pier	24,000	00
PENANG.		
New Government offices	250,000	00
Water supply to Bukit Mertajam	32,500	00
New convalescent bungalow	18,000	00
Clerks' quarters, Butterworth	11,300	00
Quarters for district officer and clerks, Nibong Tebal	12,000	00
Court house, Bukit Tambun	10,000	00
Reconstruction of quarters, central police station	38,000	00
New police administrative block	18,550	00
Tanjong Tokong—Batu Feringgi Road	50,500	00
Kubang Semang—Ara Rendang Road	35,600	00
MALACCA.		
New Water Works	230,000	00

Singapore.

8. On account of the necessity for providing for the augmented military charges now chargeable to the Colony by a decision of the Imperial Government, no new works of importance could be undertaken in 1891, and several which had been included in the estimates for the year had to be indefinitely postponed. Works which were in progress at the commencement of 1891, and which were referred to in the Annual Report for 1890, were completed, but beyond this little was done. The Telok Ayer reclamation was completed, but a small subsidence afterward occurred, which will necessitate alterations estimated to cost $22,000.

Penang.

9. The works executed at this Settlement were also, for the reason above given, confined in the main to such as had been commenced ; others had to be deferred or stopped.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1891.

10. The new Government offices were finally completed at a total cost of $228,639, on an estimate of $250,000. It has been found possible to provide in this building for the Post Office, which was not one of the departments intended to be accommodated there. The proposal to construct a new Post Office has therefore been abandoned.

11. The Bukit Mertajam water supply was completed at the end of the year, and an unexpended balance of the money voted for this work is being applied in extending the service to the village of Sungei Rambai. The scheme has been successfully carried out, and the supply of drinking water is much appreciated by those who benefit from it.

12. The new convalescent bungalow on Penang Hill is a solid structure, built of granite quarried on the spot, and good progress was made with this building during the year.

13. It was decided to postpone the commencement of the new Supreme Court at Penang, but the necessity of this work will no doubt be again considered when the funds at the command of the Colony permit of it.

14. Other services had also to be postponed, including the new road to Batu Feringgi, giving access to the spice plantations at the north of the Island.

15. In accordance with the recommendations of the police commission, the old quarters at the Central Station have been replaced by new and more extensive quarters, which include barracks for 118 single men, and a two-storey barrack for married men. The administrative block was practically completed at the end of 1890, and when the barrack accommodation is finished the police requirements will have been fully met.

16. The Kubang Semang—Ara Rendang Road has been in progress since 1889, and should be completed in 1892, thus opening up a section of country in Province Wellesley which has hitherto been difficult of access.

Malacca.

17. The much needed water-works were commenced during the year, contracts being concluded for the construction of an impounding reservoir at Ayer Keroh and a service reservoir on St. Paul's Hill.

General

18. The following is a list of works and services which remained in abeyance owing to want of funds:—

	$
Supreme Court, Singapore - - -	45,000
Sailors' Home - - - -	50,000
Town Market - - - -	45,000
Supreme Court Penang - - -	150,000
Sundry Works, Penang and Singapore -	75,000
Roads, Streets, and Bridges - - -	100,000
Military Barracks (60,000*l.*) - -	400,000
Revenue Survey - - - -	150,000
Total - - -	$1,015,000

19. Without having recourse to a loan, it may be difficult to proceed with these works, nearly all of which have received the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

MUNICIPALITIES.

20. The following statement gives the actual revenue and expenditure, cash balances, and outstanding loans of the municipalities of the three Settlements respectively for 1890 and 1891 :—

Municipalities.	1890.	1891.
REVENUE:	$	$
Singapore - - - -	635,082	*a* 884,003
Penang - - - -	237,940	*b* 364,888
Malacca - - - -	25,245	*c* 24,486
	898,267	1,273,377
EXPENDITURE:		
Singapore - - - -	703,748	805,639
Penang - - - -	314,251	355,921
Malacca - - - -	23,244	23,280
	1,041,243	1,184,840
CASH BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - -	333,333	411,698
Penang - - - -	127,862	136,828
Malacca - - - -	2,001	3,206
	463,196	551,732
LOANS OUTSTANDING AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - - -	550,000	800,000
Penang - - - -	250,000	350,000
Malacca - - - -	23,500	23,000
	823,500	1,173,000

a—Including balance of loan, $250,000.
b— Do. do. do., $100,000.
c— Including $3,000 grant-in-aid for drainage works.

21. Rates and taxes are levied by Government under powers conferred by section 274 of "The Municipal Ordinance, 1887," in the districts outside the municipalities of Singapore, George Town and Malacca, and the following statement shows the amounts so collected and the account on which they have been expended :—

Moneys levied.		Amount expended on Roads and Bridges.	
	$		$
Singapore - -	4,081	Singapore - -	43,436
Penang and P.W. -	62,769	Penang and P.W. -	167,670
Malacca - -	11,463	Malacca - -	89,014
	78,313		300,120

Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.

	$
Singapore - - - -	39,355
Penang and Province Wellesley -	104,901
Malacca - - - -	77,551
	221,807

The excess of expenditure is, of course, a charge upon the general revenue of the Colony.

LEGISLATION.

22. There were 16 meetings of the Legislative Council during the year, and 17 Ordinances were passed, in regard to none of which has Her Majesty the Queen exercised Her power of disallowance.

The following are among the more important Ordinances passed :—

An Ordinance to prohibit the importation of Foreign Coins. A large quantity of copper coins from North Borneo and Sarawak was being introduced into the Colony, and it was against this that the Ordinance was originally directed. Later on it became necessary to prohibit the importation of the subsidiary silver coins issued from the Chinese and Japanese Mints.

An Ordinance to amend the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1879 authorising the investment of the funds in Indian Government securities.

An Ordinance to regulate Chinese Labour on Agricultural Estates.

An Ordinance to amend the Post Office Ordinance, 1879.

In order to remove doubts as to whether the Letters Patent of the 17th June 1885 conferred on the Legislative Council the power of legislating for aliens, new Letters Patent, dated the 30th December 1891, were issued, in which such power is expressly given. The point had been raised in the Supreme Court on an application for a writ of *Habeas Corpus* in connexion with a Banishment order made by the Governor in Council, but had not been settled by judicial decision.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS AND REGISTRY OF BILLS OF SALE.

23. The fees collected under "The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1886," amounted to $6,115, being a decrease of $1,382 as compared with the receipts for 1890. The fees collected under "The Bills of Sale Ordinance, 1886," amounted to $1,195, as against $1,509 for 1890.

24. An Ordinance to amend "The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1886," was passed in 1891. The principal changes introduced by this enactment are :—

(*a.*) An alteration in the form of the certificate of identity which renders it unnecessary for persons to attend at the Registry to acknowledge the execution of deeds when a solicitor is willing to make the necessary certificate of inquiry.

(*b.*) Better provisions to enable the Registrar to refuse to register deeds not duly stamped, and deeds relating to land on which an arrear of land revenue is due to the Colony.

(*c.*) Provision for the protection of registering officers, acting *bonâ fide*.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

25. There was conspicuous increase in the business of this Department. In 1891, 2,315,590 articles were received, and 2,507,810 despatched, as compared with 2,276,258 and 2,285,628 respectively in 1890. There was, however, a decrease of 22,000 coolie letters passing through the Chinese Sub-Post Office in Singapore.

26. The revenue during the year was $119,768, being $29,206 less than the receipts in 1890. This decrease was not unexpected and is only natural when it is remembered that during the year the two chief items of revenue were reduced by 40 per cent.

27. The following reductions in postage have been made during the last two years :—

(1.) On August 1st, 1890, the late fee was reduced from 12 cents to five cents.

(2.) On January 1st, 1891, postage was generally reduced, namely, for the United Kingdom and the Western

Hemisphere from 10 cents, for the continent of Europe, Asia and Northern Africa from eights cents, for Australia from 12 cents, and for South Africa from 24 cents, to an uniform rate of five cents per ½ oz.

(3.) In August, the postage on newspapers and printed papers for Australia and South Africa was materially reduced.

(4.) In November, the prices of foreign post cards were reduced by 33 per cent.

It is satisfactory to notice that, notwithstanding these reductions, the falling off in revenue amounted to less than 16 per cent. compared with the year before.

28. The expenditure for 1891 amounted to $123,580, being $3,811 more than the revenue, and $12,872 more than the expenditure for 1890. It may be noticed that this is the first time since this became a separate Colony that the Post Office has not paid its expenses.

29. There was a very large increase in the operations of the Money Order Branch, the transactions amounting to $538,953 an increase of $143,120 over the transactions of 1890. The Money Order service has been extended to the out-stations of Butterworth, Bukit Mertajam, Nibong Tebal, Balik Pulau and Bukit Tambun, in all of which places the business has exceeded expectations.

SAVINGS BANK.

30. There was a satisfactory increase in the amount deposited during the year, which was $121,559, being $17,988 more than the sum withdrawn. The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December 1891 was $152,923, and the aggregate sum lodged in the bank since its establishment in 1887 was $907,266.

31. Particulars of the business transacted by the branches in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca respectively are given in the following statement:—

——	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	537	262	30
Accounts closed - - -	380	94	26
Accounts open at the end of the year -	794	216	39
	$	$	$
Deposited, in 1891 - - -	89,505	27,232	4,822
Repaid, in 1891 - - - -	73,797	25,432	4,340
Balance due to depositors at close of 1891 - - - - -	115,249	33,238	4,435

32. In February 1891 an Ordinance was passed which enabled the funds of the bank to be invested in Indian Government securities and since then the sum of $28,117.18 has been invested in 4 per cent. rupee paper.

EDUCATION.

33. The Education Code was revised during the year, the revised Code being published in the Gazette of the 21st August, 1891.

34. The principal changes are the addition of a 7th Standard to the Standards of Examination, thereby extending the period of the course of study of English from six to seven years; and the addition of a large number of subjects to the list of extra subjects. The first examination under the revised Code will be held in 1892.

35. One hundred and eighty-nine (189) schools were inspected and 7,716 pupils examined during the year, as against 184 schools and 7,264 pupils in 1890.

36. The expenditure on Education amounted to $174,510.78, as compared with an expenditure of $164,138.86 in 1890.

37. Educational progress during the year is shown by the following table:—

	1890.	1891.
Average enrolment at boys' schools :—		
Government English schools - -	1,002	1,114
Aided do. - -	2,854	3,016
Government Malay schools - -	6,759	6,805
Total - - - -	10,615	10,935

38. The average enrolment in the Government and private Girls' Schools in 1891 was 1,566.

POPULATION.

39. The population of the Colony, according to the Census taken on the 5th April 1891, as compared with the Census of 1881, is as follows:—

Settlement.	1881.			1891.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Singapore - - - -	105,423	33,785	139,208	141,330	43,224	184,55
Penang, Province Wellesley, and Dindings - - -	124,205	66,392	190,597	152,884	82,734	235,618
Malacca - - - -	52,059	41,520	93,597	50,337	41,833	92,17
Total - - -	281,687	141,697	423,384	344,551	167,791	512,342

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1891.

Total population of the Colony, 1891, 512,342.

Total increase since 1881 -	-	88,958 or 21·0 per cent
Increase in males since 1881	-	62,864 or 22·3 „
Increase in females since 1881	-	26,094 or 18·4 „

Singapore.

Total increase since 1881 -	-	45,346 or 32·5 per cent.
Increase in males since 1881	-	35,907 or 34·0 „
Increase in females since 1881	-	9,439 or 27·9 „

Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings.

Total increase since 1881 -	-	45,021 or 23·6 per cent.
Increase in males since 1881	-	28,679 or 23·0 „
Increase in females since 1881	-	16,342 or 24·6 „

Malacca.

Total decrease since 1881 -	-	1,427 or 1·5 per cent.
Decrease in males since 1881	-	1,722 or 3·4 „
Decrease in females since 1881	-	313 or 0·7 „

The decrease of the population of Malacca is believed to be temporary and to be due to special causes, the opening up of the Native States of Selangor, Sungei Ujong, and Negri Sembilan having offered a field of enterprise of which many Malacca Malays have availed themselves.

40. The population of the Protected Native States, in which a census was taken at the same time as that of the Colony, is as follows:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Perak - - - -	156,408	57,846	214,254
Selangor - - -	67,051	14,541	81,592
Sungei Ujong - - -	17,234	6,368	23,602
Negri Sembilan - - -	23,327	18,290	41,617
Pahang - - - -	Not given.		57,462
Total - -	—	—	418,527

41. In Pahang great difficulty was experienced in taking the Census, and the Resident of Selangor has reported his doubts of the correctness of the returns of that State. With these exceptions the above returns may be considered fairly accurate.

42. The total cost of taking the Census in the Colony and compiling the returns was $28,024.84.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

43. There was only a slight decrease in the arrivals of Chinese deck-passengers from China, the number arriving in 1891 being 126,088, as compared with 127,936 in 1890.

44. It is satisfactory to notice that there was an appreciable increase in the female immigration, the numbers for 1890 and 1891 being 5,542 and 6,685 respectively. Of these, 4,710 landed in Singapore, 1,958 proceeded to Penang, and 17 to other ports. Of those who landed in Singapore, 548 afterwards proceeded to Selangor and a few to other places.

45. There was a considerable increase in the number of coolies arriving from Hongkong and Amoy, and a falling off in the immigrants from Swatow and Hainan, which is attributed to the failure of Sumatra tobacco and the consequent cessation of the demand for labour on estates.

46. There was a great decrease in the number of contracts to labour executed in the Colony, the total number being 17,956 as against 26,211 in 1890. Contracts to labour in the Dutch possessions were fewer by 4,770, but there was an increase of 592 in the Native States and 599 in Province Wellesley. Of the total number of contracts (17,956) signed in the Colony, 8,950 were for labour in the Colony and Protected Native States and 9,006 for labour in other places. The numbers in 1890 were respectively 6,502 and 19,702.

47. During the year under review, an Ordinance was passed for the purpose of regulating Chinese Labour on Agricultural Estates.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

48. During the year, 3,443 statute immigrants with 293 dependents arrived in the Colony, showing an increase of 618 as compared with 1890. Of this number, 2,644 were for service in the

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1891.

Colony, and 799 for the Native States. 26,446 immigrants not under indenture arrived, being an increase of 8,145, while 23,912 returned to India.

49. The following table gives the statistics of the department since 1881 :—

——	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Immigrants under indenture -	879	1,452	1,450	1,539	1,642	2,748	4,736	4,684	2,747	2,960	3,443
Dependents - -	159	209	176	177	49	244	310	317	104	158	293
Free immigrants	5,769	8,276	8,979	14,365	19,819	17,316	12,156	15,812	15,285	18,301	26,446
Total arrivals -	6,[illegible]07	9,937	10,605	16,081	21,510	20,308	17,202	20,813	18,136	21,419	30,182
Returned to India	5,269	5,947	9,041	10,749	13,417	18,105	12,596	13,190	14,099	15,276	23,913
Remained in the Colony - -	1,538	3,990	1,564	5,332	8,093	2,203	4,606	7,623	4,037	6,143	6,269

50. In March, the Commission appointed to inquire into the state of labour in the Colony issued their report. It has been found necessary to indefinitely postpone action upon one of their principal recommendations—the appointment of an Agent-General for Emigration in the Madras Presidency—owing to the state of the Colonial finances and the necessity for strict economy.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

51. The following tables give the value of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1890 and 1891 respectively :—

Imports.

——		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	1891	13,454,765	3,553,089	—
	1890	15,862,524	4,000,856	—
British Possessions - -	1891	25,048,149	13,281,514	—
	1890	23,634,101	15,718,175	—
Foreign Countries - -	1891	49,814,458	16,673,827	260,629
	1890	53,224,760	18,378,036	461,502

——		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE—*cont.*		$	$	$
Between the Settlements -	1891	3,804,300	1,864,557	1,065,681
	1890	6,735,380	1,802,293	1,616,896
Total Value of Merchandise	1891	92,121,672	35,372,987	1,326,260
	1890	99,456,765	39,899,360	2,078,398
TREASURE.				
Total Value of Treasure -	1891	10,890,539	4,968,690	184,378
	1890	13,177,195	3,889,040	149,953
Total Imports of Merchandise and Treasure -	1891	103,012,211	40,341,677	1,510,638
	1890	112,633,960	43,788,400	2,228,351
Grand Total Value of the Imports of the Straits Settlements - -	1891			144,864,526
	1890			158,650,711

Exports.

——		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	1891	16,930,137	7,510,509	—
	1890	18,246,593	6,512,954	—
British Possessions - -	1891	10,365,932	6,945,043	—
	1890	11,113,835	7,694,000	—
Foreign Countries - -	1891	49,127,912	16,563,373	218,148
	1890	47,629,595	16,017,040	279,326
Between the Settlements -	1891	1,678,479	3,856,252	1,292,406
	1890	2,059,115	5,205,232	1,733,204
Total Value of Merchandise	1891	78,102,460	34,875,177	1,510,554
	1890	79,049,138	35,429,226	2,012,530
TREASURE.				
Total Value of Treasure -	1891	13,623,024	6,561,045	110,885
	1890	15,082,666	5,920,021	231,563
Total Exports of Merchandise and Treasure -	1891	91,725,484	41,436,222	1,621,439
	1890	94,131,804	41,349,247	2,244,093
Grand Total Value of the Exports of the Straits Settlements - - - - -	1891			134,783,145
	1890			137,725,144

52. It will be seen from the above returns that if the item "Treasure" be excluded, the nett decrease in the total trade of

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1891.

the Colony as compared with 1890 amounted to 14,616,307*l.* or about 5½ per cent.

53. The Trade Returns may now be considered to be as accurate as it is possible to make them, and in the preparation of them the European firms have, as a rule, readily assisted.

54. Low exchange and a general tightness of money account for the commercial depression which prevailed throughout the Colony throughout the year, while the situation was accentuated by the failure of important firms in the Colony and in Siam to meet their liabilities.

55. The following are a few of the principal imports to and exports from the Straits Settlements:—

Imports.

——	1890.	1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Cotton piece goods -	7,117,374	5,038,657	—	2,078,717
	Tons.	Tons.		
Coal - - -	324,624	375,045	50,421	—
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Rice - - -	6,762,772	5,778,802		983,970
	Chests.	Chests.		
Opium - -	14,448	16,654	2,206	—
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Silk piece goods - -	377,905	266,732	—	111,173
	Cases.	Cases.		
Petroleum - -	882,267	760,686	—	121,581

Exports.

——	1890.	1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Coffee - - -	47,657	56,137	8,480	—
Gambier - - -	769,704	697,785	—	71,919
Gums - -	173,051	164,022	—	9,029
Spices - -	785,370	817,858	32,488	—
Tapioca - -	544,404	610,842	66,438	—
Tin - - -	537,190	605,829	68,639	—
Copra - -	300,545	913,674	613,129	—

56. The revenue (Light Dues and Miscellaneous Fees) collected by the Marine Department in each Settlement during 1891 and 1890 appears in the subjoined table :—

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
1891 - - -	80,214	72	26,682	66	1,721	63	108,619	01
1890 - - -	71,020	75	27,217	60	1,731	91	99,970	26

57. The following table shows the arrivals and departures of shipping in the Colony during 1891 and 1890 :—

SHIPPING.

Steamers and Square-rigged Vessels.

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals, 1891 -	4,184	3,324,680	2,966	1,760,001	1,417	251,494	8,567	5,336,175
Do. 1890 -	3,646	2,989,059	3,050	1,653,285	1,414	217,376	8,110	4,859,720
Departures, 1891 -	4,155	3,288,577	2,951	1,741,812	1,417	251,494	8,523	5,281,883
Do. 1890 -	3,621	2,955,975	3,028	1,644,976	1,419	217,988	8,068	4,818,939
Total, 1891 -	8,339	6,613,257	5,917	3,501,813	2,834	502,988	17,090	10,618,058
Do. 1890 -	7,267	5,945,034	6,078	3,298,261	2,833	435,364	16,178	9,678,659

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals, 1891 -	7,293	260,672	5,620	114,807	1,985	32,214	14,898	407,693
Do. 1890 -	5,546	208,689	5,650	118,181	2,141	33,059	13,337	359,929
Departures, 1891 -	7,188	258,802	5,565	114,320	1,987	32,226	14,740	405,348
Do. 1890 -	5,515	212,636	5,641	117,887	2,178	33,701	13,334	364,224
Total, 1891 -	14,481	519,474	11,185	229,127	3,972	64,440	29,638	813,041
Do. 1890 -	11,061	421,325	11,291	236,068	4,319	66,760	26,671	724,153

REGISTRY OF SHIPPING.

58. The number and tonnage of the new vessels built in the Colony in 1890 and 1891 is shown in the following table:—

——	No.	Tonnage.
1891 - - - - -	70	4,506
1890 - - - - -	79	4,727

59. Some idea of the relative importance of shipping and commerce in 1891 and 1890 for Singapore and Penang may be gathered from the following returns:—

SHIPPING (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVE CRAFT).

Singapore.

1891 - 8,339 vessels, measuring 6,613,257 tons.
1890 - 7,267 „ „ 5,945,034 „

Penang.

1891 - 5,917 vessels, measuring 3,501,813 tons.
1890 - 6,078 „ „ 3,298,261 „

TRADE.

Singapore.

	$
1891 - - - -	194,737,695
1890 - - - -	206,765,764

Penang.

	$
1891 - - - -	1,777,899
1890 - - - -	85,137,647

60. Out of the increase in the revenue of $9,193, light dues contributed an increase of $7,558. This is accounted for, in a great measure, by the increase in the arrivals and departures of steamers and square-rigged vessels. The enforcement of the regulation requiring the annual renewal of Junk and Tongkang licenses more than doubled the fees for registration of these vessels.

LIGHTHOUSES.

61. Lighthouses, launches, buoys, and beacons have been kept in an efficient condition, new rollers have been supplied to the Muka Head and Fort Cornwallis Lights, and the Malacca Harbour Lighthouses has been fitted up with part of the old Horsburgh light, the re-arrangement giving general satisfaction.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

62. The health statistics for 1891 are fairly satisfactory, but the Colony cannot be said to have been entirely free from epidemic disease.

63. Cholera appeared in all the Settlements—to a slight extent in Singapore, but more noticeably in Penang, while in Malacca it may be said to have been epidemic for a short time.

64. The following return shows the number of cases of cholera, and deaths from that disease, in the three Settlements respectively :—

—	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore - -	36	24
Penang - - -	70	48
Malacca - - -	119	89

65. There were 168 cases of small-pox in the Colony, and 44 deaths.

66. There was a decrease in the number of cases of *beri-beri* treated, and the death-rate among patients suffering from this disease was lower.

67. Only three authenticated cases of hydrophobia were brought under the notice of the medical authorities during the year.

68. The following table gives the number of patients treated in all Government hospitals, and of the deaths among them, during 1891, as compared with 1890 :—

—	Number of Patients treated.			Number of Deaths.			Percentage of Deaths to Total treated.		
	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.
1891 - - -	944	22,176	23,120	43	2,710	2,753	4·55	12·22	11·90
1890 - - -	832	19,947	20,779	37	2,414	2,451	4·44	12·10	11·79

69. The number of patients treated and the deaths that occurred in hospital in each of the Settlements were as follows:—

Settlement.	Total treated.	Deaths.
Singapore - - - -	11,015	1,282
Penang and the Dindings - -	6,801	777
Province Wellesley - -	2,485	360
Malacca - - - -	2,819	334

70. The numbers in the leper hospital, Singapore, and leper asylum, Penang, during 1890 and 1891, were as follows:—

Hospitals.	1890.				1891.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged, Absconded, or transferred.	Remained.
Leper Hospital -	132	18	87	27	155	49	49	57
Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak -	326	91	—	235	353	123	—	230

71. A serious explosion of cartridges which occurred at the Central Police Station, Singapore, in March, caused the death of 11 constables.

BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

72. The total number of receiving orders made during the year 1891 was:—

—	No. of Proceedings.	No. of Debtors.
In Singapore - - -	51	65
In Penang - - - -	8	11
In Malacca - - - -	—	—
Total - -	59	76

of these 55 were proceeded with, as against 58 in 1890.

73. Liabilities, according to the debtors' estimates, amounted to $2,687,114, as against $932,227 in the previous year, and the proofs lodged with the Official Assignee gave a total of $3,903,962, as against $940,833 in 1890.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

73. The number of joint stock companies registered during the year was as follows :—

——	Number.	Amount of Capital.
Singapore - - - -	6	$ 1,041,005

74. The directors of several companies were prosecuted in Penang for breach of the provisions of "The Companies Ordinance, 1889," nominal fines being imposed in most cases.

METEOROLOGY.

75. The following statement shows the maximum, minimum, and mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year :—

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	Fahr.	Fahr.	Fahr.
Singapore - - - -	88·2	70·8	79·5
Penang - - - -	91·9	73·0	80·6
Province Wellesley - - -	93·0	70·0	80·5
Malacca - - - -	92·0	68·0	79·1

76. Returns of rainfall for the whole year were received from 52 stations in the Colony. The heaviest rainfall was in Penang.

77. The following table shows the total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours :—

Settlement.	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Inches.	Ins.	Ins.	Inches.
Singapore - -	88·48	Mar. - 15·09	Aug. - 1·90	5·82
Penang - -	126·69	Sept. - 31·74	April - 1·75	8·12
Province Wellesley.	103·91	Sept. - 20·26	Mar. - 1·51	5·12
Malacca - -	[illegible] 09	Oct. - 29·12	Feb. - 0·10	9·35
Dindings - -	77·39	Sept. - 14·20	Aug. - 0·56	5·60

POLICE AND CRIME.

78. The following table shows the stength and distribution of the police force in 1891:—

Settlement.	Europeans.			Native Contingent.		Sikh Contingent.		Total.
	Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	
Singapore - - -	14	6	30	64	700	7	105	926
Penang - - -	18	4	24	71	689	6	73	879
Malacca - -	5	2	—	38	253	4	34	336
Total - -	37	12	54	173	1,642	17	202	2,141

79. Towards the end of the year, five stations in Malacca and two in Singapore were closed owing to diminution in crime in their neighbourhood.

80. The Chinese contingent, which was introduced on the recommendation of the police commission of 1889, has not proved entirely satisfactory.

81. One hundred and fourteen (114) men were dismissed from the force during the year for police offences, and 77 were sent for trial before the magistrates.

82. Twenty-five thousand four hundred (25,400) arrests were made during the year as against 23,952 in 1890. 12,828 offences were reported to the police, of which 4,086 remained undiscovered.

83. Proceedings were taken against a secret society in Singapore called "Tong Beng," which had been suppressed some years ago. Eleven of the members were convicted and two of the headmen banished after inquiry by his Excellency the Governor in Council.

84. Cases of serious crime were somewhat less numerous in 1891 than in the preceding year. There were fewer cases of murder, gang-robbery, and causing grievous hurt. Four criminals were executed, as against eight in 1890.

85. There was, on the other hand, an increase in Singapore and Malacca of minor offences against the person and against property, while in Penang there was a slight decrease.

JUDICIAL.

86. There was a decrease in the number of prisoners brought before the Supreme Court in 1891, as compared with 1890, the numbers being respectively 303 and 431.

87. The courts of two magistrates relieve the Supreme Court of a considerable amount of work, but even accounting for the cases tried in these courts, there was still a satisfactory decrease in the more serious crimes in 1891.

88. The number of acquittals was very high, being 105, as against 180 convictions. Penang is responsible for this high rate, there being no less than 77 acquittals to 81 convictions in that Settlement.

89. Thirty-three thousand six hundred and fifty-three (33,653) cases, in which 49,773 defendants were implicated, were brought before the police courts of the Colony. The increase is considerable, the numbers for 1890 being 30,671 and 44,715 respectively.

90. There was a decrease in the civil business of the Supreme Courts, 2,862 cases being commenced in 1891, as compared with 3,734 in 1890. The amount of debt and damages involved was $5,038,000.

91. There was an increase in the number of cases begun in the Courts of Requests, but the aggregate of the sums in dispute was slightly less than in 1890.

92. Six hundred and thirty-two (632) ecclesiastical petitions were filed during the year, including 115 applications for probate and administration under "The District Delegates Ordinance, 1887," which is now finding favour with the poorer classes of Penang and Province Wellesley. Under this Ordinance probate and letters of administration are granted in respect of estates under $500 by the district officers, the fee being $2, which includes all charges.

PRISONS.

93. The health of the prisoners in the three Settlements was good during the year, the number of deaths being 31. Two suicides occurred in the Singapore prison.

94. One convict effected his escape from the Penang prison and was not re-taken. There were two executions in Penang.

DINDINGS.

95. Little noticeable progress can be recorded in this district, and the receipts under many heads of revenue have continued to decrease. The Census showed an increase of 1,263 in the population since the previous Census.

96. Malarial fever was rife throughout the year, which is reported to have been an exceptionally unhealthy one.

97. Encouragement is being given to the introduction of new settlers at the Dindings and these include some from Achin.

(Signed) W. E. MAXWELL,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

Singapore, 25th August 1892.

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No. 81.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 59.]

Sir C. C. SMITH to the MARQUESS of RIPON.

Government House, Penang,
May 9, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the report by the Colonial Secretary, in anticipation of the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1892.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH.

The Most Hon.
The Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1892.

Finance.

1. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1892 amounted to $3,652,789 (Singapore, $2,054,279; Penang, $1,304,003; Malacca, $294,507), being less than the revenue for 1891 by $173,814.

2. The principal heads under which a falling-off is noticeable are:—

	$
Land revenue - - - -	58,069
Interest - - - - -	193,263

In the case of land revenue the decrease is very easily explained. In 1892 no special sales of town lands were held, and consequently, under this head alone, the year 1892 showed a decrease of $62,081 on the receipts of the previous year.

Sales, which may or may not take place, are an intermittent source of revenue, and their omission in a particular year is not to be taken into consideration in reviewing the financial position

of the Colony. The gradual growth of the permanent land revenue is highly satisfactory. The Crown rents have, in consequence of improved administration, risen steadily in all the Settlements—in Singapore from $27,891 in 1883 to $40,876 in 1892, in Penang from $26,179 in 1883 to $58,654 in 1892, and in Malacca from $55,441 in 1883 to $81,267 in 1892.

A falling off under the head of interest was to be expected under the altered circumstances of the Colony, the surplus balances, which had been invested, having been realized to meet the increased military contribution and other charges. Again, the Negri Sembilan States and Pahang have been unable to pay interest on their loans, and the anticipated receipts of the Colony for 1892 have been diminished accordingly. These payments are, however, only deferred.

3. The principal increases were as follows :—

	$
Licenses	26,395
Stamps	5,891
Postage	18,341
Fines, forfeitures and fees of court	3,135
Fees of office	2,903
Reimbursements	15,212
District collections	4,765
Total	$76,642

Under the head of Licenses the increase is principally to be attributed to pawnbrokers' licenses, which show an increase of $14,395.

Postal revenue shows an increase under all its heads, but chiefly in postage stamps ($12,653).

The increase in reimbursements ($16,332) is due to the progress of survey and revenue settlement in Penang and Province Wellesley, the amount recovered for erecting boundary stones being $23,390.19.

4. The expenditure for 1892 amounted to $4,270,575, showing a decrease, as compared with 1891, of $328,403. The principal decreases were as follows :—

	$
Military expenditure	249,682
Special expenses	81,184
Miscellaneous services	70,884
Roads, streets and bridges	61,664
Marine Department	12,678
Education	9,525
Transport	8,768

There was an increase under the following heads :—

	$
Salaries - - - - -	40,684
Pensions - - - - -	9,690
Medical - - - - -	7,309
Interest - - - - -	75,327
Works and Buildings - - -	40,469

5. The assets and liabilities on the 31st December, 1892, show a balance in favour of assets of $674,682, as against $1,302,123 on the 31st December, 1891, being a decrease of $627,471.

The balance of $674,682 does not include the investments given under the head of Dependencies, amounting to $1,048,465, these being loans to the Native States and to the Malacca Municipality. These loans are not at call, and though eventually recoverable, cannot be realised for some time to come.

6. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities on the 1st January, 1892 and 1893, including Dependencies under assets of $1,048,465 :—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
—	1st January 1892.	1st January 1893.	—	1st January 1892.	1st January 1893.
	$	$		$	$
Cash on current account with local banks -	914,742	853,981	Deposits, &c. - - -	681,174	876,792
Do. with Crown Agents -	120,356	26,189	Temporary loan -	745,135	—
Investments, gold - -	1,013,762	136,869	Expenditure in arrears -	184,561	21,500
Invested in Government of India loans - -	796	—		1,610,870	898 ,22
Loans to Native States -	1,062,564	1,025,965			
Loans to municipalities -	330,500	22,500			
Other investments -	242,253	359,722			
Miscellaneous advances, &c., - - -	49,869	142,413	Net balance to the credit of the Colony -	2,188,717	1,723,147
Revenue in arrears -	64,745	53,800			
Total - -	3,799,587	2,621,439	Total - -	3,799,587	2,621,439

7. The course of exchange during the year 1892 is shown in the following table :—

Bank Bills.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
On London :— Sterling, on demand, Highest -	3	0¼	2	11⅜	2	10⅞	2	9⅝	2	9⅝	2	10⅝	2	10½	2	9⅝	2	9½	2	9⅞	2	9½	2	9
Lowest -	3	0	2	11	2	10⅜	2	9	2	9¼	2	10⅛	2	10½	2	9¼	2	9	2	9¼	2	9¼	2	8

The average rate of exchange during the year on demand was 2*s.* 10$\frac{2}{5}$*d.*, and at four months' sight was 2*s.* 10$\frac{3}{5}$*d.*

8. The total estimated bank-note circulation of the Colony on 31st December, 1892, was $6,353,191, but it should be remarked that on that date the notes of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China had been to a great extent withdrawn from circulation owing to the reconstruction of the Bank. The return deals, therefore, almost altogether with the note issue of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

PUBLIC WORKS.

9. The works undertaken, carried on, or completed, in 1892 were few and unimportant. The following return comprises the more important of the items of expenditure :—

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	
	$	c.
SINGAPORE.		
Extra female leper ward and new male ward - - -	6,600	00
Extension of Beach Road reclamation - - - -	9,500	00
Completion of Telok Ayer reclamation - - -	22,000	00
PENANG.		
New convalescent bungalow - - - - -	20,500	00
Clerks' quarters, Butterworth - - - - -	11,300	00
Quarters for district officer and clerks, Nibong Tebal - -	14,150	00
Court house, Bukit Tambun - - - - -	10,000	00
Kubang Semang-Ara Rendang Road - - - -	35,600	00
Trans-Krian Road - - - - - -	17,500	00
Reconstruction of quarters, central police station - -	38,000	00
Tanjong Tokong-Batu Feringgi Road - - - -	50,500	00
MALACCA.		
Water Works - - - - - - -	249,963	00

Singapore.

10. In Singapore, owing to want of funds, many pressing works had to be abandoned and little has been done beyond ordinary maintenance. The leper wards were in such a ruinous state that they had to be removed. The Beach Road Reclamation is a service necessitated by the dredging of the Singapore River and by the importance of covering in the spoil thus obtained with red earth to prevent malaria. The Telok Ayer Reclamation gave some further trouble, but the bank has now almost settled down, and this useful and profitable work may be said to be practically complete.

Penang.

11. The first six works named in the list were finished within the year. At the central police station the barracks for 118

single men were completed, and considerable progress was made with the two-storied barrack for 40 married men.

The works begun on the Tanjong Tokong-Batu Feringgi Road had to be stopped owing to want of funds, which is much to be regretted.

MUNICIPALITIES.

12. The following statement gives the actual revenue and expenditure, cash balances, and outstanding loans of the municipalities of the three Settlements respectively for 1891 and 1892:—

Municipalities.	1891.	1892.
REVENUE:	$	$
Singapore - - - -	*a* 884,003	608,081
Penang - - - -	*b* 364,888	281,717
Malacca - - - -	24,486	21,049
	1,273,377	910,847
EXPENDITURE:		
Singapore - - - -	805,639	762,702
Penang - - - -	355,921	394,439
Malacca - - - -	23,280	22,786
	1,184,840	1,179,927
CASH BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - -	411,698	199,607.57
Penang - - - -	136,828	24,107.00
Malacca - - - -	3,206	1,469.00
	551,732	225,183·57
LOANS OUTSTANDING AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - - -	800,000	800,000
Penang - - - -	350,000	350,000
Malacca - - - -	23,000	22,500
	1,173,000	1,172,500

a—Including balance of loan, $250,000.
b— Do. do. do., $100,000.

The municipalities of Singapore and George Town, Penang, are pressing for increased borrowing powers, being dissatisfied with those which are now allowed to them by "The Municipal Ordinance 1887."

There is no doubt that the present limit (three times the annual income from rates and taxes) is small compared with that which has been fixed for municipalities in other places, and urgent sanitary works are required in both towns.

The water works at Malacca, estimated to cost $247,000, are being constructed at Government expense, the municipality, which

has an annual income of $22,500 only, being unable to undertake an enterprise of this magnitude. The water rate will be Colonial revenue, but will be collected by the municipality for the Government.

13. In the country districts beyond the limits of the municipalities of Singapore, George Town, and Malacca, rates and taxes were collected during the year 1892, under section 274 of the Municipal Ordinance, and the following statement shows the amounts so collected and how far they contribute towards the expenditure which they are designed to meet.

Rates and Taxes levied.		Amount expended on Roads and Bridges.	
	$		$
Singapore - -	5,182.17	Singapore - -	40,300.00
Penang - -	63,535.59	Penang - -	125,692.62
Malacca - -	13,470.45	Malacca - -	75,640.54
Total - -	82,188.21	Total - -	241,633.16

The excess of expenditure over revenue ($159,444.95) falls, of course, on the general revenue of the Colony.

LEGISLATION.

14. Twenty-three meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year, and 17 Ordinances were passed.

The list is as follows :—

No. I.—An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the validity of certain marriages solemnized in the Colony, by Clergymen of the Church of England without previous publication of Banns.

No. II.—An Ordinance for the Enrolment of Coast Defence Volunteers.

No. III.—An Ordinance for giving to a foreign Company called the Netherlandsche Handel Maatschappij certain facilities for carrying on its business in the Colony.

No. IV.—An Ordinance to amend "The Petroleum Ordinance, 1883."

No. V.—An Ordinance for the regulation and control of Jinrikishas.

No. VI.—An Ordinance for restricting Labour on Sunday on board Vessels in the Waters of the Colony.

No. VII.—An Ordinance to establish a Code of Criminal Procedure.

No. VIII.—An Ordinance to repeal certain enactments regulating Criminal Procedure.

No. IX.—An Ordinance for making provision for the Public Service for the year 1893.

No. X.—An Ordinance for making final provision for the Public service for the year 1891.

No. XI.—An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the validity of the Ordinances enacted subsequently to the issue of the Queen's Letters Patent of the 17th of June 1885.

No. XII.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. VIII. of 1892.

No. XIII.—An Ordinance to amend "The Steam Vessels Ordinances, 1882 and 1887."

No. XIV.—An Ordinance to amend "The Crimping Ordinance, 1877."

No. XV.—An Ordinance to amend "The Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund Ordinance, 1885."

No. XVI.—An Ordinance to amend "The Indian Immigration Ordinance, 1884."

No. XVII. An Ordinance to amend "The Marine Court of Inquiry Ordinance, 1870."

Of these Ordinances, the most important were Nos. V., VI., and VII. Ordinance No. V. effected a change in the law relating to Jinrikishas by tranferring the responsibility for such offences as loitering for hire, street obstruction, plying for hire with jinrikishas unfit for use, &c. from the puller to the owner of the vehicle, the penalty provided being the detention of the jinrikisha in the depôt or the suspension of the license. It came into force in the Settlement of Singapore, on the 1st of September, 1892. Ordinance No. VI. put a stop to the working of cargo on board ships within the waters of the Colony on Sundays, except under certain special circumstances. It came into force on the 1st of July 1892; it has worked smoothly and it is acknowledged to be a boon to the seafaring community, while it does not unduly interfere with the requirements of trade. Ordinance No. VII. of 1892 consolidated and amended the law of Criminal Procedure, supplying, it may be hoped, a measure the want of which has been complained of constantly since 1872, when the penal code was brought into force. It has not, however, as yet come into force, as some further amendments are contemplated.

His Excellency has been informed by the Secretary of State that Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise her powers of disallowance in respect of these Ordinances.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

15. The fees collected under "The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1886," (which is based on the principle of the Yorkshire Act, and has been so far only applied to the Settlement of Singapore) amounted to $5,290.75, being $825 below the total receipts of the previous year. This falling off is to be attributed to the depression in the Singapore land market which existed throughout the year, only a small amount of property changing ownership. The

registration and mutation of titles to land in Penang and Malacca is still carried on (pending the completion of survey) under a condemned system which dates from 1839, and no penalty attaches to non-registration or delay in registering.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

16. The business of this Department still continues to increase. During the year, 2,385,280 articles were received and 2,639,190 despatched, as against 2,315,590 and 2,507,810 respectively in 1891. The number of Chinese coolie letters passing the Chinese Sub-Post Office in Singapore shows an increase of 13,057, against a falling-off of 22,000 the year before.

The revenue of the Department amounted to $138,350, an increase of $18,581 over the receipts in 1891, showing that the reduction in the rates of postage in 1891 has had only a temporary effect, and that there is reason to anticipate a steady rise in the receipts in future years.

On 1st January, 1892, postage on a packet of printed papers addressed to any part of the postal world was reduced from 2 cents to 1 cent for every 2 ozs.

The expenditure for 1892 amounted to $132,941, being $5,409 less than the revenue and $9,361 more than the expenditure in the previous year. There must, of course, be an increase of staff proportionate to the expansion of the Department, and it is to this that the rise in expenditure above remarked on is due.

The transactions of the Money Order Branch amounted to $588,126, showing an increase of $49,173 over those of 1891. In Singapore, the superintendence of the Money Order Branch and of the Savings Bank has been entrusted to a special officer appointed by the Home Government.

SAVINGS BANK.

17. The following statement gives the particulars of the business transacted by the branches at Singapore, Penang, and Malacca during the year:—

——	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	537	146	45
Accounts closed - - -	440	136	30
Accounts open at the end of the year -	1,048	262	43
	$	$	$
Deposited in 1892 - - -	104,657	27,622	7,487
Repaid in 1892 - - - -	86,571	29,131	6,809
Balance due to depositors at close of 1892 - - - - -	138,040	37,692	6,963

The increase in the amount deposited during the year over that deposited in the previous year was $17,315. The deposit during 1891 showed a similar increase over the figures for 1890.

The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1892, was $182,695, and the aggregate amount lodged since the establishment of the Bank in 1877 proved to be $1,047,032. Under Ordinance III. of 1891, the sum of $70,404.64 has been invested in Government of India 4 Per Cent. Rupee Paper.

The rate of interest allowed to depositors was lowered from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent. from and after the 1st of October, 1892.

EDUCATION.

18. The first examinations under the revised Code of 1891 were held at the inspections at the end of 1892.

Two hundred (200) schools were inspected, and 8,468 pupils examined during the year, as compared with 189 schools and 7,716 pupils in 1891.

The expenditure on Education amounted to $180,350,* as compared with an expenditure of $174,510 in 1891.

The average enrolment at the Boys' Schools in the Colony is shown in the following table:—

—	1891.	1892.
Government English schools - -	1,114	1,027
Aided do. - -	3,016	[illegible],419
Government Malay schools - -	6,805	[illegible],216
Total - - - -	10,935	11,662

The average enrolment in the Government and Private Girls' Schools in 1892 was 1,781, as against 1,566 in the previous year.

POPULATION.

19. The number of births registered in 1892 in all the Settlements was 12,690, of which 6,660 were those of male, and 6,030 those of female, children.

20. The deaths registered in 1892 numbered 16,033, as against 17,570 in 1891, or a decrease of 1,537, the highest rate of mortality having been recorded at Singapore. The greatest number of deaths occurred among persons between the ages of 25 and 35, the death-rate being 31·29 of the total number.

* Approximately only, Crown Agents' account not being finally adjusted.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1892.

21. The following table gives the number of births and deaths registered in each Settlement during the past two years:—

Settlement.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Singapore - -	3,004	3,326	6,449	5,621
Dindings - - -	115	104	106	79
Penang - - -	2,248	2,395	4,903	4,241
Province Wellesley -	3,182	3,262	3,441	3,331
Malacca - - -	2,732	3,603	2,671	2,761
Total - -	18,211	12,690	17,570	16,033

The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1891, was 512,342.

As, judging from the results of the last Census, the population increases at the rate of 2·1 per cent. per annum, the population may now be roughly estimated to be 534,000.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

22. During the year 1892 there was a further decrease in the arrivals of Chinese deck passengers from China, the number being 122,029, as compared with 126,088 in 1891 and 127,936 in 1890.

There was an increase in the number of female immigrants, 6,867 having arrived, as against 6,685 in 1891. Of these, 4,804 landed in Singapore, 2,024 proceeded to Penang, and 39 to other ports. Eight hundred and twenty-two (822) of the Singapore arrivals proceeded subsequently to the Protected Native States and other places. Coolies have arrived from Hongkong and Swatow in increased numbers, but there was a great falling off in the immigration from Amoy and Hainan.

The total number of labour contracts executed in the Colony was 23,448, as against 17,956 in 1891. Contracts to labour in the Dutch Possessions were fewer by 3,195, while, on the other hand, the Native States contracts show an increase of 10,474. Contracts for Province Wellesley show a decrease of 60.

Out of the total number of contracts made in the Colony, 18,991 were for labour in the Colony and Protected Native States, and 4,457 for labour in other places. The corresponding figures for 1891 were respectively 8,950 and 9,006.

During the year, an Ordinance (No. XIV. of 1892) was passed to amend "The Crimping Ordinance, 1877," which restricts the

issue of licenses for recruiting coolies to labour without the Colony at any place which is not part of Her Majesty's Dominions or under the protection of the British Government.

Preparations were made at the close of the year for bringing into operation on the 1st January, 1893, "The Chinese Agricultural Labourers' Ordinance, 1891," and a special officer was detailed for the purpose of supervising its initiation.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

23. During the year, 1,628 statute immigrants with 423 dependants arrived in the Colony.

Of this number, 1,192 were for service in the Colony, and 436 for service in the Native States. The figures show a decrease in the number of immigrants of 1,750 as compared with 1891. Sixteen thousand three hundred and seventy (16,370) immigrants not under indenture arrived in the Colony, showing a decrease of 10,076 as compared with the previous year's arrivals. Seventeen thousand seven hundred and twenty-two (17,722) immigrants returned to India.

The following table gives the statistics of the Department for the last 11 years :—

——	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Immigrants under indenture -	1,452	1,450	1,539	1,642	2,748	4,736	4,684	2,747	2,960	3,443	1,628
Dependants - -	209	176	177	49	244	310	317	104	158	293	423
Free immigrants	8,276	8,979	14,365	19,819	17,316	12,156	15,812	15,285	18,301	26,446	16,370
Total arrivals -	9,937	10,605	16,081	21,510	20,308	17,202	20,813	18,136	21,419	30,182	18,421
Returned to India	5,947	9,041	10,749	13,417	18,105	12,596	13,190	14,099	15,276	23,913	17,722
Remained in the Colony - -	3,990	1,564	5,332	8,093	2,203	4,606	7,623	4,037	6,143	6,269	699

24. At the close of the year, an Ordinance (No. XVI. of 1892) was passed to amend the Indian Immigration Ordinance of 1884, in accordance with the recommendations of the Labour Commission which were made in 1891.

The chief changes introduced are as follows :—

The rate of wages is raised during the first year of contract from 12 to 14 cents for males and from 8 to 10 cents per day for females.

The total sum for advances and smart money is fixed at $24, and task work is recognized. The period of contract, when for three years, is to be determined whenever 720 days' work have been completed.

The maximum of three years is allowed to be extended in cases where absence from work occurs under certain circumstances.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1892.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

25. The following tables give the valu of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1892 and 1891 respectively :—

Imports.

——		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	1892	12,435,751	3,374,373	147,457
	1891	13,454,765	3,553,089	—
British Possessions - -	1892	23,284,426	14,909,704	—
	1891	25,048,149	13,281,514	—
Foreign Countries - -	1892	56,676,554	18,767,694	278,233
	1891	49,814,458	16,673,827	260,629
Between the Settlements -	1892	4,200,195	2,231,023	1,079,540
	1891	3,804,300	1,864,557	1,065,631
Total Value of Merchandise	1892	96,596,926	39,282,794	1,505,230
	1891	92,121,672	35,372,987	1,326,260
TREASURE.				
Total Value of Treasure -	1892	10,373,136	2,138,782	177,055
	1891	10,890,539	4,968,690	184,378
Total Imports of Merchandise and Treasure -	1892	106,970,062	41,421,576	1,682,285
	1891	103,012,211	40,341,677	1,510,638
Grand Total Value of the Imports of the Straits Settlements - - - - -	1892			150,073,923
	1891			144,864,526

Exports.

——		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	1892	15,753,583	9,246,674	—
	1891	16,930,137	7,510,509	—
British Possessions - -	1892	10,744,016	5,848,765	—
	1891	10,365,932	6,945,043	—
Foreign Countries - -	1892	55,497,427	18,202,214	224,845
	1891	49,127,912	16,563,373	218,148

—		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
MERCHANDISE—*cont.*		$	$	$
Between the Settlements -	1892	2,358,749	3,782,640	1,173,183
	1891	1,678,479	3,856,252	1,292,406
Total Value of Merchandise	1892	84,353,775	37,080,293	1,398,028
	1891	78,102,460	34,875,177	1,510,554
TREASURE.				
Total Value of Treasure -	1892	13,496,674	6,594,525	88,672
	1891	13,123,024	6,561,045	110,885
Total Exports of Merchandise and Treasure -	1892	97,850,449	43,674,818	1,486,700
	1891	91,225,484	41,436,222	1,621,439
Grand Total Value of the Exports of the Straits Settlements - - - - -	1892			143,011,967
	1891			134,283,145

26. It will be seen from the above returns that, if the item "Treasure" be excluded, the net increase in the total trade of the Colony as compared with 1891 amounted to $16,907,936, or nearly 7 per cent.

27. From the nature of the Colony's trade a year of large exports means also increased imports, and an average depreciation in the sterling value of the dollar of over 11 per cent. compared with 1891, tended to stimulate exports, which show increases in all the principal articles, copra and tapioca excepted. This depreciation, on the other hand, unfavourably affected the import of cotton piece goods and European manufactures generally.

28. For the first time in the history of the Colony's trade imports of China-grown opium have to be recorded.

29. The following are a few of the principal imports to and exports from the Straits Settlements:—

Imports.

—	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton piece goods -	Pieces. 5,038,657	Pieces. 4,627,745	—	410,912
Coal - - -	Tons. 375,045	Tons. 334,305	—	40,740
Rice - - -	Pikuls. 5,778,802	Pikuls. 6,318,981	540,179	—
Opium - - -	Chests. 16,654	Chests. 13,732	—	2,922
Silk piece goods - -	Pieces. 266,732	Pieces. 255,491	—	11,241
Petroleum - -	Cases. 760,686	Cases. 825,991	65,305	—

Exports.

—	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Coffee - - -	56,137	69,747	13,610	—
Gambier - - -	697,785	844,550	146,765	—
Gums - - -	164,022	159,705	—	4,317
Spices - -	817,858	910,386	92,528	—
Tapioca - - -	610,842	539,962	—	70,880
Tin - - -	605,829	636,002	30,173	—
Copra - - -	913,674	429,870	—	483,804

30. The revenue (Light Dues and Miscellaneous Fees) collected by the Marine Department in each Settlement during 1892 and 1891 appears in the subjoined table :—

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1892 - - -	80,482 09	22,321 61	1,964 14	104,767 84
1891 - - -	80,214 72	26,682 66	1,721 63	108,619 01

31. The following table shows the arrivals and departures of shipping in the Colony during 1892 and 1891 :—

SHIPPING.

Steamers and Square-rigged Vessels.

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals, 1892 -	4,143	3,280,222	2,970	1,630,643	1,344	239,232	8,457	5,150,097
Do. 1891 -	4,184	3,324,680	2,966	1,760,001	1,417	251,494	8,567	5,336,175
Departures, 1892 -	4,114	3,181,801	2,953	1,629,879	1,341	238,658	8,408	5,050,338
Do. 1891 -	4,155	3,288,577	2,951	1,741,812	1,417	251,494	8,523	5,281,883
Total, 1892 -	8,257	6,462,023	5,923	3,260,522	2,685	477,890	16,865	10,200,435
Do. 1891 -	8,339	6,613,257	5,917	3,501,813	2,834	502,988	17,090	10,618,058

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals, 1892 -	7,966	309,162	4,479	101,752	2,092	35,601	14,537	446,515
Do. 1891 -	7,293	260,672	5,620	114,807	1,985	32,214	14,898	407,693
Departures, 1892 -	7,887	307,258	4,524	103,946	2,087	35,479	14,498	446,683
Do. 1891 -	7,188	258,802	5,565	114,320	1,987	32,226	14,740	405,348
Total, 1892 -	15,853	616,420	9,003	205,698	4,179	71,080	29,035	893,198
Do. 1891 -	14,481	519,474	11,185	229,127	3,972	64,440	29,638	813,041

REGISTRY OF SHIPPING.

32. The number and tonnage of the new vessels built in the Colony in 1892 and 1891 is shown in the following table :—

—	No.	Tonnage.
1892 - - - - -	57	3,593
1891 - - - - -	70	4,506

33. Some idea of the relative importance of shipping and commerce in 1892 and 1891 for Singapore and Penang may be gathered from the following Returns :—

SHIPPING (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVE CRAFT).

Singapore.

1892 - 8,257 vessels, measuring 6,462,023 tons.

1891 - 8,339 „ „ 6,613,257 „

Penang.

1892 - 5,923 vessels, measuring 3,260,522 tons.

1891 - 5,917 „ „ 3,501,813 „

TRADE.

Singapore.

	$
1892 - - - -	204,820,511
1891 - - - -	194,737,695

Penang.

	$
1892 - - - -	85,096,394
1891 - - - -	81,777,899

34. Out of the decrease in the revenue of $3,851, light dues decrease by $2,376. In this item of revenue, Singapore contributed an increase of $809, Malacca of $261, while Penang showed a decrease of $3,446.

LIGHTHOUSES, &c.

35. Lighthouses, launches, buoys, and beacons have been kept in an efficient condition.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

36. The general health of the Colony for 1892 has been fairly good, the vital statistics showing a decline in the general mortality as compared with those of former years, and this despite the fact that smallpox prevailed in all the Settlements, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, where it was almost epidemic.

Cholera.—With the exception of three sporadic cases in the Singapore Gaol, no case of this disease occurred throughout the Settlements, though seven deaths are recorded from this cause amongst passengers landed at the Quarantine Station on St. John's Island.

Chicken-pox and Measles were not, perhaps, more prevalent than usual.

Beri-beri appears to be on the decline, and the mortality from this cause is considerably lower than it has been in recent years.

Hydrophobia.—Not one case of this disease is reported from any of the Settlements, showing beyond dispute the value of the stringent regulations relating to the ownership and custody of dogs.

The District Officer, Dindings, reports that his district has been exceptionally healthy throughout the year, particularly the new town of Lumut, and that malarial fever (which was formerly unhappily so prevalent in the district) was almost unknown.

37. Appended are tables showing—

A.—Crude birth and death rates.

B.—Special death-rate (racial).

C.—Deaths due to the more important specific infectious diseases.

A.—Crude Birth-rate.

Settlement.	Ratio per Mille.	
	1892.	1891.
Singapore - -	18·02	16·20
Penang - -	19·33	18·35
Province Wellesley -	30·17	29·48
Dindings - -	28·76	31·80
Malacca - -	39·09	29·83

A.—Crude Death-rate.

Settlement.	Ratio per Mille.	
	1892.	1891.
Singapore - - -	30·45	34·9
Penang- - - -	33·13	40·29
Province Wellesley - -	30·43	31·88
Dindings - - -	21·07	29·32
Malacca - - -	30·14	29·16

B.—*Special Death-rate (Racial).*

Settlement.	Europeans.		Eurasians.		Chinese.		Malays.		Indians.		Other Nationalities.	
	Ratio per Mille.		Ratio per Mille.		Ratio per Mille.		Ratio per Mille.		Ratio per Mille.		Ratio per Mille.	
	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.
Singapore - -	14·84	12·75	20·89	35·66	30·73	37·60	33·03	33·11	29·62	25·82	32·09	36·03
Penang - -	17·27	30·59	32·16	26·92	35·38	48·25	21·90	29·43	34·19	37·50	66·04	29·66
Province Wellesley -	—	13·8	15·68	14·76	30·33	32·01	23·64	27·08	57·37	61·06	76·23	25·12
Dindings - -	—	—	—	—	34·33	54·32	18·79	20·81	—	31·49	—	—
Malacca -	17·69	8·84	41·92	39·03	37·40	45·77	27·68	24·43	40·92	33·59	68·48	109·58

C.—Deaths due to the more important Specific Infectious Diseases

Settlement.	Small-pox.		Cholera.		Beri-beri.	
	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.
Singapore - - - -	22	14	7	53	229	362
Penang - - -	131	11	—	37	50	88
Province Wellesley - -	121	21	—	42	47	31
Dindings - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malacca - - - -	3	9	—	85	56	101

38. The following table gives the number of patients treated in all Government hospitals, and of the deaths among them, during 1892, as compared with 1891 :—

—	Number of Patients treated.			Number of Deaths.			Percentage of Deaths to Total treated.		
	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.
1892 - - -	809	21,822	22,631	31	2,250	2,251	3·83	10·17	9·94
1891 - - -	944	22,176	23,120	43	2,710	2,753	4·55	12·22	11·90

39. The number of patients treated and the deaths that occurred in hospital in each of the Settlements were as follows:—

Settlement.	Total treated.	Deaths.
Singapore - - - -	10,573	891
Penang and the Dindings - -	6,338	764
Province Wellesley - -	2,340	418
Malacca - - - -	3,381	178

40. The numbers in the Leper Hospital, Singapore, and Leper Asylum, Penang, during 1891 and 1892, were as follows :—

Hospitals.	1891.				1892.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or absconded.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged, absconded, or transferred.	Remained.
Leper Hospital - -	155	49	49	57	165	33	100	32
Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak -	353	123	—	230	475	122	—	353

BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

41. The total number of receiving orders made and proceeded with during the year is shown in the following table :—

——	No. of Proceedings.	No. of Debtors.
In Singapore - - -	32	41
In Penang - - - -	9	9
In Malacca - - - -	—	—
Total - -	41	50

In 1891 the number of the proceedings was 59, and the number of debtors 76.

Liabilities according to the debtors' estimates amounted to $667,305, as against $2,687,114 in 1891, and the proofs lodged with the Official Assignee gave a total of $663,242, as against $3,903,062 in 1891.

During the year a committee of the Legislative Council sat to enquire into the working of the Ordinance, and their report was laid before the Legislative Council during the beginning of the current year.

It may be remarked that in the Colony the chief difficulty which has to be overcome in the realization of Chinese bankrupt estates is the collection of debts due to the bankrupts in foreign ports, and this is a difficulty which practically cannot be remedied by legislation.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

42. Four joint-stock companies were registered at Singapore during the year 1892, with a total nominal capital of $665,000, while three companies went into voluntary liquidation. The amount of fees collected was $420.

At Penang no companies were registered.

METEOROLOGY.

43. The following statement shows the temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year :—

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	Fahr. °	Fahr. °	Fahr. °
Singapore - - - -	86·8	73·5	79·4
Penang - - - - -	88·1	74·6	80·3
Province Wellesley - - -	93·1	73·4	81·2
Malacca - - - -	88·8	68·0	78·3

44. Returns of rainfall for the whole year were received from 49 stations in the Colony. The heaviest rainfall was in Singapore.

The following table shows the mean total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours :—

Settlement.	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Inches.	Ins.	Ins.	Inches.
Singapore - -	99·70	Dec. - 21·03	Feb. - 0·84	9·30
Penang - -	93·99	Oct. - 19·06	Jan. - 0·35	5·40
Province Wellesley.	75·05	May. - 14·65	an. - 0·05	5·25
Malacca - -	78·35	Aug. - 26·35	July - 0·25	10·00
Dindings - -	99·09	May. - 18·22	Mar. - 1·79	5·80

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1892.

POLICE AND CRIME.

45. The following table shows the strength and distribution of the Police Force in 1892 :—

Settlement.	Europeans.			Native Contingent.		Sikh Contingent.		Total.
	Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	
Singapore - - -	13	6	30	64	700	6	105	924
Penang - - -	17	4	24	71	689	6	73	884
Malacca - - -	5	2	—	30	226	4	34	301
Grand total -	35	12	54	165	1,615	16	212	2,109

A reduction in the strength of the force in Malacca of 8 corporals and 27 constables was made in consequence of the closing of certain country stations.

The Chinese contingent, which was introduced in Singapore in 1890, has not proved a success, and consequently the vacancies caused by dismissals, &c. have not been filled up.

One hundred and ninety-four (194) men were dismissed from the force during the year for police offences, and 113 were sent for trial before the magistrates.

Twenty-four thousand three hundred and eighty-seven (24,387) cases were arrested during the year, as against 25,400 in 1891. Thirteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight (13,858) offences were reported to the Police, as against 12,828 in 1891, of which 4,033 remained undiscovered. A large proportion of the reports made at police stations are of a most trivial nature, and many of them are either untrue or gross exaggerations.

Seventeen (17) reports of culpable homicide were made at police stations. Twelve (12) cases of murder were sent for trial, and 9 of gang robbery. There were 13 cases of gang robbery reported to the police, several of which, in Singapore, were cases of robbery, but certainly not of "gang robbery." The actual number of cases of gang robbery was 9, viz., 2 in Singapore, 6 in Penang, and 1 in Malacca.

The Colony has been free from serious disturbances of any kind.

JUDICIAL.

46. The following tables contain returns for 1891 and 1892, of the cases dealt with by the Supreme Court on the Civil and

Criminal sides, by the Courts of Requests, and by the Police and Marine Magistrates:—

SUPREME COURT. Criminal Side.	1891. No. of Prisoners.				1892. No. of Prisoners.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
1. Culpable homicide:								
Convicted - -	1	3	-	4	-	2	-	2
Acquitted - -	-	8	-	8	1	1	2	4
2. Culpable homicide not amounting to murder:								
Convicted - -	3	1	-	4	-	8	1	9
Acquitted - -	2	-	1	3	1	12	2	15
3. Attempt to murder:								
Convicted - -	1	4	1	6	4	2	-	6
Acquitted - -	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	1
4. Voluntarily causing grievous hurt:								
Convicted - -	6	5	1	12	10	11	12	33
Acquitted - -	1	1	2	4	5	2	4	11
5. Unnatural offences:								
Convicted - -	-	2	-	2	4	-	-	4
Acquitted - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
6. Other offences against person:								
Convicted - -	16	14	1	31	20	24	-	44
Acquitted - -	2	18	-	20	7	18	-	25
7. Gang robbery:								
Convicted - -	7	5	6	18	10	15	-	25
Acquitted - -	-	7	-	7	-	7	-	7
8. Theft, housebreaking, &c.:								
Convicted - -	13	27	5	45	17	31	1	49
Acquitted - -	5	17	-	22	4	9	1	14
9. Other offences against property:								
Convicted - -	19	11	1	31	15	20	2	37
Acquitted - -	8	9	-	17	6	16	4	26
10. Miscellaneous offences:								
Convicted - -	18	9	-	27	18	12	-	30
Acquitted - -	5	15	2	22	12	11	2	25
Total Convicted -	84	81	15	180	98	125	16	239
Total Acquitted -	23	77	5	105	38	76	15	129
Grand total - -	107	158	20	285	136	201	31	368

SUPREME COURT. Civil Side.	Civil Actions, 1891.						Civil Actions, 1892.					
	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.
			$						$			
Singapore - - -	936	1,630	2,780,568	870	1,295	401	401	1,389	1,890,358	582	721	487
Penang - - -	690	1,071	2,168,685	595	595	571	571	1,014	2,229,157	649	551	385
Malacca - - -	69	161	89,550	89	82	59	59	118	42,531	50	81	46
Total - -	1,695	2,862	5,038,803	1,554	1,972	1,031	1,031	2,521	4,162,046	1,281	1,353	918

—	Probate and Administration.			
	1891.		1892.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		$		$
Singapore - -	114	703,738	134	786,614
Penang - - -	457	354,730	576	928,535
Malacca - - -	61	118,975	47	752,204
Total - -	632	1,177,443	757	2,467,353

POLICE AND MARINE MAGISTRATES' COURTS. No. of Offenders dealt with.	1891.					1892.				
	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
Singapore -	128	17,257	4,974	—	22,359	133	16,902	5,262	—	22,197
Penang -	153	17,194	6,648	107	24,102	209	15,513	7,338	170	23,230
Malacca -	25	1,794	935	—	2,754	32	1,575	781	—	2,388
Total -	306	36,245	12,557	107	49,215	374	33,890	13,381	170	47,815

COURTS OF REQUESTS. (Jurisdiction up to $50.)	1891.		1892.	
	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.
		$ c.		$ c.
Singapore - -	4,426	58,936 74	4,782	59,726 15
Penang - - -	3,829	45,799 96½	3,296	43,054 18½
Province Wellesley -	753	13,496 57	846	16,698 54
Malacca - - -	1,338	13,656 44	816	9,718 13½
Total - -	10,346	131,889 71½	9,740	129,197

INQUESTS.

47. Return of Inquests held in the Colony of the Straits Settlements during the year 1892:—

Verdict.	Singapore.	Penang and Dindings.	Province Wellesley.	Malacca.	Total.
Homicide, culpable -	8	11	5	7	31
" justifiable -	—	1	—	—	1
" by misadventure - -	1	1	—	—	2
Suicide - -	10	18	24	1	53
Death in pursuance of judicial sentence -	—	2	—	—	2
Natural causes, accidental, &c. - -	152	37	48	22	259
Found dead, causes unknown, &c. -	32	12	11	10	65
Total - -	203	82	88	40	413

PRISONS.

48. The health of the prisoners in the three Settlements was good during the year, although the death-rate at Singapore was rather heavy during the very wet weather towards the end of the year. The number of deaths was, at Singapore 39 and at Penang 7, while at Malacca there were none. Three suicides occurred in the Penang prison, and two convicts escaped, one of whom was re-captured. There were two executions at Penang in October. The Inspector of Prisons in his annual report, speaking of the Singapore prison, where all prisoners sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment are sent, reports as follows:—

"There has been no suicide, no serious assault, no escape during the year, the daily average of prisoners decreased considerably towards the close of the year, and offences are fewer in proportion to the number in prison."

The number of prisoners in the Singapore prison on the 31st December 1892, was 890.

(Signed) W. E. MAXWELL,
Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 10th April 1893.

10
Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 121.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 81.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
87	Falkland Islands	1892
88	Gold Coast	"
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	"
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"
99	St. Helena	"
100	British Bechuanaland	1892–93
101	British Guiana	"
102	Newfoundland	1892
103	Jamaica	1892–93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	"
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 121.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report Annual) No. 81.]

Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL to the MARQUESS of RIPON.

Tanjong Kling, Malacca,
September 9, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the report by the Colonial Secretary, in anticipation of the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1893.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL.

REPORT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1893.

(Extract.*)

FINANCIAL.

For the Straits Settlements, as for other silver-using countries, the year 1893 was one of exceptional difficulty and crisis. The, sudden appreciation of gold, and the consequent rapid decline in the exchange value of the local currency, not only caused such a dislocation of trade as to create considerable anxiety among the mercantile community (a result the gravity of which can hardly be over-estimated in a Colony whose importance and prosperity have from the first been based on the volume of trade attracted to its two great commercial centres—Singapore and Penang) but placed the Colonial Government face to face with a number of problems connected with the successful carrying on of the administration under largely altered conditions.

2. The possibility of such changes in the currency itself as might secure, in some measure, that fixity of exchange without which, it was contended by some, the trade of the Colony could not rest on a sure and stable basis, engaged the attention both of the Government and the mercantile community throughout the year. Insignificant in point of area, even if their dependencies—the Protected States of the Malay Peninsula—are counted in, the Straits Settlements take no mean place in the trade statistics of the Empire, and the question of placing

* NOTE.—Some of the statistics contained in the original report have been omitted.

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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1893.

their trade on a satisfactory basis deserves, therefore, and should command, the interest of many outside the narrow limits of the Colony itself.

3. In the month of July, a Committee, comprising some of the leading European and Chinese merchants, as well as several of the senior officers of Government, commenced its sittings in Singapore, and in September their report, with various appendices, including notes of the evidence taken, was remitted to the Colonial Office.

4. Although all were agreed as to the serious effect which the condition of the local currency was having on trade and capital, a notable divergence revealed itself among the members of the Committee as to the remedy which should be adopted. The proposal which received the support of the largest number was the inclusion of the Settlements within the currency area of British India, and even those who did not take this view recognised that one great difficulty in dealing with the question arises from the fact that, unlike India, the Settlements have, except subsidiary coins, no coinage of their own.* The position of the Colony in this respect is anomalous, the legal tender being the Mexican dollar and the Japanese yen—coins obtained from foreign countries, and over the supply of which the local Government is not able to exercise any control.

5. The consideration of the other questions arising from the same cause, viz., the decline in the exchange value of silver, was necessarily postponed till the end of the year, in the hope that some solution of the currency problem might be found. While, on the one hand, many of the existing sources of revenue were seriously threatened by the dislocation of trade, on the other, great caution had to be exercised in devising new means of raising revenue without interfering with the freedom of trade which had enabled the Settlements to grow into great entrepôts of commerce. Moreover, a largely enhanced proportion of the revenue had, under the new conditions, to be set aside to meet those items of expenditure which have to be paid in England, such as stores, &c. procured through the Crown Agents, and the contribution paid by the Colonial to the Home Government towards the maintenance of an Imperial garrison in Singapore. And again, while it was generally felt that the decline in the value of salaries paid in silver inflicted unmerited hardship upon the European officers of Government, it was not possible to offer them any compensation until the financial position of the Colony should be more assured.

6. The influence of the above considerations will be apparent in the following review of the finances of the Colony, while at the same time the statistics of trade and shipping for the year (which will be found below) offer satisfactory evidence of the stable foundation of the prosperity of the Settlements.

* NOTE.—Since the above was written it has been decided to coin a British dollar for the Straits Settlements and Hong Kong.

7. The Revenue of the Colony for the year 1893 amounted to $3,706,308 (Singapore $2,099,029, Penang $1,323,340, Malacca $283,939) being more than the Revenue of 1892 by $53,430.

8. The principal heads under which the increase is noticeable are:—

	$
Land revenue - - - -	19,991
Fees of office - - - -	24,482
Interest - - - - -	38,700

In the case of Land Revenue, the increase is mainly due to the recovery of payment for certain Crown lands which had been the subject of encroachment by private persons For these, on approved terms, grants were issued. There were no special sales of town lands during the year.

The growth of the permanent Land Revenue continues to be satisfactory. The steady rise of Crown Rents in all three Settlements, in consequence of improved administration, was the subject of remark in last year's report. The rise has been as follows:—In Singapore, from $27,891 in 1883 to $41,676 in 1893; in Penang, from $26,179 in 1883 to $61,887 in 1893; and in Malacca, from $55,441 in 1883 to $77,497 in 1893. The increase under the head of Fees of Office is due to the collection of new fees for the veterinary inspection of animals imported into the Colony, and to increased receipts under the Chinese Immigration Ordinance.

9. The principal decrease was under the head of Licences, the receipts for 1892 having been swelled by an item of $49,000 received in that year for arrears for 1890 on the Singapore opium and spirit farms.

10. The expenditure for 1893 amounted to $3,915,482, showing a decrease as compared with 1892 of $350,925.

The principal heads under which a decrease is apparent are as follows:—

	$
Works and buildings - - -	192,480
Military expenditure - - -	85,444
Interest - - - - -	51,410
Roads, streets and bridges - - -	34,775
Revenue services - - - -	15,593

It should be observed, however, that the amount paid away in 1892 under the heading of Military expenditure included a final payment of $162,162 for arrears.

The most noticeable increase is under the head of Miscellaneous Services, and amounts to $23,874.

11. A comparison of the assets and liabilities on 31st December 1893 gives a balance in favour of assets of $1,534,514, as against $1,726,683 on the 31st December 1892, showing that the available balances have been encroached upon to the extent of $192,169. In the balance of $1,533,874 are included the investments given under the head of Dependencies, amounting to $1,110,464. these

being loans to the Native States and the municipality of Malacca.

12. The downward tendency of exchange after May 1893, is exhibited in the following table, which is inserted in order to show the course of exchange during the year :—

Bank Bills.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
On London :— Sterling, on demand, Highest -	2 8¾	2 8⅞	2 8¾	2 8⅝	2 9⅛	2 8⅞	2 7¼	2 6¼	2 5⅝	2 5⅝	2 4⅝	2 4⅝
Lowest -	2 8⅝	2 8¾	2 8⅛	2 8⅜	2 8½	2 7	2 4⅝	2 5⅝	2 5¼	2 4¼	2 4	2 4⅛

The average rate of exchange during the year on demand was 2*s.* 7$\frac{1}{5}$*d.*, and at four months' sight was 2*s.* 7$\frac{4}{5}$*d.*, as compared with 2*s.* 10$\frac{2}{5}$*d.* and 2*s.* 10$\frac{3}{5}$*d.* in the preceding year.

The total estimated bank note circulation of the Colony on the 31st December 1893, was $7,119,480. It is confined entirely to the note issue of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, as the reconstructed Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, issued no notes during the year.

MUNICIPALITIES.

13. It is impossible, within the limits of this report, to do more than give a general view of the financial position of the municipal bodies in the Colony.

The expenditure has exceeded the revenue in all the Municipalities. The Singapore Municipality has obtained a new loan of $150,000, and the Penang cash balance has been much reduced. The Malacca Waterworks were completed in 1893 by Government, at a total cost, including up-keep for six months, of $250,083. The quality of the water is not, however, yet satisfactory, and further expenditure to improve the supply may become necessary. In the meantime, no water-rate can be levied in Malacca.

The bulk of the expenditure on roads and bridges falls on the general revenue of the Colony, and not on the rates.

LEGISLATION.

14. In comparison with some previous years, there was little fresh legislation in 1893. Ten meetings of the Legislative Council were held, and seven Ordinances were passed, intituled as follows :—

No. I.—An Ordinance to provide for the Recognition in the Colony of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and in British Possessions.

No. II.—An Ordinance to amend the law as to Appeals in Civil Matters.

No. III.—An Ordinance to consolidate, define, and amend the Law of Evidence.

No. IV.—An Ordinance for the Incorporation of the Titular Anglican Bishop of Singapore, Labuan, and Sarawak.

No. V.—An Ordinance for making provision for the Public Service for the year 1894.

No. VI.—An Ordinance for making Final Provision for the Public Service for the year 1892.

No. VII.—An Ordinance to amend "The Societies Ordinance 1889."

The most important of these, viz., No. III., the Evidence Ordinance, is based on the Indian Evidence Act. The new Criminal Procedure Code, which passed the Council in 1892, has not yet been brought into force, the principal difficulty being those parts of this measure which prescribe the duties of the Public Prosecutor and his deputies, which, it is feared, may involve special expenditure if put in force.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

15. The fees collected under "The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1886" (which is based on the principle of the Yorkshire Act, and has been so far only applied to the Settlement of Singapore), amounted to $5,290, being 75 cents below the total receipts of the previous year. Preparation was commenced for the application of this Ordinance to the Settlement of Penang, where the extent of occupied land, and consequently the number of titles and dealings in land, are larger than in Singapore.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SURVEYS.

16. The financial outlook debarred the Government from initiating any costly works during the year, and rigid economy had to be exercised even in respect of the up-keep and maintenance of existing roads and buildings. Under these circumstances, the completion of the Malacca Water Works, already mentioned, constitutes the only undertaking to which reference need here be made. It has been seen above that the expenditure for the year shows a decrease under the two headings of Works and Buildings, and Roads, Streets and Bridges, of no less than $225,447 on the figures for 1892.

The close of the year saw the completion of the revenue survey of Penang Island, George Town, and Province Wellesley.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

17. There was a considerable increase in the correspondence which passed through this Department, evidenced by the fact that 5,313,340 articles were received and despatched in 1893, as compared with 5,023,340 in 1892.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1893.

The postal revenue amounted to $138,322, and exceeded the expenditure by $590, but fell short of the total receipts of 1892 by $28.

The silver crisis in June had a very depressing effect on the business of the Money Order Branch during the second half of the year. The transactions in 1893 numbered 32,900 for an aggregate amount of $572,791, as compared with 33,651 for $588,126 in the previous year. The decrease was chiefly in business with India, but, in spite of exchange continuing to be unfavourable to remitters, there are signs of returning activity in this branch.

In view of the heavy fall in the value of silver, steps have been taken to re-adjust the scale of Straits postage rates to a closer equivalent of the Postal Union tariff, with effect from the 1st March 1894.

SAVINGS BANK.

18. The following statement gives the particulars of the business transacted by the branches at Singapore, Penang, and Malacca during the year:—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	553	147	43
Accounts closed - - -	417	98	28
Accounts open at the end of the year -	1,188	308	72
	$	$	$
Deposited in 1893 - - -	102,346	30,904	7,798
Repaid in 1893 - - - -	89,457	30,584	6,638
Balance due to depositors at close of 1893 - - - - -	155,890	40,693	8,354

The increase in the amount deposited during the year over that deposited in the previous year was $1,282. The deposits during 1892 showed an increase over the figures for 1891 of $17,315.

The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1893, was $204,937, and the aggregate amount lodged since the establishment of the Bank in 1877 proved to be $1,188,080. Under Ordinance III. of 1891, the sum of $90,670 has been invested in Government of India 4 per cent. Rupee Paper.

EDUCATION.

19. Two hundred and thirty-six (236) schools were inspected, and 8,581 pupils examined during the year, as compared with 200 schools and 8,468 pupils in 1892.

The expenditure on Education amounted to $183,345, as compared with an expenditure of $180,350 in 1892.

The average enrolment at the boys' schools in the Colony is shown in the following table:—

——	1892.	1893.
Government English schools - -	1,027	980
Aided English Schools - - -	3,419	4,861
Government Malay schools - - -	7,216	7,106
Total - - - -	11,662	12,947

The average enrolment in the Government and Private Girls' Schools in 1892 was 1,912, as against 1,781 in the previous year.

During the year, a special Committee appointed by the Governor investigated and reported on the system of Malay Vernacular Education in vogue in the Colony.

POPULATION.

19. The number of births registered in 1893 in all the Settlements was 12,388, of which 6,555 were those of male, and 5,833 those of female, children.

The deaths registered in 1893 numbered 16,945 as against 16,033 in 1892, or an increase of 912, the highest rate of mortality having been recorded at Singapore. As in 1892, the greatest number of deaths occurred among persons between the ages of 25 and 35.

The following table gives the number of births and deaths registered in each Settlement during the past two years:—

Settlement.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Singapore - -	3,326	3,332	5,621	6,776
Dindings - - -	104	110	79	95
Penang - - -	2,395	2,303	4,241	4,167
Province Wellesley -	3,262	3,487	3,331	2,956
Malacca - - -	3,603	3,156	2,761	2,951
Total - -	12,690	12,388	16,033	16,945

21. In this connexion, it may not be without advantage to guard against a misconception which might not unnaturally arise from the comparison of the above figures with those of other tropical Colonies with a large settled indigenous population. A death-rate so largely in excess of the recorded birth-rate might be taken to indicate either exceptional unhealthiness of climate or a deplorable deficiency in sanitary precautions. The disproportion may, however, be explained in the main by a glance at the composition

of the population of the Colony. The Census returns for 1891 gave a total for the three Settlements of 512,342 persons, of whom less than a third were females. The Chinese, excluding Straits-born, numbered in all 193,232, the bulk of these being immigrants from South China, who have left their wives and families behind them. The proportion of males to females among the Chinese in the Colony was more than six to one. A similar disproportion between the sexes is to be noticed, though in less degree, among the Tamils from the Coromandel coast, who form another important element in the population, as well as among the Europeans and the various races of the Archipelago represented. The only stable elements are the Malays and Jawi Pekans (196,243), the Eurasians (7,057) and the Straits-born Chinese (34,757), which all show a slight preponderance of females. The decade 1881 to 1891 showed an average annual increase in the population of 2·1 per cent. The present population may, therefore, be roughly estimated at 545,000.

Statistics relating to the health of the Settlements during the year will be found lower down under the heading "Public Health."

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

22. During the year 1893 there was a large increase in the arrivals of Chinese deck passengers from China, the number being 189,843, as compared with 122,029 in 1892 and 126,088 in 1891. Coolies have arrived from Hong Kong, Swatow, Amoy, and Hainan in increased numbers.

There was an increase of 2,773 in the number of female immigrants, 9,640 having arrived, as against 6,867 in 1892. Of these, 6,387 landed in Singapore, 3,215 proceeded to Penang and 38 to other ports. One thousand two hundred and eighty-three (1,283) of the Singapore arrivals proceeded subsequently to the Protected Native States and other places.

The total number of labour contracts executed in the Colony was 38,326, as against 23,448 in 1892. Contracts to labour in the Dutch Possessions show an increase of 4,392, and the Native States contracts an increase of 9,725. Contracts for Province Wellesley also show an increase of 376.

Out of the total number of contracts made in the Colony, 29,179 were for labour in the Colony and Protected Native States, and 9,147 for labour in other places. The corresponding figures for 1892 were, respectively, 18,991 and 4,457.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

23. During the year, 2,106 statute immigrants with 237 dependents arrived in the Colony.

Of this number, 1,189 were for service in the Colony, and 917 for service in the Native States. The figures show an increase in the number of statute immigrants of 385, as compared with 1892.

Fifteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (15,877) immigrants not under indenture arrived in the Colony, showing a decrease of 493, as compared with the previous year's arrivals. Fourteen thousand and forty-four (14,044) immigrants returned to India.

The following table gives the statistics of the Indian Immigration Department for the last 11 years :—

—	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Immigrants under indenture -	1,450	1,539	1,642	2,748	4,736	4,684	2,747	2,960	3,443	1,628	2,106
Dependents - -	176	177	49	244	310	317	104	158	293	423	237
Free immigrants	8,979	14,365	19,819	17,316	12,156	15,812	15,285	18,301	26,446	16,370	15,877
Total arrivals -	10,605	16,081	21,510	20,308	17,202	20,813	18,136	21,419	30,182	18,421	18,220
Returned to India	9,041	10,749	13,417	18,105	12,596	13,190	14,099	15,276	23,913	17,722	14,044
Remained in the Colony - -	1,564	5,332	8,093	2,203	4,606	7,623	4,037	6,143	6,269	699	4,176

TRADE.

24. The following tables give the value of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1893 and 1892 respectively :—

Imports.

—		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	1893	11,582,432	3,878,943	—	15,461,375
	1892	12,435,751	3,374,373	147,457	15,957,581
British Possessions - -	1893	25,297,299	14,899,133	—	40,196,432
	1892	23,284,426	14,909,704	—	38,194,130
Foreign Countries - -	1893	67,239,825	20,967,682	388,809	88,596,316
	1892	56,676,554	18,767,694	278,233	75,722,481
Inter-Settlements - -	1893	4,124,097	2,796,443	1,270,574	8,191,114
	1892	4,200,195	2,231,023	1,079,540	7,510,758
Total Value of Merchandise	1893	108,243,653	42,542,201	1,659,383	152,445,237
	1892	96,596,953	39,282,794	1,505,230	137,384,950
TREASURE.					
Total Value of Treasure -	1893	15,730,989	1,367,931	71,891	17,170,811
	1892	10,373,136	2,138,782	177,055	12,688,973
Total Imports of Merchandise and Treasure -	1893	123,974,642	43,910,132	1,731,274	169,616,048
	1892	106,970,062	41,421,576	1,682,285	150,073,923
Grand Total Value of the Imports of the Straits Settlements - - - - -	1893				169,616,048
	1892				150,073,923

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1893.

Exports.

—		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
MERCHANDISE.		$	$	$	$
United Kingdom	1893	17,887,530	12,082,871	—	29,970,401
	1892	15,753,583	9,246,674	—	25,000,257
British Possessions	1893	12,542,366	6,192,008	—	18,734,374
	1892	10,744,016	5,848,765	—	16,592,781
Foreign Countries	1893	59,036,668	18,083,680	385,730	77,506,078
	1892	5,5497,427	18,202,214	224,845	73,924,486
Inter-Settlements	1893	3,413,564	3,377,472	1,535,043	8,326,079
	1892	2,358,749	3,782,640	1,173,183	7,314,572
Total value of Merchandise	1893	92,880,128	39,736,031	1,920,773	134,536,932
	1892	84,353,775	37,080,293	1,398,028	122,832,096
TREASURE.					
Total value of Treasure	1893	15,575,954	3,957,691	84,405	19,618,050
	1892	13,496,674	6,594,525	88,672	20,179,871
Total exports of Merchandise and Treasure	1893	108,456,082	43,693,722	2,005,178	154,154,982
	1892	97,850,449	43,674,818	1,486,700	143,011,967
Grand Total Value of the Exports of the Straits Settlements	1893				154,154,982
	1892				143,011,967

25. The trade of the year (as shown in the above table) has not been wholly unsatisfactory, notwithstanding the continuous decline in exchange. The loss caused by the depreciation fell most heavily on the wage-earning classes and upon those firms principally concerned with import business. In all cases where the produce of the Straits has had to compete with that of gold countries, the low exchange has operated in favour of the export trade of the Colony. The political complication which arose in Siam about the middle of the year caused an interruption to the important trade between Singapore and Bangkok, which was, however, largely made up for by the rush of business which ensued when matters again settled down. On the other hand, the new Tariff for French Indo-China threatens to extinguish the trade of the Straits with that country, the same right under the minimum tariff clause being denied to the Colony which is allowed to the mother country. The imports from French Indo-China (Colony or Protectorate) declined from $6,894,551, to $6,408,980, and the exports from $2,038,213 to $1,376,890.

26. The Colony's total trade in merchandise reckoned in silver shows an increase of over 10 per cent. on 1892, there being an increase on the Import side of nearly 11 per cent., and on the Export side of over 9½ per cent. The increase is, however, counterbalanced by the decline of nearly 10½ per cent. in the average sterling exchange value of the dollar in 1893 compared

with the average in 1892. The following are the totals for 1892 and 1893, deducting Treasure :—

—	1893.	1892.
	$	$
Value of Imports - - -	152,445,237	137,384,950
Value of Exports - - -	134,536,932	122,832,096
Total - - -	286,982,169	260,217,046

Converting these totals into sterling at the rates of 2*s.* 6¾*d.* per dollar for 1893, and 2*s.* 10¾*d.* per dollar for 1892, we have the following results :—

—	1893.	1892.
	£	£
Value of Imports - - -	19,532,046	19,605,977
Value of Exports - - -	17,237,544	17,529,164
Total - - -	36,769,590	37,135,141

While, therefore, there is an increase in dollar value of $26,765,123 in the trade in merchandise, its sterling value exhibited a decrease of 365,551*l.*

27. It will be convenient to deal with the results, in the first instance, as they affect the principal countries with which the Straits have commercial relations, and afterwards to point out the effects upon the trade in certain leading commodities of import or export.

28. Taking value alone, the imports from the United Kingdom show a decrease of nearly half a million of dollars, in spite of the higher value put on the goods on arrival, so that it is clear that the actual decrease was even more serious. The principal falling off has been in cotton piece goods and coal. The exports to the United Kingdom show an increase of $4,970,144, principally in tin, gambier, hides and sugar. Exports to the United States fell from $10,917,099 to $6,443,659.

From British India and Burma the imports were valued at $22,374,573, as against $21,832,491 in 1893, the increase in this case being counterbalanced by the fall in the rupee exchange value of the dollar consequent on the closing of the Calcutta Mint. The exports rose from $7,592,955 in 1892 to $9,004,468 in 1893. The trade with Netherlands India (which has the same currency as Holland, and is therefore to be reckoned among gold countries) shows a small increase in imports ($21,409,443, against $20,242,002 in 1892) and a larger increase in exports, viz., $26,156,035, against $23,816,632.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1893.

29. Turning now to the principal silver countries with which the Colony deals, the trade with which has been only indirectly affected by the silver crisis, a very satisfactory advance may be observed.

The imports from Hongkong and China amounted in 1893 to $19,385,774 (Hongkong $16,035,507, China direct $3,350,277) as against $16,757,420 in 1892. The exports amounted to $12,372,177 (Hongkong $8,231,456 and China direct $4,140,721) against $11,275,773 in 1892. The trade with Japan shows also a marked increase—in Imports from $857,791 in 1892 to $2,204,425 in 1893, and in Exports from $170,665 to $454,127 in the year under review.

The Imports from the Malay Peninsula (including the Siamese States) reached $34,422,611, as against $29,185,087—the increase being largely due to the greatly stimulated output of tin and tin ore in the Protected States, while the Exports advanced from $12,611,914 to $14,979,724.

30. The following table exhibits the increase and decrease in the Export and Import of certain commodities as compared with the preceding year :—

Imports.

—	1893.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Cotton piece goods -	3,765,832	4,627,745	—	861,913
	Tons.	Tons.		
Coal - - -	334,138	334,305	—	167
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Rice - - -	6,702,383	6,318,981	383,402	—
	Chests.	Chests.		
Opium - - -	15,397	13,397	1,665	—
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Silk piece goods - -	390,514	255,491	135,023	—
	Cases.	Cases.		
Petroleum - -	1,028,516	825,991	202,525	—

Exports.

	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Coffee - - -	50,764	69,747	—	18,983
Gambier - - -	800,423	844,550	—	44,127
Gums - - -	178,532	159,705	18,827	—
Spices - -	925,129	910,386	14,743	—
Tapioca - - -	631,017	539,962	91,055	—
Tin - - -	739,743	636,002	103,741	—
Copra - - -	484,381	429,870	54,511	—

31. A few remarks will help to give significance to the above figures.

Cotton Goods.—The falling off in cotton goods is entirely on those imported from the United Kingdom. A trade with Japan sprang up suddenly during the year, the value of the Singapore imports of these goods from that country having risen from $1,520 in 1892 to $105,014 in 1893. There has been a notable decrease on the export of cotton goods from Singapore to Saigon.

Coal.—Low exchange and labour difficulties at home told heavily against Cardiff and in favour of Japan coal. The import figures from the latter country reached 118,379 tons, against 51,047 tons in 1892. The imports from the United Kingdom and Australia show decreases of 34,166 tons and 37,594 tons respectively.

Rice.—The principal feature calling for remark in respect to this trade was an advance on the imports from Siam balanced by a decreased importation from Saigon, Calcutta and Rangoon—the last of these in spite of an abundant *padi* harvest in Burma. The large trade in this commodity between Penang and Rangoon received, indeed, a severe check from the appreciation of the rupee.

Opium.—There was an increase of 1,665 chests imported and an increased export of 810 chests as compared with 1892. The total imports amounted to 15,397 chests, and the exports to 12,501. In addition to these totals, 3,050 chests were transhipped in Singapore for Manila, Saigon, and Java.

Petroleum.—There was an increased import of petroleum of over 200,000 cases, compared with the previous year. The increases were from Russia 112,986 cases, and from Sumatra 172,494 cases. The American import fell off by 81,629 cases. Prices fell about 25 per cent., owing to competition.

Gambier.—The total export of gambier shows a decrease of 44,127 pikuls on the figures of the previous year, but was higher than that of any year before 1892. The total import was larger than in any preceding year.

Gums.—Increased exports were observable in most gums, and the few decreases were unimportant, with the exception, perhaps, of gutta, which fell off nearly 4,000 pikuls.

Spices.—The most important increase is in areca-nuts by 74,014 pikuls, and the chief decreases in black pepper, 36,637 pikuls, white pepper, 17,787 pikuls, and nutmegs 3,593 pikuls.

Tapioca.—The increase is solely in flour, other kinds remaining stationary. Singapore received from Malacca 232,833 pikuls, being an increase of 19,056 pikuls.

Tin.—The tin industry was very prosperous during the year The tin comes mostly from the Protected States of the Peninsula The quantity exported was 103,741 pikuls in excess of the returns for 1892.

The following table gives the exports in pikuls and tons for the last five years:—

1889	-	-	-	554,747	pikuls = 33,021	Tons.
1890	-	-	-	537,190	„ = 31,976	„
1891	-	-	-	605,829	„ = 36,061	„
1892	-	-	-	636,002	„ = 37,857	„
1893	-	-	-	739,743	„ = 44,032	„

A very large falling off in the export to the United States was one of the features of the year. The exports to the United Kingdom, however, increased by 131,020 pikuls.

SHIPPING.

32. The following table shows the arrivals and departures of shipping in the Colony during 1893 and 1892:—

Steamers and Square-rigged Vessels.

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Arrivals, 1893 -	4,435	3,519,063	2,898	1,597,441	1,376	239,898	8,709	5,356,402
Do. 1892 -	4,143	3,280,222	2,970	1,630,643	1,344	239,232	8,457	5,150,097
Departures, 1893 -	4,402	3,425,283	2,902	1,592,087	1,371	240,034	8,675	5,257,404
Do. 1892 -	4,114	3,181,801	2,953	1,629,879	1,341	238,658	8,408	5,050,338
Total, 1893 -	8,837	6,944,346	5,800	3,189,528	2,747	479,932	17,384	10,613,806
Do. 1892 -	8,257	6,462,023	5,923	3,260,522	2,685	477,890	16,865	10,200,435

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

—	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Arrivals, 1893 -	7,062	277,994	4,193	92,887	1,744	28,120	12,999	399,001
Do. 1892 -	7,966	309,162	4,479	101,752	2,092	35,601	14,537	446,515
Departures, 1893 -	6,936	270,391	4,200	91,530	1,725	27,569	12,861	389,490
Do. 1892 -	7,887	307,258	4,524	103,946	2,087	35,479	14,498	446,683
Total, 1893 -	13,998	548,385	8,393	184,417	3,469	55,689	25,860	788,491
Do. 1892 -	15,853	616,420	9,003	205,698	4,179	71,080	29,035	893,198

33. The number and tonnage of the new vessels built in the Colony in 1893 and 1892 is shown in the following table :—

——	No.	Tonnage.
1893 - - - - -	66	4,003
1892 - - - - -	57	3,593

34. Some idea of the relative importance of shipping and commerce in 1893 and 1892 for Singapore and Penang may be gathered from the following Returns :—

SHIPPING (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVE CRAFT).

Singapore.

1893 - 8,837 vessels, measuring 6,944,346 tons.
1892 - 8,257 „ „ 6,462,023 „

Penang.

1893 - 5,800 vessels, measuring 3,189,522 tons.
1892 - 5,923 „ „ 3,260,522 „

TRADE.

Singapore.

	$
1893 - - - -	232,430,724
1892 - - - -	204,820,511

Penang.

	$
1893 - - - -	87,603,854
1892 - - - -	85,096,394

The total increase in the revenue was $7,122.56, of which $6,511.32 was in Light Dues. To this item of revenue, Singapore contributed an increase of $4,791.16, Penang $1,494.45, and Malacca $225.71.

35. The revenue (Light Dues and Miscellaneous Fees) collected by the Marine Department in each Settlement during 1892 and 1893 appears in the subjoined table :—

——	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
1893 - - -	85,695	78	23,868	92	2,325	78	111,890	48
1892 - - -	80,482	09	22,321	61	1,964	14	104,767	84

LIGHTHOUSES, &c.

36. The lighthouses, launches, buoys, and beacons were maintained in an efficient condition. It was decided towards the close of the year to erect a lighthouse on the Sultan Shoal, near the western approach to Singapore Harbour. Time-balls were set up at Singapore and time-signals commenced to be given on the 8th July.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

37. The general health of the Colony for 1893 has been fairly good, the mortality being 32·10 per mille.

Small-pox was prevalent in all the Settlements, particularly in Province Wellesley. In Singapore and Malacca the numbers were slightly in excess of those for 1892, whilst in Penang there was a very marked decrease.

Cholera.—An outbreak of this disease occurred at Malacca during the dry months of March and April; there were in all 78 cases, 51 of which proved fatal; the disease at once declined on the advent of rain. In Singapore, six cases, all fatal, were reported, whilst Penang and Province Wellesley had complete immunity.

Chicken-pox and Measles were met with occasionally, and outbreaks of *Mumps* were reported from Singapore and Province Wellesley, in both instances very mild.

Beri beri.—Cases of this disease have been slightly more numerous than during 1892, but the mortality amongst them has not risen.

Hydrophobia.—No case of this disease is reported as having occurred in the Colony, emphasizing the value of the preventive measures adopted in 1890. One case of this disease, contracted in Java, was seen at the General Hospital, Singapore.

38. The following table gives the number of patients treated in all Government Hospitals, and of the deaths among them, during 1893, as compared with 1892 and 1891 :—

—	Number of Patients treated.			Number of Deaths.			Percentage of Deaths to Total treated.		
	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.
1893 - - -	910	22,589	23,499	37	2,297	2,334	4·06	10·16	9·92
1892 - - -	809	21,822	22,631	31	2,250	2,251	3·83	10·17	9.94
1891 - - -	944	22,176	23,120	43	2,710	2,753	4·55	12·[illegible]2	11·90

39. The number of patients treated, and the deaths that occurred, in hospital in each of the Settlements were as follows:—

Settlement.	Total treated.	Deaths.
Singapore - - - -	10,853	1,101
Penang and the Dindings - -	6,078	709
Province Wellesley - -	2,376	320
Malacca - - - -	4,692	204

At the lunatic asylum, the numbers treated were 439, with 48 deaths.

Maternity Hospital, 58 patients were admitted.

40. The numbers who received treatment as out-patients at the Government out dispensaries is shown in the annexed table:—

Settlement.	No.	Visits paid.
Singapore - - - -	4,226	16,086
Penang and Dindings - -	5,138	10,710
Malacca - - - -	4,005	4,795
Total - -	13,369	31,591

BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

41. The total number of Receiving Orders and of Administration Orders under sections 99 and 113 made and proceeded with during the year is shown in the following table:—

——	No. of Proceedings.	No. of Debtors.
In Singapore - - -	32	38
In Penang - - - -	12	2
In Malacca - - - -	1	1
Total - -	45	51

In 1892, the number of the proceedings was 41, and the number of debtors 50.

Liabilities, according to the debtors' estimates, amounted to $490,921, as against $667,305 in 1892, and the proofs lodged

with the Official Assignee gave a total of $219,580, as against $663,242 in 1892.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

42. No company was registered at Singapore under the "Companies Ordinance, 1889," during the year 1893. One registered company increased its capital, and one went into voluntary liquidation. The amount of fees collected under the Ordinance mentioned was $418.60.

METEOROLOGY.

43. The following statement shows the mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year :—

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	Fahr. °	Fahr. °	Fahr. °
Singapore - - - -	86·8	72·3	78·7
Penang - - - -	87·7	73·1	79·8
Province Wellesley - - -	92·0	73·0	79·9
Malacca - - - -	88·3	69·4	78·7

44. Returns of rainfall for the whole year were received from 47 stations in the Colony. The heaviest rainfall was in Penang.

The following table shows the mean total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours :—

Settlement.	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Singapore - -	111·41	Jan. - 32·23	May - 1·68	Jan. 18, - 8·61
Penang - -	113·57	Oct. - 33·62	Feb. - 0·47	June 8, - 9·25
Province Wellesley.	88·47	Oct. - 25·04	Feb. - 0·20	June 8, - 5·75
Dindings - -	85·19	Oct. - 24·02	Mar. - 1·70	April 13, 4·46
Malacca - -	71·37	Aug. - 24·10	Feb. - 0·12	Aug. 28, - 10·60

POLICE AND CRIME.

45. A reduction of two European sergeants, and one native corporal and 14 constables, was made in the strength of the force in Malacca, and further reductions will be made in 1894. There is but little crime in that Settlement.

One hundred and seventy-two (172) men were dismissed from the force for police offences, and 83 were charged before the

magistrates. This shows an improvement as compared with 1892.

Nineteen thousand five hundred and eighty-four (19,584) cases were arrested during the year, as against 24,387 in 1892. Fourteen thousand six hundred and eighty-eight (14,688) offences were reported to the police, as against 13,858 in 1892, of which 3,555 remained undiscovered.

Eleven (11) cases of murder and six of gang robbery (five of which occurred in Penang) were reported during the year.

The Colony has been free from serious disturbances.

PRISONS.

46. The health of the prisoners in the three Settlements was good during the year, although the death-rate at Singapore was rather heavy during the very wet weather towards the end of the year. The number of deaths was, at Singapore 44, and at Penang six, while at Malacca there were none. Three suicides occurred in the Penang Prison, and two convicts escaped, one of whom was re-captured. There was one execution at Penang in June. The Inspector of Prisons, in his annual report, speaking of the Singapore Prison, where all prisoners sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment are sent, reports as follows :—

"There has been no suicide, no serious assault, no escape during "the year, the daily average of prisoners decreased considerably "towards the close of the year, and offences are fewer in pro-"portion to the number in prison."

The number of prisoners in the Singapore Prison on the 31st December, 1893, was 897.

REGISTRATION OF SOCIETIES.

47. The Protector of Chinese reports that no disturbance occurred during the year that could be ascribed to the influence of Chinese Secret Societies. The time has now arrived when the success of the new policy with respect to these associations, inaugurated by Ordinance I. of 1889, may be regarded as assured. In all, 208 societies of various kinds have been registered, and 146 exempted from registration, since the introduction of the Ordinance. Twenty-two Chinese were deported during the year under the power vested in the Governor in Council, as against 44 in 1892.

RAILWAYS.

48. Owing to the small area of the three Settlements and their geographical position along the shores of the Straits of Malacca, the necessity of railways has not hitherto been felt, and, with the exception of a few miles of tramway in Singapore and Penang, nothing has yet been done in this direction, although considerable progress has been made in the Protected States of the West Coast,

the principal industrial and mining centres in Perak, Selangor, and Sungei Ujong being all connected by rail with the coast. During 1892 a scheme was set on foot for a railway across the peninsula passing through Siamese territory to connect Senggora with Kedah and with Prye (in Province Wellesley). The surveys for this undertaking were proceeded with in the year under review. A plan was also mooted, not for the first time, for a railway across Singapore Island connecting the city with a point opposite the chief town of Johor State. The motive power to be employed was in this case electricity, but the undertaking fell through, owing to insufficient support. Towards the end of the year a concession was applied for by Messrs. Grassi Brothers, of Bangkok, for a railway through Malacca territory. It is claimed by the promoters that the building of this line will give an impetus to the opening up of the country behind Malacca for tapioca and other cultivation. The export of tapioca from Malacca in 1893 amounted to 232,833 pikuls, all of which is at present conveyed to the coast on bullock-carts. It has since been suggested to continue the line as far as Kuala Pilah, the head-quarters of the British Resident of the Negri Sembilan. The above-mentioned schemes, it should be mentioned, are all of them private enterprises.

MISCELLANEOUS.

49. Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, G.C.M.G., appointed Governor in 1887, left the Colony in August, 1893. His successor, Sir C. B. H. Mitchell, K.C.M.G., did not assume his duties until after the conclusion of the year. In the interim, the Government was administered by the Honourable W. E. Maxwell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

50. As the matter was much under discussion during the earlier part of the year, something may here be said as to the relations of the two most important of the Settlements. First united in 1826 under one administration, Penang, Singapore and Malacca have, since 1867, constituted the Colony of the Straits Settlements, with the seat of Government in Singapore. Although the great development of the resources of Perak and North Sumatra has of late years brought increasing prosperity to the northern settlement, Singapore, owing to its greater facilities for working cargo and also to its more advantageous situation on the great trade route to the Far East, has begun to draw to itself the trade in certain commodities, such as tin and tobacco, which formerly passed for the most part through Penang. When, in 1892, an ambitious scheme for providing Penang with wharves failed to command Government support, in consequence of the large expenditure which it would have required to carry it out, a murmur arose in that Settlement that Singapore engrossed more than her fair share of the expenditure of the Colonial Government. The discontent culminated early in 1893 in a motion in the Legislative Council for a Royal Commission to enquire into the distribution of the revenues of the Colony, which was, however, rejected. In

connection therewith, a number of real or supposed grievances were also ventilated, but when the chief ground of complaint had been proved by a reference to statistics to be without foundation, the agitation, to which some of the Penang Chinese had somewhat blindly given their support, rapidly died away.

51. In conclusion, a few remarks as to the position and prospects of Malacca may not be out of place. The revenue for the year amounted to $283,938, and the expenditure to $368,028. The corresponding figures for 1892 were $294,477, and $454,647. Once a great trade centre, the town has become, in a commercial sense, a mere suburb of Singapore. The Settlement, however, includes a stretch of rich and fertile country inhabited by Malay peasantry, unfortunately by nature wanting in industry. The chief source of revenue is the cultivation of tapioca, in which a considerable amount of Chinese capital is invested. The Acting Resident Councillor concludes his report in these words:—

"From a Malay agricultural population it is vain to look for a large revenue. Much can, no doubt, be done by encouraging Chinese to take up land, especially as permanent cultivators, but an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure can at present only be effected by cutting down expenditure of the Police, Public Works Department, and other great spending branches of the service.

"It is unfair to compare Malacca with one of the Protected Native States, whose revenue, derived from the tin industry, increases by leaps and bounds. Time was when the greater part of the mineral wealth of the Peninsula found its way to Malacca. She has passed through the 'tin age' and now remains a favourable example of a prosperous agricultural district, where crime is almost unknown and the people are happy and contented."

(Signed) WILLIAM MAXWELL,
Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, September 1, 1894.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 149.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 121.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
116	British Honduras	1893
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	1893–94
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	"
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–94
131	British New Guinea	1892–3 & 1893–94
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–94
134	Jamaica	"
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	"
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	"
139	Bahamas	"
140	Barbados	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
142	Malta	"
143	Gambia	"
144	Windward Islands	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago	"
146	Gibraltar	"
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 149.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 121.]

Acting-Governor SWETTENHAM to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government Hill, Singapore,
July 24, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1894.

I have, &c.

J. A. SWETTENHAM.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

FINANCIAL.

1. For the first time for several years the revenue of the Colony exceeded the expenditure in the year under review. This result was due in part to increased rates of fees charged in various departments, but principally to the rigid economy which was exercised in all branches of expenditure. A retrenchment committee sat in the beginning of the year, and recommended a large number of economies, many of which were carried out during the year.

2. The revenue for 1894 amounted to $3,904,774, divided among the three Settlements as follows:—

	$
Singapore - - - - -	2,185,431
Penang - - - - -	1,407,907
Malacca - - - - -	311,436

This exceeded the revenue for 1893 by $198,466.

3. The principal heads of revenue under which an increase is noticeable are:—

	$
Land revenue - - -	86,998
Licenses - - - - -	56,120
Postage - - - - -	51,481

The increased land revenue is partly accounted for by an item of $51,770 realised by special sales of town lands, of which there were none in 1893. There was also an increase in the amount of fees received for registration of $13,180, owing to the introduction of the Registration of Deeds Ordinance in Penang on 1st July—a large number of titles having been presented for registration before that date to escape the increased scale of fees. The introduction of a revised scale of fees for Pawnbrokers' Licenses explains the increase under the head of licenses. The increase in postage is due in part to increased correspondence and in part to the revised rates of postage introduced in consequence of the fall in exchange.

The principal decrease was under the head of interest ($13,582), the Sungei Ujong debt having been paid off by Selangor.

4. The expenditure of 1894 shows a decrease of $200,862, as compared with the preceding year, owing to the retrenchments which were carried out in almost all departments.

The total expenditure for each of the last three years has been as follows :—

	$
1892 - - - - -	4,266,407
1893 - - - - -	3,915,482
1894 - - - - -	3,714,620

The expenditure of 1892, however, included a payment of $162,162 for arrears under the head of military expenditure.

5. The principal decreases apparent in the items of expenditure, as compared with 1893, are as follows :—

	$
Works and buildings - - -	117,773
Roads, streets and bridges - - -	51,451
Military expenditure - - -	16,075
Miscellaneous services - - -	101,773

Under the last of these heads were included, in 1893, sums of $45,000, balance of contribution to the cost of the Telok Ayer Market and $50,801 re-survey of the Colony.

The chief increases are—

	$
Salaries - - - - -	51,094
Interest - - - - -	39,545
Pensions - - - - -	9,824
Postal - - - - -	6,751

The total for salaries included in 1894 a sum of $99,300, for exchange compensation to officers domiciled in gold countries. The increases under headings "Interest" and "Postal" are explained by loss in exchange on remittances to Crown Agents for salaries and pensions payable in England and for the contribution to the Imperial Post Office, respectively.

6. A comparison of the assets and liabilities on 31st December 1894, gives a balance in favour of assets of $1,758,948, as against $1,534,514 on 31st December 1893. In the balance of $1,758,948

are included the investments given under the head of Dependencies, amounting to $1,104,732, these being loans to the native States of Negri Sembilan and Pahang and the municipality of Malacca. The following tabular statement shows the balances as they stood at the beginning of 1894 and 1895, respectively:—

—	Assets.		—	Liabilities.	
	Jan. 1st, 1894.	Jan. 1st, 1895.		Jan. 1st, 1894.	Jan. 1st, 1895.
	$	$		$	$
Cash on current account with local banks - -	639,525	822,156	Deposits, &c. - -	676,142	614,355
Cash on current account with Crown Agents - -	16,345	17,031	Temporary loan -	141,424	141,424
Investments, gold -	136,869	136,869	Suspense account -	—	58,856
Loans to native States	1,088,464	1,083,232	Expenditure in arrears - - -	25,348	31,701
Loans to municipalities	22,000	21,500		835,020	846,336
Other investments -	356,636	390,870	Net balance to the credit of the Colony	1,534,514	1,758,948
Miscellaneous advances &c., &c. -	35,663	18,963			
Revenue in arrears -	74,632	114,663			
Total - -	2,369,534	2,605,284	Total - -	2,369,534	2,605,284

EXCHANGE.

7. The downward tendency of exchange during the year is exhibited in the following table:—

Bank Bills.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
On London:— Sterling, on demand—												
Highest -	2 3¾	2 3¼	2 0½	2 2⅛	2 1⅛	2 1¼	2 1⅜	2 2⅜	2 2⅜	2 2¼	2 1⅝	2 0⅞
Lowest -	2 3	2 0	1 11⅝	2 0¼	2 0¼	2 1	2 1⅛	2 1	2 1⅜	2 1⅛	2 0¼	1 11⅝

The average rate of exchange during the year on demand was 2*s.* 1¼*d.*, and at four months' sight was 2*s.* 1⅘*d.*, as compared with 2*s.* 7⅕*d.* and 2*s.* 7⅘*d.* in the preceding year.

The total estimated bank note circulation of the Colony on 31st December 1894 was $7,394,488. It is confined entirely to the note issue of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, and of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. The Mercantile Bank of India Limited has at present no note issue in the Colony.

MUNICIPALITIES.

8. The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the municipalities of the three Settlements were less than in 1893, but their financial condition is satisfactory, while steady progress has been made with various sanitary improvements.

The amount of rates and taxes levied outside municipal limits was about half that expended on roads and bridges.

In Singapore a large extension of the existing reservoir, in Malacca, a new reservoir, and in Penang the strengthening of the existing reservoir, were completed during the year.

Two slaughter-houses were built in Singapore, and their use was made compulsory from the 1st of December. The number of animals slaughtered in these houses in December was 9,913, as compared with 1,451 in the preceding month, and the number has since increased.

There were the usual frequent changes in the membership of the Boards, but there is rarely a contest for vacancies, and it is sometimes difficult to fill them, the Chinese and other merchants particularly exhibiting reluctance to give up their time to municipal business.

LEGISLATION.

9. The Legislative Council held 22 meetings during the year, and 20 Ordinances were passed, of which the most important were the Opium and Liquor Ordinances, the Prevention of Disease Ordinance, and the Municipal Slaughter-house Ordinance.

The law relating to opium and spirits had hitherto been contained in one Ordinance—No. IV. of 1870, with numerous subsequent amendments. Two Ordinances dealing separately with opium and with spirituous and fermented liquors now take their place.

In the Opium Ordinance the changes from the old law were not numerous or important, but the fee for a farm-shop was increased, and all such fees were paid to the Government instead of to the farmer.

As regards spirituous and fermented liquors, on the other hand, important changes have been made. The duty on spirits has been doubled, and is now $1.50 a gallon, and duties have been imposed on wines and and beer, which were formerly free. The duties are on sparkling wines $1 a gallon, on still wines 50 cents, and on malt liquors, cider, and perry 18 cents. Licensed warehouses are established, in which liquors can be stored on arrival, the duty being paid on removal from the warehouse. The duty on all liqour imported and not stored in a licensed warehouse has to be paid on landing. These duties are collected by the spirit farmer. All fees for licenses under the Ordinance—for public houses, hotels, retail liquor-shops, and farm-shops—are paid to the Government.

The Prevention of Disease Ordinance was passed on the 18th June 1894, on the outbreak of "bubonic plague" in the south of China and in Hong Kong. It gives the Governor in Council power to prevent the immigration of Chinese coolies from any named ports where any dangerous infectious or contagious disease has broken out, and, in accordance with its provisions, a proclamation was issued immediately after its passing, which had the effect of prohibiting immigration from the ports of Southern China, and remained in force until the plague ceased in September.

The Municipal Slaughter-house Ordinance gives to the Municipal Commissioners of each town, when they have provided a sufficient number of slaughter-houses in convenient places, the monopoly of slaughtering, within municipal limits, all animals intended for human food. The Ordinance is at present in operation only in Singapore.

Under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, an Ordinance (No. XII.) was passed to abolish the registration of brothels and prostitutes, which had hitherto been supervised by the Chinese Protectorate with good effect.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

10. This system of registration is very similar to that established in Yorkshire by the Imperial Acts known as the "Yorkshire Registries Acts, 1884 and 1885." It has now been in force in Singapore since the year 1887.

One of the most important changes introduced by this mode of registration is the provision for the registration of deeds at full length, the person wishing to register a deed leaving at the registry, together with the original deed, a copy written on paper of the size prescribed by the rules, and these copies being subsequently bound up in volumes for future use.

The system has tended to shorten deeds relating to land, and one result has been the use of short statutory forms wherever practicable.

The Ordinance came into operation in Penang in July 1894. The sub-division of land is already causing a good deal of trouble, and it will be necessary to provide for the registration of small parcels of land in order to make the Index of Lands the valuable guide which it is intended to be.

The fees collected in Singapore amounted to $5,849.25, an increase of $552.25 on the receipts of last year. The fees collected in Penang for the six months ending 31st December 1894 amounted to $3,489.25.

PUBLIC WORKS.

11. There is nothing calling for remark under this head. The work of the Department was confined to the maintenance of existing works and buildings.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

12. During the year under review, 5,539,380 articles passed through the Postal Department of the Colony, as compared with 5,313,340 articles received and despatched in 1893. There was an unusually large increase in the correspondence received, but in each of the two years mentioned the number of articles despatched was about the same.

The postal revenue amounted to $189,789, exceeding that of 1893 by $51,467. This very large increase is due to the rates of postage having been raised by about 50 per cent. in March 1894. The total expenditure comes to $149,497, being $11,765 more than the year before. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by $40,292.

The continued fall in the sterling value of the dollar has had an injurious effect on the money-order business throughout the year. There 36,312 transactions, amounting altogether to $671,231, against 32,900 for $572,791 in 1893. There was a decrease in business with all gold-using countries, but the local business and the operations with India, China and the Protected States in the Malay Peninsula showed improvement.

SAVINGS BANK.

13. The following statement gives the particulars of the business transacted by the branches at Singapore, Penang, and Malacca during the year:—

——	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	528	143	22
Accounts closed - - -	476	108	33
Accounts open at the end of the year -	1,240	345	62
	$	$	$
Deposited in 1894 - - -	112,796	34,235	6,704
Repaid in 1894 - - -	102,392	29,549	6,006
Balance due to depositors at close of 1894 - - - - -	171,267	50,060	9,362

The increase in the amount deposited during the year over that deposited in the previous year was $12,687. The deposits during 1893 showed an increase over the figures for 1892 of $1,282.

The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December 1894 was $230,689, and the aggregate amount lodged since the establishment of the Bank in 1877 proved to be $1,341,813. Under Ordinance III. of 1891, the sum of $111,575 has been invested in Government of India 4 per cent. Rupee Paper.

An Ordinance has been introduced to increase the limits of deposits from $250 to $500 in a year, and the aggregate from $750 to $1,500. Steps have been taken to reduce the interest to be allowed on deposits from 3½ to 3 per cent. from 1st July 1895, on account of the reduction in the interest on the Indian investments from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent.

EDUCATION.

14. No change requiring special notice took place in this Department during the year, though certain reductions were decided upon towards the close of the year, which have since been carried out.

The number of schools inspected in 1894 and the number of pupils presented were slightly less than in 1893, viz., 234 schools, as against 236 in 1893, and 8,518 pupils presented, as against 8,581.

The total number of schools is composed as follows:—

Grant-in-aid Schools (boys) - - -	26
Do. (girls) - - -	11
Government English Schools (boys) - -	8
Government Vernacular Schools (boys) - -	149
Do. (girls) - -	27
Night Schools - - - - -	13
	234

As regards English education, the Inspector of Schools says:—

"In this Colony there are special difficulties connected with the teaching of English, as pupils who attend the schools consist of so many nationalities. It is, of course, desirable that English should be taught through the medium of the pupils' own language, but, under the circumstances of our schools, this is impossible, and, as a rule, Malay is chosen as the medium of instruction—a language which, although known to some extent by most of the pupils, is one with which many of the pupils are not thoroughly acquainted.

"The English education of the Colony is almost entirely in the hands of missionary bodies or of committees over which Government has not direct control. That these bodies do their work most efficiently will, I think, be admitted. In spite of the difficulties to which reference has been made above, high percentages are obtained yearly by the principal schools, although the course of instruction extends over seven years only, and the tests of these annual examinations are more severe than those given in the case of board schools in England. This really means, that we expect from our pupils, to the majority of whom English is a foreign

language, more rapid progress than is required from pupils in England studying their own language."

The attendance at the Government Vernacular Schools shows a considerable falling off, which has not been satisfactorily accounted for.

The gross expenditure for the year of the Education Department amounted to $186,444, or 4·7 per cent. of the total revenue of the Colony. The principal items are the grants for results to the aided schools and the cost of the Government English and Vernacular Schools. The grants for results amount to about half of the total expenditure of the aided schools.

POPULATION.

15. The number of births registered in 1894 in all the Settlements was 12,690, of which 6,636 were those of male, and 6,054 those of female, children.

The deaths registered in 1894 numbered 17,234 as against 16,945 in 1893, or an increase of 289, the highest rate of mortality having been recorded at Penang. As in 1892 and 1893, the greatest number of deaths occurred among persons between the ages of 25 and 35.

The following table gives the number of births and deaths registered in each Settlement during the past two years:—

Settlement.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Singapore - -	3,332	3,327	6,776	6,216
Dindings - - -	110	128	95	111
Penang - - -	2,303	2,306	4,167	4,428
Province Wellesley -	3,487	3,578	2,956	3,654
Malacca - - -	3,156	3,351	2,951	2,825
Total - -	12,388	12,690	16,945	17,234

The great preponderance of deaths over births is accounted for, as has been explained in previous reports, by the peculiarly constituted population of the Straits Settlements, less than a third of which, in consequence of the large amount of male Chinese and Tamil immigration, is female.

The present population may be roughly estimated at 535,000. Statistics relating to the health of the Settlements during the year will be found lower down under the heading "Public Health."

CHINESE AND INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

16. There was a marked decrease in the numbers of immigrants from China and India during the year, as shown in the following table :—

——	1893.	1894.
Chinese deck passengers - -	189,843	137,695
Chinese female immigrants - -	2,640	7,068
Contracts - - -	38,326	22,302
Indian statute immigrants - -	2,106	1,688
Indian free immigrants - -	15,877	13,155
Indian labour contracts - -	2,034	1,744

Chinese immigration to the Straits Settlements was practically closed for nearly five months in 1894, owing to the plague in Hong Kong, and to the action of the Government in prohibiting coolie immigration from Hong Kong and the treaty ports of China for nearly four months.

The decrease in the Indian figures is due to a smaller demand for labour (this in its turn being chiefly caused by the inferior class of labourers hitherto imported, the large per-centage of them unfit for agricultural labour, and the numerous desertions from the Province Wellesley estates) and to increase of passage rates and the diminished value of the dollar in relation to the rupee.

The Indian Immigation Agent, Mr. A. M. MacGregor, went to England on leave during the year, and retired in January 1895, and, owing to the necessity for economy, the appointment will not again be filled.

TRADE.

17. The following tables give the value of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1894 and 1893 respectively :—

Imports.

——	Total.
MERCHANDISE.	$
United Kingdom, 1894 - - - - -	20,840,887
Do. 1893 - - - - -	15,461,375
British Possessions, 1894 - - - - -	45,389,112
Do. 1893 - - - - -	40,196,432
Foreign countries, 1894 - - - - -	107,101,149
Do. 1893 - - - - -	88,596,316
Between the Settlements, 1894 - - - -	9,354,881
Do. do. 1893 - - - -	8,191,114
Total value of merchandise, 1894 - - - -	182,686,029
Do. Do. 1893 - - - -	152,445,237

Imports—continued.

	Total.
TREASURE.	
	$
Total value of treasure, 1894 - - - -	41,465,263
Do. do. 1893 - - - -	17,170,811
Total imports of merchandise and treasure, 1894 - -	224,151,292
Do. do. do. 1893 - -	169,616,048

Exports.

	Total.
MERCHANDISE.	
	$
United Kingdom, 1894 - - - - -	31,171,649
Do. 1893 - - - - -	29,970,401
British Possessions, 1894 - - - - -	19,978,151
Do. 1893 - - - - -	18,734,374
Foreign countries, 1894 - - - - -	98,622,480
Do. 1893 - - - - -	77,506,078
Between the Settlements, 1894 - - - -	8,974,269
Do. do. 1893 - - - -	8,326,079
Total value of merchandise, 1894 - - - -	158,746,549
Do. do. 1893 - - - -	134,536,932
TREASURE.	
Total value of treasure, 1894 - - - -	28,039,515
Do. do. 1893 - - - -	19,618,050
Total exports of merchandise and treasure, 1894 - -	186,786,064
Do. do. do. 1893 - -	154,154,982

18. The trade of the year shows general expansion in nearly every important article of commerce, and the exports, upon which the commercial prosperity of the Colony depends, afford conclusive evidence of permanency and progress. Values and bulk have been well maintained, and a depreciation in the sterling value of the dollar has counterbalanced any fall in home quotations. Thus although tin had fallen in the London market by over 19½ per cent. compared with 1893, the difference in the average local price was inappreciable. In the imports into the Colony increases are apparent all round, but it is doubtful whether European importers have found the trade so remunerative as in past years, the enhanced dollar values operating in favour of restriction. The low sterling value of silver has encouraged eastern manufactures, and Japan in particular has become an influential power in the market, especially as regards the supplying of coal and cotton piece goods.

19. The Colony's total trade in merchandise reckoned in silver shows an increase of over 19½ per cent. with other countries

compared with 1893. On the import side the the increase is over 20 per cent. and over 18½ per. cent on the export side. These increases are counterbalanced by a decline of nearly 18 per cent. in the average sterling exchange value of the dollar in 1894, compared with 1893.

The following are the totals for 1894 and 1893, deducting treasure :—

—	1894.	1893.
	$	$
Value of imports - - -	182,686,029	152,445,237
Value of exports - - -	158,746,549	134,536,932
Total - - -	341,432,578	286,982,169

Converting the above amounts into sterling shows —

—	1894.	1893.
	£	£
Value of imports - - -	19,217,966	19,561,040
Value of exports - - -	16,704,978	17,247,693
Total - - -	35,922,944	36,808,733

There is thus an increase in the silver value of imports of $30,240,792, and in the silver value of exports of $24,209,617, an aggregate dollar increase of $54,450,409, but a decrease in the gold value of imports of 343,074*l.*, and in the gold value of exports of 542,715*l.*, an aggregate decrease of 885,789*l.*

Singapore shows a dollar increase of over 23 per cent. in imports, and of nearly as much in exports, and this Settlement also has a small increase in both imports and exports when the trade has been converted into sterling. Penang imports increased by about 11½ per cent. in dollar value, and her exports by over 7 per cent., but in sterling values her trade shows a decrease on both sides.

20. Dealing with the trade of the Colony on its relation to countries, and taking dollar values only, it may be convenient to point out the variations.

The United Kingdom imports of merchandise show an increase of nearly $5,400,000. Of this increase, cotton goods account for nearly four and three-quarter millions, and coal for over three-quarters of a million. The exports to the United Kingdom show an increase of over $1,200,000. Gutta-percha accounts for nearly this increase.

From British India and Burma the imports were valued at $27,709,293, an increase of nearly $5,335,000, of which opium contributed an increase of over $1,800,000 and rice from Rangoon nearly $2,900,000. The exports amounted to $8,419,205, a

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1894.

decrease of $585,000, caused largely by decreased exports of raw silk to Burma and black pepper and tin to Calcutta. From Netherlands India imports were valued at $29,704,622, an increase of $8,205,179 over the 1893 returns. The increases are in produce which the Dutch Indies supply. The exports valued $31,480,844 an increase of $5,324,809.

Turning now to the principal silver-standard countries with which the Colony trades, which are not so directly affected by sterling exchange, it is found that imports do not show nearly so large proportional increases as they do with gold countries, but that, on the other hand, the exports show enhanced proportional increases for silver countries, as the following table shows :—

(Exclusive of Treasure and Inter-Settlement Trade.)

['000 omitted.]

	Gold Countries.		Silver Countries.	
	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.
	$	$	$	$
Imports - - -	88,786	68,649	84,544	75,605
Exports - - -	105,613	89,914	44,160	36,297
Total	194,399	158,563	128,704	111,902

The imports from Hong Kong and China amounted in 1894 to $19,497,142 (Hong Kong $16,205,126, China direct $3,292,016), as against $19,385,774 in 1893. The exports amounted to $13,289,459, as against $12,372,177 in 1893. Of the exports in 1894, Hong Kong received to the value of $9,894,032, and China $3,395,427. Japan trade shows steady progress—Imports in 1894 valued $3,661,758, against $2,204,425 in 1893, and $857,791 in 1892. Exports valued $774,970, compared with $454,127 in 1893, and $170,665 in 1892. The imports from the Malay Peninsula (including the Siamese States) amounted to $41,496,190, as against $34,422,613 in 1893, the increase resulting from the larger output of tin from the Protected States. The exports reached $18,779,225, against $14,979,724 in 1893.

21. The following table exhibits the increase and decrease in the export and import of certain commodities :—

Imports.

	1893.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Cotton piece goods -	3,765,832	5,595,310	1,829,478	—
	Tons.	Tons.		
Coal - - -	334,136	438,737	104,601	—

Imports—continued.

—	1893.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Rice - - -	6,702,383	7,020,671	318,288	—
	Chests.	Chests.		
Opium - - -	15,397	15,054	—	343
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Silk piece goods - -	390,514	238,549	—	151,965
	Cases.	Cases.		
Petroleum - -	1,028,516	1,236,438	207,922	—

Exports.

	Pikuls.	Pikuls.		
Sago - - -	820,435	751,830	—	68,605
Coffee - - -	50,764	83,973	33,209	—
Gambier - - -	799,994	806,282	6,288	—
Gums - - -	178,532	179,241	709	—
Hides - - -	84,317	83,956	—	361
Spices - -	925,129	1,058,862	133,733	—
Tapioca - - -	631,020	649,662	18,642	—
Tin - - -	739,743	865,792	126,049	—
Copra - - -	484,381	958,179	473,798	—
Rattans - - -	474,386	424,911	—	49,475

Cotton Goods.—The large increase is partly due to repletion of stocks, which were very low at the close of 1893, and to some extent also to increased demand. Yarns show heavy increases. From Japan and Hong Kong 578,702 pieces of cotton goods were received, as against 227,600 pieces in 1893, and from British India 369,021 pieces received, compared with 375,038 pieces in 1893.

Coal.—The feature of note in the imports of coal is the position now taken by Japan, which supplied 192,409 tons, compared with 187,025 tons from the United Kingdom. Australian imports show a falling off, but the supplies of Sarawak and Labuan coal rose enormously.

Rice.—The imports from Bangkok and Saigon fell off, but this was more than compensated for by the greater supplies from Burma.

Opium.—In spite of the very high prices ruling during the year, the trade shows little or no diminution in bulk, and the demand from Siam and the Protected Native States was fully maintained. The exports amounted to 12,632 chests, against 12,501 chests in 1893.

Petroleum.—The increased importations are entirely from the Dutch Indies, the Langkat oil showing an increased import of nearly 500,000 cases. A large quantity of this oil finds its way to Siam, Saigon and the Netherlands Indies.

American oil imported fell by nearly 40,000 cases and Russian oil, which is largely imported in bulk, by nearly 240,000 cases, compared with the imports in 1893.

Gambier.—The local price of gambier was, on the average, higher than in 1893, and a small increase in the quantity exported is recorded.

Gums.—The exports of gums have been well kept up. The important increases are in gutta-percha, gum copal, gum damar, sticklac and India-rubber. The only large decrease is in resin.

Spices.—Increased exports are seen in areca-nuts, cloves, white pepper, and cubebs. There is a trifling decrease in black pepper.

Tapioca.—There is a large increase in pearl tapioca exports, but decreases in the other two kinds. A total increase of 18,642 pikuls exported is recorded, when compared with the 1893 exports.

Copra.—A remarkable rise has taken place in the output of copra, showing nearly 98 per cent. of an increase over the exports of 1893.

Sago.—The decrease of 68,605 pikuls exported is entirely in sago flour, there being a small increase in pearl sago.

Tin.—The tin industry continues to prosper. The tin is received, both unsmelted and smelted, from the Protected States of the Malay Peninsula. The increased export over 1893 reached 126,049 pikuls.

The following table gives the exports in pikuls and tons for the last five years:—

1890	537,190	pikuls	=31,976 tons.
1891	605,829	„	=36,061 „
1892	636,002	„	=37,857 „
1893	739,743	„	=44,032 „
1894	865,792	„	=51,535 „

There were largely-increased exports to the United States and Holland.

SHIPPING.

22. The following table shows the arrivals and departures of shipping in the Colony during 1893 and 1894:—

Steamers and Square-rigged Vessels.

—	Total.	
	No.	Tons.
Arrivals 1893 - - - -	8,709	5,356,402
Do. 1894 - - - -	8,567	5,534,761
Departures 1893 - - -	8,675	5,257,404
Do. 1894 - - -	8,548	5,220,260
Total 1893 - - -	17,384	10,613,806
Do. 1894 - -	17,115	10,755,021

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

—	Total.	
	No.	Tons.
Arrivals 1893 - - - -	12,999	399,001
Do. 1894 - - - -	12,971	391,614
Departures 1893 - - -	12,861	389,490
Do. 1894 - - - -	13,035	398,507
Total 1893 - -	25,860	788,491
Do. 1894 - -	26,006	790,121

23. The number and tonnage of the new vessels built in the Colony in 1893 and 1894 is shown in the following table:—

—	No.	Tonnage.
1893 - - - - -	66	4,003
1894 - - - - -	77	5,232

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1894.

24. The revenue (light dues and miscellaneous fees) collected by the Marine Department in each Settlement during 1893 and 1894 appears in the subjoined table:—

——	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
1893 - - -	85,695	78	23,868	92	2,325	78	111,890	48
1894 - - -	88,624	07	25,092	69	2,354	94	116,071	70

LIGHTHOUSES, &c.

25. The lighthouses, launches, buoys, and beacons were maintained in an efficient condition. A new lighthouse on the Sultan Shoal, near the western approach to Singapore Harbour, is in course of construction, and will be completed by the latter end of 1895.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

26. The general health of the Colony for 1894 has been fairly good, the mortality being 32·22 per mille.

Cases of small-pox occurred in all the Settlements, but were not numerous, except in the Northern Division of Province Wellesley, where the disease was prevalent to a considerable extent. The number of cases in Singapore was unusually small.

No cholera occurred during the year in any of the Settlements with the exception of one sporadic case in the Singapore Gaol.

Cases of beri-beri were somewhat less numerous, and the death rate was lower than usual.

Three cases of hydrophobia occurred, one in Singapore, the patient having been bitten in Sourabaya; and two in Malacca, from bites by stray dogs in the town.

Some apprehension was felt during the middle months of the year lest bubonic plague, which was then epidemic in Hongkong, should be introduced into these Settlements, and precautionary measures, including a nine days' quarantine of ships from Hong Kong, and careful inspection of all immigrants arriving, were taken. For some three months it was also considered advisable to stop immigration from China. Only one case of plague arrived here, and this was detected on arrival, and the patient removed to the quarantine station, where he made a slow recovery. Influenza was not prevalent during the year.

Appended are tables showing :—

A. Birth and death rates.

B. Special death-rate (Racial).

C. Deaths due to the more important specific infectious diseases.

A.

Birth-rate.

Settlement.	Ratio per Mille.		
	1894.	1893.	1892.
Singapore - - - -	16·98	17·31	18·02
Penang - - - -	17·50	17·81	19·33
Province Wellesley - - -	32·71	31·99	30·17
Dindings - - - -	34·29	29·76	28·76
Malacca - - - -	35·64	33·77	39·09

A.

Death-rate.

Settlement.	Ratio per Mille.		
	1894.	1893.	1892.
Singapore - - - -	31·72	35·21	30·45
Penang - - - - -	33·62	32·23	33·13
Province Wellesley - - -	33·40	27·12	30·43
Dindings - - - -	29·74	25·70	21·07
Malacca - - - -	30·04	31·57	30·14

B.

Special Death-rate (Racial).

Settlement.	Europeans. Ratio per Mille.			Eurasians. Ratio per Mille.			Chinese. Ratio per Mille.			Malays. Ratio per Mille.			Indians. Ratio per Mille.			Other Nationalities. Ratio per Mile.		
	1894.	1893.	1892.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Singapore - -	12·54	13·50	14·84	20·21	27·25	20·89	33·38	36·34	30·73	31·33	35·95	33·03	28·25	32·23	29·62	37·23	47·61	32·09
Penang - - -	19·79	20·[illegible]	17·27	18·81	26·43	32·16	38·02	35·30	35·38	26·70	23·58	21·90	31·97	38·11	34·19	59·44	43·91	66·04
Province Wellesley -	28·84	—	—	14·98	34·22	15·68	35·[illegible]	33·14	30·33	31·21	22·70	23·64	40·66	37·41	57·37	28·76	29·00	76·23
Dindings - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	39·66	29·47	34·33	28·23	21·58	18·79	11·07	48·70	—	—	100·00	—
Malacca - - -	21·42	7·24	17·69	36·76	34·77	41·90	35·14	37·85	37·40	28·20	29·77	27·68	38·25	24·62	40·92	117·64	178·[illegible]0	68·48

C.

Deaths due to the more important Specific Infectious Diseases.

Small-pox.			Cholera.			Beri-Beri.		
1894.	1893.	1892.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1894.	1893.	1892.
165	338	277	1	62	7	377	461	382

27. The following table gives the number of patients treated in all Government hospitals, and of the deaths among them, during 1894, as compared with 1893 and 1892:—

—	Number of Patients treated.			Number of Deaths.			Per-centage of Deaths to Total treated.		
	Europeans.	Asiatics.	Total.	Europeans.	Asiatics.	Total.	Europeans.	Asiatics.	Total.
1894 - - -	710	22,060	22,770	37	2,388	2,425	5·21	10·82	10·65
1893 - - -	910	22,589	23,499	37	2,297	2,334	4·06	10·16	9·92
1892 - - -	809	21,822	22,631	31	2,220	2,251	3·83	10·17	9·94

28. The numbers in the Leper Hospital, Singapore, and Leper Asylum, Penang, during 1892, 1893, and 1894, were as follows:—

Hospitals.	1892.				1893.				1894.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or absconded.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged, absconded, or transferred.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged, absconded, or transferred.	Remained.
Leper Hospital - -	165	33	100	32	101	28	45	28	114	22	51	41
Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak - - -	475	122	43	310	432	87	24	321	492	129	31	332

METEOROLOGY.

29. The following statement shows the mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year :—

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
Singapore - - -	86·7	73·3	79·1
Penang - - - - -	88·6	74·0	79·8
Province Wellesley - - -	93·5	73·0	81·2
Malacca - - - -	89·1	69·0	78·9

The following table shows the mean total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours :—

Settlement.	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 Hours.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Singapore - -	81·24	Mar. - 17·53	Feb. - 0·60	Mar. 13 - 6·67
Penang - -	80·24	Oct. - 20·93	Jan. - 0·80	Oct. 12 - 5·63
Province Wellesley.	75·63	Oct. - 16·86	May - 0·89	Aug. 28 - 4·18
Dindings - -	75·09	Sept. - 10·19	April - 2·09	July 10 - 7·01
Malacca - -	91·24	Mar. - 34·42	Feb. - 0·05	April 29 10·42

BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

30. The revenue and expenditure, as compared with the previous year, show a slight increase ($14,732.30, as against $13,664.56; and $16,888.74, as against $15,087.23, respectively, in Singapore). In Penang the expenditure exceeded the revenue by over $4,000.

There has been a decrease in the number of failures which occurred in Singapore in 1894, but a marked increase in the liabilities and estimated loss to creditors as well as in the estimated value of the assets, so that it may be said that, while the number has considerably decreased, the individual importance of each failure has somewhat increased.

In Penang there has been a considerable decrease, both in the number of failures and in the liabilities and the estimated value of the assets.

Official statistics do not, however, give a correct view of the amount of insolvency in the Colony, as private settlements are frequent and are much preferred both by creditors and debtors, by the former owing to the pecuniary advantages resulting from arrangements where there is no exposure of the dealings of the debtors, and by the latter as there is no public investigation into their commercial conduct.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

31. Six joint stock companies, with a total capital of $196,000, were registered during the year. Four of them are mining ventures, but it cannot be said that they represent any important operations.

One company went into voluntary liquidation.

POLICE AND CRIME.

32. In accordance with the recommendations of the retrenchment committee, the authorised strength of the police force was reduced during the year by three inspectors, 22 European constables, and 101 natives, and 14 stations were closed.

The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. R. W. Maxwell, retired on pension in July, and Lieut.-Colonel E. G. Pennefather, 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons, was subsequently appointed in his place.

The Chinese contingent instituted in 1889, being found most unsatisfactory, was entirely done away with.

There were serious complaints of the conduct of some European inspectors and constables.

There were no serious disturbances during the year, but there were 17 cases of murder and 19 of gang robbery.

The abolition of strict supervision of brothels has resulted, as was expected, in great activity amongst brothel bullies, and compulsory levies on the keepers and inmates are rife, but difficult to stop.

There is an immense sale of lottery tickets in Singapore, the lotteries being managed in Johor, agents from there pushing the sale in Singapore. It is said that as much as $100,000 worth of tickets has been sold in one month.

JUDICIAL.

33. The following tables exhibit the work of the various courts, civil and criminal, of the Colony, viz.:—

The Supreme Court (Criminal side).
The Supreme Court (Civil side).
The Courts of two Magistrates (established in lieu of Courts of Quarter Sessions).
The Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.
The Courts of Requests.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1894.

Supreme Court, Criminal Side.		1894. No. of Prisoners.				1893. No. of Prisoners.			
		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
1. Culpable homicide	convicted	3	1	1	5	1	1	—	2
	acquitted	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	3
2. Culpable homicide not amounting to murder	convicted	1	—	—	1	—	4	1	5
	acquitted	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	2
3. Attempt to murder	convicted	1	1	—	2	1	2	—	3
	acquitted	2	2	—	4	—	1	—	1
4. Voluntarily causing grievous hurt	convicted	9	10	—	19	7	5	1	13
	acquitted	3	2	1	6	1	2	2	5
5. Unnatural offences	convicted	2	—	—	2	2	1	—	3
	acquitted	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
6. Other offences against person	convicted	9	14	—	23	4	17	—	21
	acquitted	6	7	—	13	2	11	1	14
7. Gang robbery	convicted	2	11	—	13	6	—	—	6
	acquitted	4	3	—	7	—	—	—	—
8. Theft, housebreaking, &c.	convicted	67	29	5	101	15	54	3	72
	acquitted	5	15	1	21	6	22	—	28
9. Other offences against property	convicted	13	16	—	29	17	26	1	44
	acquitted	13	11	1	25	3	22	1	26
10. Miscellaneous offences	convicted	17	21	1	39	10	14	1	25
	acquitted	6	9	1	16	11	15	3	29
Total	convicted	124	103	7	234	63	124	7	194
	acquitted	41	50	4	95	24	76	8	108
Grand total		165	153	11	329	87	200	15	302

Supreme Court, Civil Side.	Civil Actions, 1894.					
	Pending 31st Dec. 1893.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending 31 Dec. 1894.
Singapore	350	1,091	$ 1,230,568	104	581	355
Penang	461	874	1,348,522	284	421	404
Malacca	29	87	33,085	23	64	11
Total	840	2,052	2,612,175	411	1,066	770

(continued.)

(continued.)

Supreme Court, Civil Side.	Civil Actions, 1893.					
	Pending 31st Dec. 1892.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending 31st Dec. 1893.
			$			
Singapore - - -	467	1,118	1,458,997	248	631	350
Penang - - -	385	971	1,576,783	400	495	461
Malacca - - -	46	81	34,658	53	45	29
Total - - -	918	2,170	3,070,438	701	1,171	840

Probate and Administration.

—	1894.		1893.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		$		$
Singapore - -	153	807,939	148	1,377,749
Penang - - -	614	1,156,593	527	1,392,526
Malacca - - -	38	15,058	46	191,927
Total - -	805	1,979,590	721	2,968,247

Courts of two Magistrates.

Return of Persons tried.	1894.			1893.		
	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.
Singapore - -	174	173	347	320	191	511
Penang - -	138	114	252	90	74	164
Malacca - -	12	7	19	15	2	17
Total - -	324	294	618	425	267	692

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts. Return of Persons Charged.	1894. Convicted and sentenced.	Discharged.	Committed to the Assizes.	Cases pending 31st Dec. 1894.	Total.
Singapore - - - -	11,498	6,691	194	185	18,568
Penang - - - -	10,255	6,454	171	143	17,023
Malacca - - - -	1,215	705	11	5	1,936
Total - - -	22,968	13,850	376	333	37,527
	1893.				
Singapore - - - -	11,832	4,718	97	65	16,712
Penang - - - -	12,644	7,356	215	176	20,391
Malacca - - - -	1,344	605	16	7	1,972
Total - - -	25,820	12,679	328	248	39,075

Courts of Requests. (Jurisdiction up to $50.)	1894. Number of Cases.	1894. Amount of Debt or Damages claimed.	1893. Number of Cases.	1893. Amount of Debt or Damages claimed.
Singapore - -	3,745	52,300	4,877	65,869
Penang - - -	4,640	60,509	4,060	56,578
Malacca - - -	811	12,481	739	10,584
Total - -	6,504	125,290	9,676	133,031

Inquests.

34. The following return shows the result of inquests held during the year in the three Settlements :—

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
Homicide, culpable -	13	7	—	20
„ justifiable -	—	—	2	2
„ by misadventure	—	4	—	4
Suicide - - -	23	34	4	61
Death in pursuance of judicial sentence -	1	1	—	2
Natural causes, accidental, &c. - - -	179	79	32	290
Found dead, causes unknown, &c. - -	32	27	7	66
Total - -	248	152	45	445

PRISONS.

35. In Penang and Malacca the health of the prisoners was very good, in Singapore not so good as in former years. The following table gives the figures for the year :—

Settlement.	Daily average in Prison.*	Daily average Sick.	Deaths.	Total Number treated.	Per-centage of Deaths to Total treated.	Ratio of Deaths per Mille of daily average Number.
Singapore - -	865·00	48·70	46	1,122	4·0	53·10
Penang - -	321·36	4·37	4	112	3·5	12·44
Malacca - -	22·58	0·32	—	4	—	—

* Including Civil Prison.

One suicide and two escapes occurred in the Penang Prison: there were none in Singapore and Malacca. No serious cases of assault occurred in any of the prisons.

There was one execution at Penang in March, and one at Singapore in October.

The numbers in the criminal prisons on the 31st December 1894 were as follows :—

Singapore - - - - -	807
Penang - - - - -	303
Malacca - - - - -	9

The daily average in the Singapore Prison was 68 less than in 1893, and 132 less than in 1892.

A most important step was taken by the Government during the year, viz., the banishment of habitual criminals (aliens) under the powers given by "The Banishment Ordinance, 1888." A list of the most notorious habitual criminals in the Singapore Prison was made out, and, as their sentences expired, they were banished. In this way 30 incorrigible scoundrels were got rid of from Singapore, and one (a professional gambler) from Penang.

The prices of some of the most important prison manufactures, which had formerly been almost prohibitive, were considerably reduced in 1894—in some cases by as much as 50 per cent. Notwithstanding the reduction, the value of articles sold during the year was only about $5 less than in 1893.

Well-behaved prisoners of the upper grade were, for the first time, tried as sub-warders with satisfactory results. The staff of native sub-warders was reduced by 9 and a saving of $864 per annum was effected.

During the year orders were given that prisoners with sentences of one year or less should be kept in Penang. Hitherto it had been the practice for all prisoners with sentences exceeding six months to be transferred to Singapore.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1894.

MISCELLANEOUS.

36. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. B. H. Mitchell, K.C.M.G., appointed Governor October 20th, 1893, arrived in the Colony and assumed the Government on 1st February 1894.

37. In order to render the Colony less absolutely dependent for current coin upon supplies of dollars from Mexico and Japan, a drawback pointed out in section 4 of the Report for 1893, sanction was received from the Secretary of State, in October, for introduction into the Straits and Hong Kong of a new British dollar identical in weight and fineness with the Japanese yen.

38. Advantage was taken of the termination of the existing opium and spirit farm contracts at the end of the year 1894 to introduce various amendments in the law dealing with the subject, as has already been pointed out under the heading of Legisl tion.

The re-letting of the farms for the triennial period 1895–97 resulted in a slight increase on the revenue for the preceding period, 1892–94, as follows:—

	1895–97.	1892–94.
	$	$
Singapore - - - -	1,416,000	1,368,000
Penang - - - -	855,600	852,000
Malacca - - - -	159,000	144,000
Total - - - -	2,430,600	2,364,000

Singapore, 22nd July 1895.

J. A. SWETTENHAM,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 204.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 149.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1897.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
172	Malta	1895
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 204.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 149 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. B. H. MITCHELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
14th August, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Colonial Secretary's Report on the Colony for the year 1895.

I have, &c.,

C. B. H. MITCHELL.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Financial.

1. The Revenue for 1895 amounted to $4,048,360, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

Singapore - - - -	$2,290,642
Penang - - - -	1,418,521
Malacca - - - -	339,197

There was an increase of $143,586 as compared with the Revenue for 1894, and $342,051 as compared with the Revenue for 1893.

The principal increases were under the heads of Licenses ($112,011) and Reimbursements ($38,299). The increase in Licenses is mainly due to the fact that the fees for Public Houses, Opium and Spirit-shops and Warehouses were paid direct to the Treasury and not to the Farmer as formerly. There was also an increase from the re-letting of the Farms which took effect from the 1st January, 1895.

The increase under the head of Reimbursements, which is not strictly Revenue, was caused principally by the increased

Contributions from the Municipalities of Singapore and Penang towards the cost of Police. There was also a marked increase in Hospital charges recovered, as well as in the Revenue derived from Postage and Fees of Office.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of $4,180 in the Fees for Pawnbrokers' Licenses, the increased rates having caused several shops to close. Land Revenue shews a decrease of $41,811, which is accounted for by there being fewer special sales of the Telok Ayer Reclamation land during 1895. Fees for Search, Registration, &c., which in 1894 produced $29,135, amounted in 1895 to $1,545. This is explained by the fact that the work of registration in Penang was removed from the Land Office in 1894, and the fees are now classed as Fees of Office.

The Expenditure for the year was $3,782,456, which shews an increase of $67,836 over 1894, but is less than the Expenditure for 1893 by $133,026. There was an increase of $54,928 in Postal expenditure, owing to payment in 1895 of certain arrears in respect of the years 1892 and 1894 then outstanding, and an increase of $41,278 in Military Expenditure. The expenditure in connection with the Defences of the Colony was $777,725. The question of the Colony's Defence Contribution, which had caused much irritation in the Colony for many years, finally resulting in the resignation of most of the Singapore Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council and of the unofficial holders of other appointments, was at length set at rest by the decision of the Home Government to fix the Contribution at 17½ per cent. of the gross Revenue, exclusive of that derived from Land Sales and Premium on Land.

This decision has been accepted by the Colony as a satisfactory settlement of the matter.

2. Appendix *A** shews the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as they stood at the beginning of 1895 and 1896, respectively. The nett balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1895, was $2,063,454, as compared with $1,748,939 on the same date in 1894. The Colony has no debt.

Generally speaking, it may be said that the finances of the Colony are in a more satisfactory condition than they have been for some years, and it is hoped that some of the projected public works which have so long been delayed from want of funds may now be taken in hand.

Exchange.

3. The rates of exchange between the local dollar and the British sovereign during the year are shewn in Appendix *B*.* The average value of the dollar throughout 1895 was 2/1¼, and in bills at 4 months' sight 2/1½, as compared with 2/1¼ and 2/1⅜, respectively, in 1894.

* Not printed.

The estimated Bank Note circulation of the Colony on 31st December was $7,234,807. The Colony is at present dependent on the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for its Bank Notes, but a Government note issue, guaranteed by the Colony, has been sanctioned, and will be introduced at an early date.

Municipalities.

The total Revenue of the three Municipalities was $1,146,280, and their Expenditure $1,092,383.

Legislation.

4. The Legislative Council held 20 meetings during the year, and 15 Ordinances were passed, the most important being "The Vision Ordinance," "The Telegraph Ordinance," "The Pawnbrokers Ordinance," and "The Theatres Ordinance."

"The Vision Ordinance" provides for the examination of masters, helmsmen, and gunners in colour vision and in Snellen's test for acuteness of vision for form.

"The Telegraph Ordinance" reserves to the Colonial Government the exclusive privilege of establishing telegraphs in the Colony, and provides for their working generally. Some of the existing telegraphs, although the property of the Colonial Government, have hitherto been constructed and maintained under no statutory authority.

"The Pawnbrokers Ordinance" provides penalties for certain offences by pawnbrokers, and is an addition to the existing law on the subject, the principal object being to render it more difficult for stolen property to be disposed of through the pawnshops. It has met with some opposition on the part of the pawnbrokers, but it is believed that there will be no insuperable difficulty in carrying out the law.

"The Theatres Ordinance" supplies a want which has been much felt in the Colony, the numerous theatres and performances usual in a Chinese population having been carried on hitherto with practically no control.

Registration of Deeds.

5. The Ordinance of 1886, which came into operation in Penang during the latter half of 1894, is now fairly established in that Settlement. The fees collected during the year amounted to $10,094, and in Singapore to $6,076.

The multiplication of small sub-divisions in the Northern Settlement formed the subject of discussion during the year, and resulted in an amendment of the law by which it is now necessary

that every sub-division shall be demarcated and surveyed before deeds relating to it can be received for registration. Provision is also made by which the Land Office becomes cognisant of every transaction affecting land.

Public Works.

6. The Sultan Shoal Light-house, which was commenced in August, 1894, was completed on the 31st December, 1895.

The Special Reclamation, Weld Quay, Penang, was well advanced at the end of the year.

No other works of any importance were executed during the year, except new barracks for the troops :—

Barracks for the Royal Engineers on Pulau Brani, overlooking the New Harbour, were commenced and pushed on with vigour, and considerable progress was made with barracks for the Royal Artillery on the adjacent island of Blakang Mati.

An addition to the existing Infantry barracks at Tanglin was commenced, to facilitate the future accommodation of the Penang detachment in Singapore.

Postal Department.

7. During the year under review, 5,756,940 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 5,539,380 in 1894. The Registration, Insurance, and Parcel Post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all shew steady progress.

The postal revenue amounted to $200,949, which is an excess of $11,157 over the income of the Department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1895 was $204,105, being an excess of $54,607 over the expenditure of the year before. This large excess was caused by arrears, amounting to $25,132, for transit charges due to foreign countries for 1892 and 1893, having been paid in 1895, and to an item of $10,000 in respect of a subsidy paid by the Colony to the British India Steam Navigation Company to improve postal communication between the United Kingdom and Penang, *viâ* India. The expenditure exceeded the revenue by $3,158, but omitting the arrears referred to, the revenue would shew a surplus of $22,000 over the expenditure properly appertaining to 1895.

In consequence of more favourable rates of exchange having prevailed for remittances to gold-using countries and to India, there was a very large increase in the Money Order business done in 1895, in fact, greater than in any previous year. The transactions in sterling amounted to £9,939, in Indian currency to nearly Rs. 1,000,000, and in local currency to $200,000 ; the total business done aggregated $811,159, against a total of $671,231 in 1894.

Savings Bank.

8. Appendix *C** shews the particulars of the transactions at the branches in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, during the year.

The amounts deposited during the year exceed the amounts for the previous year by $20,680, and the amounts for 1893 by $33,367.

The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1895, was $248,468, and the total amount deposited since the establishment of the Bank has been $1,362,493.

The sum invested, under Ordinance III. of 1891, in Government of India 3½ per cent. rupee paper is $186,179.

In September, the limit of deposits was increased from $250 to $500 in a year, and the aggregate amount from $750 to $1,500. From the 1st July, the interest allowed on deposits was reduced from 3½ to 3 per cent. on account of the reduction from 4 to 3½ per cent. in the interest on the Indian investments.

Education.

9. The number of schools inspected during the year and the number of pupils presented for examination were considerably less than in 1894. Two hundred and two schools were inspected and 7,734 pupils were presented.

The expenditure of the Education Department amounted to $180,847, as compared with $186,444 in 1894.

The results of the inspection of the aided schools do not, on the whole, appear to be so good as in recent years.

Population.

10. The number of births registered in 1895 in all the Settlements was 12,544, of which 6,565 were those of male, and 5,979 those of female children.

The deaths registered numbered 20,397, as against 17,234 in 1894, or an increase of 3,163, the highest rate of mortality having been recorded at Singapore. As in 1892, 1893 and 1894, the greatest number of deaths occurred among persons between the ages of 25 and 35.

Appendix *D** shews the number of births and deaths registered in each Settlement during the past two years.

The great preponderance of deaths over births is accounted for, as has been explained in previous reports, in great part, by the peculiarly constituted population of the Straits Settlements, less than a third of which, in consequence of the large amount of

* Not printed.

male Chinese and Tamil immigration, is female; but in 1895 the death-rate was also unusually high.

The present population may be roughly estimated at 542,000. Statistics relating to the health of the Settlements during the year will be found lower down under the heading "Public Health."

An examination of the vaccination returns affords ground for suspicion that a considerable number of births are not reported.

Chinese and Indian Immigration.

11. The numbers of immigrants from China and India during 1895 and 1894 are shewn in Appendix *E*.* There was a considerable increase in Chinese immigration, which had been almost entirely checked during the outbreak of plague in Hongkong in 1894.

The total number of Chinese deck passengers was 201,292, and of these, 36,388 signed contracts in the Chinese Protectorate, as compared with 22,302 in 1894.

There was also an increase in the Indian free immigrants, 14,413 arriving in the Colony, but the number of statute immigrants decreased. This decrease is partly due, no doubt, to the unfavourable exchange with India, which has not been counterbalanced by a sufficient increase in the wages of statute immigrants. It has been found necessary to partly re-organise the Indian Immigration Department, and arrangements have been made by which the Assistant Protector of Chinese at Penang will superintend both Chinese and Indian Immigration, his Department being strengthened by the appointment of a Tamil-speaking Assistant.

Trade.

12. The value of the imports and exports of the Colony in 1894 and 1895, respectively, are shewn in Appendix *F**.

The trade of the year has not been altogether unsatisfactory, in spite of the depressed state of the home markets, largely on account of the continued cheapness of silver, which enables Eastern producers to compete at an advantage with their gold country rivals.

The value of the imports in merchandise from countries outside shews an increase of about $915,000 over the returns for 1894, but that of the exports shews a small decrease of about $169,000, while the sterling value of the dollar fell less than 2 per cent.

13. The total value of imports and exports for 1894 and 1895, deducting Treasure, is shewn in Appendix *G*.* There was an

* Not printed.

increase in the silver value of Imports of $2,665,461, and of Exports of $2,071,194, making an aggregate dollar increase of $4,736,655. There were increases in the gold values respectively of £313,871 and £222,524, being an aggregate increase of £536,395.

Singapore shews increased trade with other countries on both sides, as also does Malacca, but Penang has decreases in both imports and exports.

Imports shew increases under Raw Materials—Metal, Manufactured Articles—Metal, and Textiles generally, except Cotton Piece Goods, which were above normal in 1894, and decreases under Food Stuffs, &c., chiefly Opium.

In exports, Tin shews a decrease in value of over 1½ million dollars, entirely on account of the low prices ruling. The average local quotation for the year was $35.10 per pikul, compared with $38 per pikul in 1894, and the average London prices were £63.8.4 and £68.3.9 per ton, respectively. Peppers and Copra also shew decreased values, but Gambier has a largely increased export value, as well as, to a smaller extent, Hides, Rattans and Gums generally, including Gutta Percha.

The imports of Merchandise from the United Kingdom decreased in value by about $696,000, but this is more than accounted for by the falling off in Cotton Piece Goods, in which there was a decrease of $1,756,000, not unexpected, considering that the previous year's imports were abnormal. Coal imported also fell in value by $450,000. Other Cotton Goods, such as Sarongs, &c., shew increased imports and so do other articles generally with the exception of Malt Liquors and Brandy.

Exports to the United Kingdom decreased by $1,732,000, Tin alone shewing a falling off of over 2¾ million dollars, and Gutta, Peppers, Rattans and Coffee also shewing less values exported. Increases are apparent in Preserved Fruits, Gambier, Tapioca, Gums generally, Sago and most of the Spices.

From British India and Burma, the imports valued $29,070,000, an increase of $1,361,000, attributable to increased imports of Rangoon Rice and Bran, Hides and Madras Sarongs and Kains. Imports of Opium fell by about a million dollars, and Cotton Twist also fell, but Gunnies and Coal shew increases. The exports amounted to $8,629,000, an increase of $210,000.

From Netherlands India, to the value of $27,896,000 were imported, a decrease of $1,809,000, on account of smaller supplies of Pepper, Sugar, Copra, Petroleum and other produce. The value of the exports was $31,514,000, being a small increase on the 1894 export value.

The value of the imports from Hongkong and China amounted to $19,707,000, an increase of $210,000 over last year, and $322,000 more than in 1893. Hongkong sent to the value of

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1895.

$16,413,000, and China direct to the value of $3,295,000, compared with $16,205,000 from the former and $3,292,000 from the latter in 1894. The exports amounted to $12,266,000, a decrease of $1,024,000, or $107,000 below the exports in 1893. Hongkong took in 1895 to the value of $8,323,000, a decrease of $1,571,000, and China $3,943,000, an increase of $548,000. The falling off in exports to Hongkong was probably due to quarantine and other restrictions rendered necessary by the prevalence of epidemic diseases.

Japan has sent increased quantities and values, but a distinct decline is seen in supplies of Cotton Piece Goods, owing to the market having been probably overstocked in the previous years with that class of piece goods to which she has hitherto confined her attention. The imports amounted to $3,738,000, an increase of $76,000 over those for 1894, and the exports to $917,000, an increase of $142,000. In 1892, the imports amounted to $858,000 only, and the exports to $171,000.

The imports from the Malay Peninsula, including the Siamese States, reached $42,998,000, an increase of $1,502,000, and the exports $19,330,000, an increase of $551,000.

14. Appendix *H** shews the increase and decrease in the imports and exports of certain important commodities.

Cotton Goods.—The imports of Cotton Piece Goods were abnormally high in 1894, and stocks were still large at the close of 1895. A decrease of about a thousand bales of Plain Yarn is shewn, but this was met by a larger increase in the supplies of Dyed Yarn. Sarongs, &c., Sewing Thread and Handkerchiefs all shew increases, but a decline in Cotton Blankets is recorded, although the imports are above the average of former years. Japanese Cottons have not found a market to such a large extent, owing to stocks being still large.

Coal.—Imports in quantity are in excess of former years, but a decline of 30,000 tons is noted from the United Kingdom. Borneo, Calcutta and Australia sent increased quantities, the former country in particular, while Japan imports were much the same as in 1894.

Rice.—A falling off in the quantity supplied from Bangkok and Saigon was partly met by increased supplies from Rangoon, but there remains a total decreased import by nearly 18,000 tons.

Opium.—Frequent and large fluctuations in price have, no doubt, tended to restrict dealings, and the imports fell from 15,054 chests in 1894 to 12,456 chests in 1895, the exports also declining by 2,594 chests. The class chiefly affected is Patna Opium, the transactions in the Benares description having increased.

* Not printed.

Petroleum.—The total imports shew a falling off by nearly 220,000 cases, this decline being in shipments of American and Sumatra Oil. The decrease of Sumatra imports is due to the introduction of direct shipments for other countries, which were previously landed in Singapore. Russian oil, which comes both in bulk and case, increased by 190,000 cases, while American fell by 91,000 cases, and Sumatra, subject to the above explanation, by 328,000 cases. A small trade has been started in Burma oil, but it is as yet insignificant.

Gambier.—The distinctly marked increase in the exports of Gambier has been largely caused by the better prices obtainable owing to an anticipated small production, which was not realized, and also to the low exchange. The average local price was $8.86 per pikul, compared with $7.84 in 1894.

Gums.—Increased quantities generally were exported, notably in Gum Benjamin, Copal, Cutch and Dammar, and, to lesser extents, in Rubbers, Sticklac, and Vegetable Tallow. The decreases are small and unimportant.

Spices.—The exports shew increases in Nutmegs, Mace, Ginger, Cassia, Cubebs, and Cloves, but in Peppers and Arecanuts as well as in Cardamums and Cinnamon decreases are observable.

Tapioca.—A fairly substantial increase marks the trade in Tapioca, flour and flake, but in the pearl class a small decrease of about 600 tons is chronicled.

Copra.—The trade in this commodity is noted for the serious fluctuations in the quantity dealt in. In 1895 the exports shew a decrease of over 35 per cent. compared with 1894, which with 1891 were exceptional years, so that the 1895 export is still considerably above the average of previous outputs.

Sago.—The increase of over 1,500 tons is confined to Sago Flour, the description known as Pearl Sago averaging much the same quantity exported as previously.

Tin.—Although the output has been more than maintained, yet the high percentage of increase, which it has been customary to find when comparing each year with its predecessor, has been greatly reduced. The increased export is about 2 per cent. only, as against 17 per cent. in 1894 over the 1893 exports. A feature of the 1895 trade is the largely increased imports of the unsmelted tin (ore) by about 46 per cent. over 1894 imports, followed, of course, by a decrease in refined tin. This is due to the Singapore smelters reducing their charges, so that the Chinese smelters in the Native States are less able to compete.

There were reduced exports to the United Kingdom and Continental countries generally, but a very large increase to the United States.

Shipping.

15. The arrivals and departures of shipping during 1894 and 1895 are shewn in Appendix *K**. The total tonnage was 11,065,780, as compared with 10,755,021 in 1894.

The number and tonnage of the new vessels built in the Colony in 1894 and 1895 are as follows :

	No.	Tonnage.
1894 - -	77	5,232
1895 - -	251	7,464

The enterprise of local firms, aided by cheap silver and cheap labour, has successfully initiated the construction in this port of iron ships, one of which was launched in the year under review.

The Revenue (derived principally from Light Dues) of the Marine Department for each Settlement is shewn in Appendix *L*.* The total Revenue for the Colony from this source was $122,583, as compared with $116,583 received in 1894.

Light-houses, &c.

16. The Light-houses, Launches, Buoys, and Beacons throughout the Straits of Malacca were maintained in an efficient condition. The new Light-house on the Sultan Shoal was completed on the 31st December.

Public Health.

17. The general health of the Colony for 1894 has not been satisfactory, the mortality rate having been unusually high—37.66 per mille for the whole Colony. The rate was higher in Singapore (44.08), and Malacca (38.24) and also, though to a less marked degree, in Penang (35.14) ; in Province Wellesley alone (28.81) was the rate lower than that for the previous year. Colonial Surgeons report unusual prevalence of fever, beri-beri, and diseases of bowels and respiratory system as accounting for the higher mortality, which was not caused by prevalence of any epidemic disease.

There was an outbreak of cholera in Singapore in the middle of the year, some 430 cases in all having been reported, with 317 deaths. There were also a few cases in Penang.

Except for this outbreak, the Colony was singularly free from epidemic disease, the number of cases of small-pox that occurred having been comparatively few. The decrease of small-pox in the Northern District of Province Wellesley was very marked.

The Contagious Diseases Acts have been entirely repealed. Of the persons admitted to the Criminal Prison during the year, 527 in every thousand had suffered from venereal disease. In

* Not printed.

the Chinese population, by last Census, there were 143 women to every thousand adult souls in Singapore, the proportion of women immigrating being even less. As already stated under the head of Population, the greater death-rate is amongst males in the prime of manhood, between the ages of 25 and 35.

The number of persons treated in the Government Hospitals during the year was 25,177, as compared with 22,770 in 1894 and 23,499 in 1893.

The number of Lepers treated in the Leper Hospital, Singapore, and the Asylum, Pulau Jerejak, was 596, and there remained 335 at the end of the year. The deaths amounted to 177.

Meteorology.

18. The mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year and the mean total rainfall together with the maximum and minimum registered in one month will be seen in Appendices *S* and *T*.*

The temperature shews little variation, as compared with 1894, but the rainfall was considerably greater, except in Malacca, where only 76.60 inches fell during the year. In Penang, the total rainfall was 102.38 inches, and in Singapore 98.14. The mean temperature of the Colony was 79.7.

Bankruptcy Ordinance.

19. The Revenue of Singapore was $4,127, as against $7,887 in 1894, while in Penang it was $1,509, as against $1,568 in 1894. The number of failures has decreased both in Singapore and Penang, and the estates administered, for the most part, possessed but small assets. The tendency amongst creditors, naturally, is to wind up privately those estates which are at once substantial and easy to administer, and to throw into the hands of the Bankruptcy Department those cases only in which the assets are small and difficult to recover. For this reason, the number of failures dealt with by the Bankruptcy Department does not furnish an accurate index to the amount of insolvency occurring in the Colony.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

20. Seven Joint Stock Companies, with a total nominal capital of $728,000, were registered during the year. The amount of fees collected was $657.20. One of these companies, together

* Not printed.

with two others previously registered, went into voluntary liquidation, and in the case of another, also registered during 1895, an order was made for winding up under the directions of the Court.

Police and Crime.

21. The only alteration in the authorised strength of the Force during 1895 was the reduction of one Corporal and two Constables from the Penang Police.

Lieut-Colonel E. G. Pennefather, late of the Inniskilling Dragoons, was appointed Inspector-General in place of Mr. R. W. Maxwell, retired on pension. He took up his duties in Singapore on the 25th April.

Mr. C. E. Wegg-Prosser, late Lieutenant, Rifle Brigade, was appointed Assistant Superintendent by His Excellency the Governor on 28th June, and took up his appointment in Penang on that date, being in the Colony.

The conduct of the Inspectors has, on the whole, been good. The conduct of the Sergeants and Constables of the European Contingent has improved, with the exception that several men who had been locally enlisted had to be dismissed, some within a few weeks of their engagement. This contingent is now eight men below the authorised strength ; it is hoped that the men from the Royal Irish Constabulary for whom application has been made will be sent out soon.

There were no serious disturbances during the year. There were ten cases of murder and eight of gang robbery ; the latter crime appears to be steadily decreasing.

There is much extortion and disorderly conduct on the part of brothel bullies, the brothel-keepers having been refused the protection for which they asked.

The gambling suppression has been vigorously carried on, and some important convictions have been obtained, especially in Penang. The sale of lottery tickets in Singapore has been managed from Johore ; the agents in Singapore have a regular contract for indemnification by the principal, in case of suffering fine or imprisonment, and it has been very difficult to establish a case against them.

Judicial.

22. The work of the various Criminal and Civil Courts of the Colony is shewn in Appendices *U* to *Z** :—

In the Supreme Court, there has been a certain increase of work both on the Criminal and Civil side, in all the Settlements.

* Not printed.

There has been a very large increase also in the number of cases tried by the Police Magistrates, the total number brought before the Courts being 45,615, as compared with 37,145 in 1894.

The proportion of acquittals both in the Supreme Court and in the Police Courts was very high.

Inquests.

23. The number of inquests held during the year was 461.

Prisons.

24. The health of the prisoners in the Penang and Malacca Prisons continued satisfactory. In Singapore, the death-rate was nearly double that of the previous year, although the daily average sick and the number of admissions to hospital were nearly the same. The increase in the mortality is attributed to the feeble condition of many of the prisoners remaining from the previous year and also of those admitted during the year, and not to any defect in the Prison itself.

Three suicides and one escape occurred in the Singapore Prison, and one suicide in the Malacca Prison. There were no suicides or escapes in Penang. No serious cases of assault occurred in any of the Prisons.

There were three executions in Penang, but none in Singapore or Malacca.

On the 31st December, 1895, the number in the Criminal Prisons were as follows :—

Singapore - - - -	820
Penang - - - -	293
Malacca - - - -	4

The daily average in the Singapore Prison was 19 less than in 1894, and in Penang 19 higher. In both Singapore and Penang, there was a decrease in the number of long-sentence prisoners received, and an increase in the number of short-sentence and revenue grade prisoners. The increase in the daily average in Penang is principally due to the retention in Penang of prisoners with sentences between six and twelve months, who were formerly sent to Singapore.

In 1894, the staff of Sub-Warders was reduced by 9, and well-behaved prisoners of the Upper Grade were temporarily employed as Sub-Warders. Under instructions, however, from the Secretary of State this practice is being discontinued, and prisoners will not be so employed in future.

Miscellaneous.

25. Mr. W. E. Maxwell, C.M.G., (now Sir W. E. Maxwell, K.C.M.G.) having been appointed Governor of the Gold Coast, Mr. J. A. Swettenham, C.M.G., was appointed Colonial Secretary, and assumed duties on the 16th April, 1895.

The new British Dollar, the introduction of which, as mentioned in the report for 1894, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in October of that year, was coined at the Bombay Mint. During the year 1895, the amount of this currency introduced into the Straits Settlements through the medium of the Banks was $2,201,890.

J. A. SWETTENHAM,

Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 30th July, 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 205.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 204.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1897.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
172	Malta	1895
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas...	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar...	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 205.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 204 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. B. H. MITCHELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
5th July, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1896.

I have, &c.,

C. B. H. MITCHELL.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Financial.

1. The Revenue for 1896 amounted to $4,266,064, including Land Sales, the three Settlements contributing as follows :—

Singapore - - - -	$2,500,985
Penang - - - -	1,415,631
Malacca - - - -	349,448

There was an increase of $217,704 as compared with the Revenue for 1895, and $361,290 as compared with the Revenue for 1894.

The principal increases were under the heads of Interest ($75,430), Stamps ($[illegible]5,341), Port and Harbour Dues ($23,646), Land Sales ($22,657), and Land Revenue ($10,250). The increase

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in Interest is mainly due to a payment of part of the arrears of interest due by Pahang received from Selangor.

The increase under the head of Stamps is chiefly due to Probate Duty paid on a very large estate; under the head of Port and Harbour Dues, to increase in the Shipping business; and under the other two heads to more activity in the Land market.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of $3,605 in the Fees for Pawnbrokers' Licences, the increased rates having caused several shops to close.

The Expenditure for the year was $3,957,262, which shews an increase of $174,806 over 1895, and $242,642 as compared with the Expenditure for 1894. There was an increase of $122,465 in Military Expenditure, due to the expenditure on the new Barracks, which in 1895 was $74,561, and in 1896 $188,427. There was also an increase under the head of Pensions of $88,711, which is mainly due to difference of rate for payment of Pensions in England, which was in previous years charged to Interest. On the other hand, Interest shewed a decrease of $86,716.

2. Appendix *A** shews the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as they stood at the beginning of 1896 and 1897, respectively. The nett balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1896, was $2,328,270, as compared with $2,063,459 on the same date in 1895. The Colony has no debt.

The Colony's financial position cannot be considered as otherwise than good, and it is now found possible to take in hand some of the most needed public works.

Exchange.

3. There was a slight improvement in the sterling value of the local dollar, the average value of which was 2 $2\frac{1}{16}$, and for bills at 4 months' sight 2 $2\frac{3}{16}$, as compared with 2 $1\frac{1}{4}$ and 2 $1\frac{1}{2}$, respectively, in 1895. The monthly variation in the value of the dollar is shown in Appendix *B*.*

The estimated Bank Note circulation of the Colony on 31st December was $6,734,049. The introduction of a Government Note Issue has been unavoidably delayed.

Municipalities.

The Revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $1,215,469, and their Expenditure to $1,188,580. Under powers

* Not printed.

conferred by the Municipal Ordinance, a sum of $92,445 was levied in the districts outside the Municipalities. The Expenditure on Roads and Bridges in these districts amounted to $164,445.

Legislation.

4. Thirty-two meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year, 21 Ordinances being passed.

Ordinances were passed consolidating the law with regard to the carriage and storage of Petroleum, &c., the law relating to Municipalities, and with regard to the protection of Women and Girls, and for the suppression of Brothels; and various important amendments were embodied in them.

Other important Ordinances were passed prohibiting persons banished from Johore or the Native States from residing in the Colony, for the suppression of the practice of injecting morphia by unqualified persons, for the registration and control of Native Passenger Lodging-houses, and for the regulation of burial and burning grounds outside the several Municipalities.

The Municipal Ordinance contains certain provisions for the control of burial and burning grounds within Municipal limits, and although these provisions might, under section 325, have been applied to country districts, it was considered advisable to have different regulations for country burial grounds.

Registration of Deeds.

5. The land market, as evidenced by the number of deeds registered, shows increased activity, the fees received in Singapore being $7,537, and in Penang, $8,702. Some delay is caused in the latter Settlement in the final registration of deeds owing to the inability of the Survey Department to keep pace with the demands for survey of sub-divisions, the number of which proved greater than was anticipated.

Public Works.

6. Barracks for the Royal Engineers (Officers and Men) at Pulau Brani which were begun in 1895 were finished in June, 1896, at a total cost of $64,000.

On Blakang Mati Island, barracks for Royal Artillery (married and single men), Officers' mess, and detached quarters for Medical and Field Officers were finished in December, 1896, while the construction of the Hospital was well advanced.

Two blocks providing 20 married quarters and an Infant School at Tanglin were brought near completion at the end of the year.

The only other works of importance were the completion of the Telok Ayer Reclamation, which was begun in June and finished in December, an extension to the Treasury containing space for about four million dollars in anticipation of the introduction of the Government Note Issue, and a further extension to the Beach Road Reclamation which formed a place to deposit dredgings from the Singapore River, and at the same time added about 90,000 square feet of area suitable for building sites.

The erection of the remaining portion of the sea-wall at Telok Ayer Reclamation brought to completion this very successful reclamation scheme. The total area reclaimed was 1,808,028 square feet, of which, 88,000 square feet have been reserved for public purposes. The total cost of the reclamation has been $917,244, and the amount already recovered is $739,482, the annual rents reserved on the grants issued amounting to $1,600. The average price obtained for the land sold in 1896 was $2.77 per square foot. The area still available for sale is 1,067,000 square feet.

The only other work of any importance was the continuation of Weld Quay Reclamation at Penang.

Postal Department.

7. During the year under review, 5,928,730 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 5,756,940 in 1895. The Registration, Insurance and Parcel Post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all show steady progress. The Postal Revenue amounted to $208,408, which is an excess of $7,461 over the income of the Department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1896 was $183,440.43, being a decrease of $20,665, as compared with the expenditure of the year before. There is a small decrease on "British Postage," due to reduction of the special charges for Continental transit, and a large decrease on Foreign Postage, which is more apparent than real, as a large sum of arrears was paid in 1895, and in all probability a considerable sum will have to be paid for 1896 during this year, owing to adjustments consequent on the new statistics taken in 1896.

In consequence of less favourable rates of exchange having prevailed for remittances to India and Ceylon, there was a large

decrease in the Money Order business done with those countries. The transactions in sterling amounted to £10,920, in Indian currency to nearly Rs. 930,000, and in local currency to $208,705; the total business done aggregated $822,135, against a total of $811,159 in 1895.

Savings Bank.

8. Notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of interest from 3½ to 3 per cent., there was a large increase in Savings Bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $326,877, an increase of $78,409, as compared with 1895. The deposits amounted to $227,980, and withdrawals to $157,399.

The investments in Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper amounted to $257,857.

Education.

9. Two hundred and one schools were [illegible]cted in 1896, and 7,969 pupils were presented for exa[illegible]on. The results generally as shewn by the percentages of marks gained shew a considerable falling off, but this is attributed to a higher standard being required by the examiners, especially in English subjects, and not to a falling off in efficiency.

The existing system under which grants in aid depend on individual passes of pupils is thought to be defective, and it is hoped that a new Education Code, modelled on the English Code, may be introduced at an early date.

The total expenditure of the Education Department amounted to $178,004.

Population.

10. The population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the Census of 1891, is now estimated to be 549,000. During the year 1896, there were registered 12,620 births, of which 6,627 were of male, and 5,993 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 24,014, as compared with 20,397 in 1895.

Chinese and Indian Immigration.

11. The number of Chinese immigrants was about normal, but there was a decrease in the number of contracts signed in the Chinese Protectorate, there being a smaller number

of contracts signed by unpaid passengers from lodging-houses.

It is satisfactory to record a substantial increase in the number of both free and statute immigrants from India. The present scarcity in India should do much towards stimulating emigration to countries such as this Colony and the Malay States, where there is a constant demand for labour.

Trade.

12. The trade of the year has not been as satisfactory as was anticipated in the first few months.

There was a large decline in the value of the principal articles of export—Tin, Gambier, and Pepper—caused by falling prices in the case of the first two products and by a decrease in the output of Pepper.

What may be taken as the feature of the year's trade has been the practical close to a period of successive advances in the export of Tin, owing to an end of the system of surface mining.

The market for Manchester goods has been depressed and unremunerative.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the trade of the Colony with outside countries has increased, chiefly on account of the heavy rise in the value of certain staple foodstuffs and an increase in the export of most important products except Pepper.

13. The value of the imports and exports of the three Settlements for 1895 and 1896 is seen in Appendix *F*.*

Merchandise imported from all places outside the Colony amounted to 176½ million dollars, an increase of 2¼ millions, and exports to over 151½ million dollars, an increase of nearly 2 millions.

From all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, an increase of $845,000 is seen in the silver value and of £687,000 in the gold value of goods.

To all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, the silver increase of merchandise sent is $960,000 and the gold increase £638,000.

* Not printed.

The sterling increase is largely owing to an average rise of over 3 per cent. in the gold value of the dollar, compared with 1895.

Imports show increased values under Foodstuffs, Manufactured Metals generally and Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods, but show a fall of over 2 million dollars in Textiles, and declines in Coal and Oil.

Exports shew increased values in Foodstuffs, Metals, Manufactured Gutta, Copra, Rattans, Hides, Timber, many products and Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods, but declines in Spices, Textiles, Tin, and Gambier.

Imports from the United Kingdom fell by 6¼ per cent. or 1¼ million dollars, chiefly in Cotton Goods, Coal, Iron Bar and Telegraph Materials.

Exports to the United Kingdom declined by 13 per cent. or 4 million dollars chiefly seen in Tin, Gambier, Gutta, Nutmegs, and Copra.

British India and Burma had an increase in imports received by the Colony of over 1⅓ million dollars owing to enhanced values of Rice, Opium, Raw Cotton and Hides, but exports thither declined by nearly half a million dollars on account of a falling off in Sticklac, Pepper, Sugar, Silk, Teel Seeds, and Umbrellas.

The Hongkong and China trade increased by 5 per cent. in imports and by nearly 20 per cent. in exports. There were increased imports of Wheat Flour, Beans and Peas, Hides, Vegetables, Tea, Paper, and Matches, and increased exports of Rice, the enhanced value of which alone was 1½ million dollars, Padi, Tin and Timber.

Japan imports slightly increased, but the exports fell by 41 per cent. or $375,000. Coal received increased in value, but Cotton Goods and Umbrellas fell off. Rice, Hides and numerous goods of little importance shew declines in the values sent.

Netherlands India is the source of the great bulk of the produce exported. Imports shew an increase of over half a million dollars and exports an increase of over a million.

Large increases are apparent in the value received of Copra and Rattans and by smaller amounts in Gambier, Gutta, Pepper and Beche-de-Mer, but there were serious declines in Sugar, Petroleum, Kachang Oil, Coffee and Nutmegs.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1896.

The greater value of the Rice sent accounts for the increased export, besides which, Cattle, Matches, Wheat Flour, and Beans and Peas shew fair increases, but there was a heavy falling off in Fish.

From the Malay Peninsula, including the Western Siamese States, a decrease of $1\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars is recorded, but in exports there is an increase of over half a million dollars.

Tin Ore, Rice, Fish and Rattans shew increased import values, but decreases are found in Tin, Gambier, Pepper, and Arecanuts.

Larger export values are recorded under Rice, Timber, Wheat Flour and various articles of minor importance, and decreases under Apparel, Cottons, Swine, and Opium.

The Continent of Europe sent larger values in the cases of Germany, Belgium and Italy, and less values from Austria, France, Holland, and Russia.

Exports to Holland declined, but rose in the case of every other country. Bangkok import values increased by over half a million dollars, but exports shew a trifling decline.

An insignificant advance is observable in trade with Saigon.

14. Appendix *H** affords a view of the fluctuations in the more important commodities.

Cotton Goods.—The imports of Cotton Piece Goods fell by over half a million pieces. Grey and Bleached Yarn shewed a little difference between the two years in the quantity imported, but in Dyed Yarn there was a decline of over 4,000 bales. Of this Yarn, large stocks were in hand during the year. Sewing Thread shews decrease in the import value of nearly $90,000, and Cotton Handkerchiefs, Sarongs, Slendangs and Kains, as well as Blankets, all shew decreases.

Coal.—There were received over 25,000 tons less than in 1895. From the United Kingdom supplies fell by 57,000 tons, while from Japan they rose by over 45,000 tons and from Borneo by over 4,000 tons. Australian imports fell by 10,000 tons, and Bengal coal by 1,000 tons. A silver currency favours the Japan and Borneo descriptions.

Rice.—Imports rose to nearly 429,000 tons, an increase of 28,500 tons, and, combined with a heavy rise in price, enormously increased the value of this foodstuff. Supplies from Rangoon

* Not printed.

increased, and, to a smaller extent, from Saigon, but a slight falling off occurred in the imports from Siam.

Opium.—An increase of nearly 1,100 chests was received on a total import in 1895 of 12,455 chests.

Opium from China, declared by importers as China Opium and Persian Opium, has been coming down in larger quantities, 250 chests being received in 1896, compared with 80 chests in the previous year. Patna Opium, which formerly was imported on as large a scale as the Benares description, is gradually dwindling to a mere fraction of its former proportion.

Tapioca.—The total export of all three kinds of Tapioca reached 45,358 tons, an increase of 3,500 tons. The increase was especially marked in Tapioca Flour.

Copra.—The production is larger than in 1895 by 9,300 tons, but with a total export of 45,950 tons is still less than the outputs in 1891 and 1894.

Sago.—Exports rose from 46,300 tons in 1895 to 51,500 tons in 1896. The increase was in both Sago Flour and Pearl Sago.

Rattans.—The year's export is the highest on record, exceeding by 4,000 tons the figures for 1895.

Tin.—A climax has been reached in the tin mining industry, and it is doubtful whether, for some years at least, such large supplies will be recorded. Yet the Peninsula is known to abound in mineral wealth, and it is difficult to say what would be the effect of a stimulant in the shape of high prices and increased demands.

A small increase is seen in the quantity sent to all places, the total production for the year touching 53,114 tons, an advance of about 400 tons.

There was a large falling off in exports to the United Kingdom, but an increase in the quantity sent to the United States of America.

Shipping.

15. The total tonnage of the vessels arriving and departing was 12,244,383, as compared with 11,065,780 in 1895. The light dues amounted to $110,623.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1896.

Two hundred and seventy-four (274) new vessels of 10,822 tons were built in the Colony during the year, including three steel screw steamers of 1,389 tons gross, which were built to the order of Netherland subjects.

Light-houses.

16. The new Light-house on the Sultan Shoal, which was first lit on the 1st January, 1896, has given satisfaction, while all the Light-houses, Launches, Buoys and Beacons have been maintained in an efficient condition.

Public Health.

17. The state of health throughout the Colony continues to be very unsatisfactory, and the very high death-rate of 43.78 per mille was reached. The rate was higher in all the Settlements, the difference being most marked in Singapore and Province Wellesley and, to a somewhat less degree, in Penang and the Dindings, and to a still less degree in Malacca. Fever and beri-beri continue to be prevalent.

There was again an outbreak of cholera in Singapore in the middle of the year, 592 cases being reported and 511 deaths. Many cases were discovered only after death. A few cases also occurred in Penang and Province Wellesley.

There was a large increase in the number of persons treated in the Government Hospitals, the admissions being 29,647, as compared with 25,177 in 1895.

The question of death registration has occupied the attention of the Government during the year, the returns of the causes of deaths being very untrustworthy. Assistant Registrars were appointed to ascertain by inspection and personal enquiry the causes of deaths reported to the Police in Singapore. The experiment, the cost of which is being shared by the Government and the Municipality, has been tried hardly long enough to enable one to speak as to its success, but sufficient cause has been shewn for amending the existing law as to death registration, and a Bill dealing with this important subject is now before the Legislative Council.

Meteorology.

18. A rainfall of 136.27 inches was recorded in Penang, the greatest fall in one day being 6.82 inches and in one month

(October) 26.49 inches. In Singapore and Malacca, the rainfall was considerably less than usual. The mean temperature of the Colony was of 80.1.

Bankruptcy.

19. There was a considerable increase in the number of Bankruptcies in Singapore, but the fees recovered do not pay the cost of the establishment. The question of raising the fees has been discussed, but it has been decided to wait until the Amending Ordinance passed in 1896 has been in force for some time in order that its results may be seen. The cost of the establishment in Penang has been reduced by the abolition of the appointment of Assistant in the Bankruptcy Department, the late holder having retired during the year.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

20. Five Joint Stock Companies, with a nominal capital of $609,000, were registered during the year. Three Companies went into liquidation, and an order was made for winding up another under the direction of the Court.

Police and Crime.

21. No change of any importance has taken place in the strength or constitution of the Police Force of the Colony. The general conduct of the Force has been satisfactory. The European Contingent is not up to its full strength. The service is not popular, and two Constables, one of them being a recruit from the Royal Irish Constabulary, deserted during the year.

No serious disturbances occurred during the year throughout the Colony.

There were 17 murders and 9 cases of gang robbery, and the latter crime appears to be on the increase in Singapore.

In Singapore, gambling appears to have been checked to some extent, though in Penang the efforts of the Police have not been very successful. In the former Settlement, for a time, certain cliques of Chinese women, mostly the wives of respectable shopkeepers, carried on a regular system of gambling, their husbands professing to be unable to put a stop to it. After careful watching on the part of the Police, a few convictions were obtained and there have been no further complaints.

The great Waiseng Lotteries have been suppressed for the time being.

Judicial.

22. In the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, there was a large increase of work, and it is noteworthy that, while the number of acquittals increased by only 81, the number of convictions increased by 3,544. The proportion of acquittals is still very high and is, doubtless, accounted for by the system of private prosecutions for indictable offences which prevails in the Colony. There was also a considerable increase in the work of the Courts of Requests in all three Settlements.

There was a decrease in the Criminal work of the Supreme Court, and a large decrease in the number of Civil actions commenced during the year. The number of Civil actions disposed of was 1,348, and 971 cases were pending at the close of the year, as compared with 893 at the close of 1895. A fourth Judge has now been appointed, the existing Bench having proved insufficient to cope with the work.

Inquests.

23. Four hundred and ninety-eight (498) inquests were held during the year, and in 345 cases death was due to natural causes, accidental, &c. There were 71 suicides.

Prisons.

24. The increase in the number of convictions mentioned in paragraph 22 above, which was principally in the Settlement of Singapore, resulted naturally in an increase in the number of prisoners in the Gaols, the average daily number in the Singapore Prison being 905, as compared with 842 in 1895. The increase was principally in the Revenue Grade, composed of prisoners committed for non-payment of fines. Although the daily average of sick was greater than in 1895, there was a marked decrease in the death-rate in the Singapore Prison, which was 4.37 of the total treated, as against 7.05 per cent. in the previous year. In Penang, the increase was considerable, both in general sickness and the death-rate.

There was one execution in Penang, but none in Singapore or Malacca.

A serious assault occurred in Penang Prison, a sub-warder being struck by a prisoner on the head with a stone-breaking

hammer. The warder succumbed to the injury on the following day.

There were three suicides in the Singapore Prison, but none in Penang or Malacca, and there were no escapes in any of the Settlements.

C. W. S. KYNNERSLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 18th June, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 236.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 205).

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
207	British Honduras	1896
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda...	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos	"
231	Barbados...	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 236.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 205.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Singapore,
2nd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the undermentioned annual departmental report for the year 1897 :—

Report on the Straits Settlements.

I have, &c.,
J. A. SWETTENHAM.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for 1897 amounted to $4,320,207, including land sales, the three Settlements contributing as follows :—

			$
Singapore	...	...	2,536,428
Penang ...	...	...	1,425,421
Malacca ...	...	...	358,358

There was an increase of $54,144 as compared with the revenue for 1896, and $271,847 as compared with the revenue for 1895.

The principal increases were under the heads of Land Sales ($53,255), Interest ($11,722), and Land Revenue ($10,797).

There are also satisfactory increases under Port and Harbour Dues, Postage, and Reimbursements.

On the other hand, there were decreases of $12,871 in Fees of Office and $12,531 in Stamps. The former is chiefly due to the decrease in the number of cattle imported, on account of cattle disease in the neighbouring countries, the latter to a decrease in death duties. Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of courts also show a decrease of $6,686.

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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1897.

The expenditure for the year was $4,430,603, which shews an increase of $473,513 over 1896, and $618,147 as compared with the expenditure for 1895. There was an increase of $126,974 in military expenditure, the cost of the new emplacements having been paid for during the year. There was a large increase under the head of Special Expenditure—$123,325. This expenditure includes $100,000 voted for the permanent memorial of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and $19,089 in connexion with the celebrations. There were also considerable increases under the following heads :—

	$
Personal Emoluments	93,915
Public Works Department Expenditure ...	65,382
Extraordinary Expenditure	29,362
Interest	16,020
Other charges	14,516

The large increase under the head Personal Emoluments is due to the addition of 10 per cent. to the salaries of the clerical branch of the service, the rice allowance of $1 a month to native subordinates, and the increase to exchange compensation in consequence of the fall in the value of the dollar.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

2. The net balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1897 was $2,161,913, as compared with $2,328,270 on the same date in 1896. The Colony has no debt.

The financial position of the Colony continues to be very satisfactory. The excise farms have been let for three years at an enhanced rent of $645,000, and it is proposed to carry out a large scheme for the improvement of the harbour of Penang on an estimate of $459,000, and other important works, out of current revenue.

EXCHANGE.

3. There was a marked fall in the sterling value of the dollar, the average value of which was 1/11 13/16 on demand and for bills at 4 months' sight 1/11 15/16, as compared with 2/2 1/16 and 2/2 3/16, respectively, in 1896.

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $7,326,693.

MUNICIPALITIES.

4. The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $1,273,283, and the expenditure to $1,371,716. Under powers conferred by the Municipal Ordinance, a sum of $89,998 was levied in the districts outside the municipalities. The expenditure on roads and bridges in these districts amounted to $241,083. The Singapore Municipality have taken in hand the important question of the disposal of town sewage, and large sums have also been spent in connection with the filter beds.

LEGISLATION.

5. Twenty-four meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year, 18 Ordinances being passed.

Ordinances were passed consolidating and amending the law with regard to the registration of births and deaths, the law relating to lepers, and for the protection of Indian immigrants. The two last named Ordinances have not come into force. Certain provisions of the Indian Immigration Ordinance met with opposition from the planters, and will be dealt with in an amending Ordinance.

Other important Ordinances were passed to provide for the issue of Government paper currency, and to make better provision for the regulation of pilgrim ships.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

6. The land market, as evidenced by the number of deeds registered, shews increased activity, the fees received in Singapore being for deeds, $8,479.70, and for bills of sale, $1,401.25; and in Penang, for deeds, $9,342·50, and for bills of sale, $1,050.50.

PUBLIC WORKS.

7. In Singapore, as in 1895 and 1896, the principal works were the construction of new barracks.

On Blakang Mati Island, the hospital and barracks for non-commissioned officers and married native soldiers were completed.

In Tanglin, two blocks providing twenty married quarters, an infant school, five quarters which are intended for the use of ten single sergeants, and the non-commissioned officers' mess were finished, and five married quarters and schoolmaster's quarters were begun.

At Pearl's Hill, 2 warrant officers' quarters and 6 married staff sergeants' quarters were commenced.

In addition to these works, a sum of $228,096 was handed to the Military Department for constructing the new emplacements for the quick-firing guns.

The only other undertaking of importance in Singapore was the extension of the Master Attendant's office at a cost of $15,000.

In Penang, the only service of importance was the construction of a jetty for the accommodation of local steamers. This work was brought near completion out of the Harbour Improvement vote, and it is expected to be finished early in 1898.

A sum of $9,000 was expended in enlarging the reservoir in Province Wellesley, to admit of Butterworth being supplied with water from Bukit Mertajam.

Under Roads and Bridges, a vote of $67,350 was taken for the renewal of 4 timber bridges with iron in Province Wellesley.

The abutments of these bridges were erected, and the superstructure of iron is expected to arrive soon from home, so that this much needed improvement will be accomplished early in 1898.

The Perak Railway system is being extended by the Government of the Federated Malay States to Prai in Province Wellesley, and a steam ferry boat service will connect it with Penang, a special jetty being about to be erected at Weld Quay.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

8. During the year under review, 6,031,136 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 5,928,730 in 1896. The Registration, Insurance, and Parcel Post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all continue to show steady progress. The postal revenue amounted to $215,246, which is an excess of $6,838 over the income of the department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1897 was $198,136, being an increase of $14,695, as compared with the expenditure of the year before. There is an increase on "British postage," due to increased weight of mails and low rate of exchange.

In consequence of very unfavourable rates of exchange having prevailed for remittances to India and Ceylon, there was a large decrease of no less than Rs. 205,807 in the money order business done with those countries. The transactions in sterling amounted to £11,049, in Indian currency to nearly Rs. 725,000, and in local currency to $227,640; the total business done aggregated only $806,885, against a total of $822,135 in 1896.

SAVINGS BANK.

9. There was a large increase in savings bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $363,545, an increase of $36,668 as compared with 1896. The deposits amounted to $269,313, and withdrawals to $242,341.

The investments in Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper amounted to $273,391, and amounts placed on fixed deposits at the Chartered Bank to $34,000.

EDUCATION.

10. Two hundred schools were inspected in 1897, and 8,301 pupils were presented for examination.

During the year, a scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the Government European masters was drawn up and has been approved.

Singapore and Penang were both made centres for the Cambridge local examination in December for the first time. The result was, on the whole, an indication that this Colony has still a great deal of work before it in order to attain as good results as shewn by some other Colonies. The Penang Free School gained both the Queen's scholarships.

The total expenditure of the Education Department amounted to $179,769.

POPULATION.

11. The population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the census of 1891, is now estimated to be 580,563. During the year 1897 there were registered 12,090 births, of which 6,250 were of male and 5,840 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 21,427, as compared with 24,014 in 1896.

CHINESE AND INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

12. The number of Chinese immigrants was very much below the normal supply, and there was a marked decrease in the number of contracts signed in the Chinese Protectorate. This was partly due to a prosperous year in the provinces of China from which our labour supply is chiefly drawn, and also to the restrictions placed on immigration in consequence of the prevalence of bubonic plague in China. The demand for tin-miners in Selangor having almost ceased no doubt also affected the supply to some extent.

It is satisfactory to record a further increase in the number of both free and statute immigrants from India. The late scarcity in India no doubt had the effect of stimulating emigration to countries such as this Colony and the Malay States, where there is a constant demand for labour. Arrangements have been made for cheap passages for intending immigrants to the Protected States.

TRADE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

13. The figures for the year shew large increases over those for 1896.

There was a decline in the value of the principal articles of export—tin, gambier, and copra—but an improvement is recorded in the pepper trade.

The trade of the Colony with other countries has largely increased. There was an increase in the export of coffee, gambier, hides, and pepper.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1897.

Merchandise imported from all places outside the Colony amounted to 187½ million dollars, an increase of 11 millions, and exports to 162½ million dollars, an increase of 11 millions.

From all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, an increase of $12,082,000 is seen in the silver value, but a decrease of £564,500 in the gold value, of goods.

To all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, the silver increase of merchandise sent is $11,869,000, the gold value decreasing by £387,500.

Imports shew increased values under food-stuffs (the increase in rice alone being over 6 million dollars), in manufactured textiles, machinery, telegraph materials, and coal, and declines in hardware, cutlery, and cattle.

Exports shew increased values in food-stuffs, gutta, rattans, hides, areca nuts, and pepper, but declines in tin, gambier, and copra.

Imports from the United Kingdom shew an advance of about 25 per cent., or 5 million dollars, chiefly in cotton goods, yarns, telegraph materials, and machinery.

Exports to the United Kingdom declined by about 1 per cent., or $262,000; the decrease was chiefly seen in tin, gambier, and copra.

From British India and Burma there was a decrease in imports of over 4 million dollars, owing to smaller supplies being received of rice and opium, but exports thither increased by 3½ millions. Larger exports of raw silk, areca nuts, and fish account for this. A large quantity of rice also was exported to British India, amounting in value to 1¾ million dollars over and above the value exported in 1896. The success of the experiment of closing the mints in India has favoured exports to that country, while diminishing exports therefrom to places with a silver standard.

The Hongkong and China trade increased by about 1½ per cent. in imports, but decreased by a little over 3 per cent. in exports. There were increased imports of wheat flour, joss sticks and joss paper, and raw silk, but decreased exports of tin, rattans, and pepper.

There was a fair increase in imports from Japan, due to a larger import of coal and matches. Exports thither nearly doubled in value, larger quantities of tanned hides, rice, and gambier, among other articles, having been sent out.

Netherlands Indian imports shew an increase of over two million dollars, and exports an increase of over four million dollars.

The largest increases are in sugar, gutta-percha and other rubbers received, and among the export articles shewing large increases are rice, cotton piece goods, sarongs, and kains.

From the Malay Peninsula, including the Western Siamese States, a decrease of over three million dollars is recorded in imports, but in exports there is a trifling increase.

Tin ore, rice, fish, rattans, areca nuts, and gambier shew increased import values, but a large decrease is found in tin, and a decrease to a smaller extent in pepper.

The Continent of Europe sent larger values in the case of all countries.

Exports to the Continent declined in the case of every country, with the exception of Belgium and Russia, to which places they slightly increased.

From Saigon imports increased by over 4 million dollars. The export value fell slightly. The large increase in imports is due mainly to the growth of the rice trade.

Cotton Goods.—The imports of cotton piece goods increased by nearly a million pieces. Yarns of both kinds also shew increases. Sewing thread shews an increase of $75,000 in its import value, but cotton handkerchiefs, sarongs, slendangs, and kains, as well as blankets, all shew decreases.

Coal.—There were received over 108,396 tons more than in 1896. From the United Kingdom supplies fell by about 3,000 tons, and from Borneo by 15,000, while from Japan they rose by over 40,000 tons. Australian imports rose by over 24,000 tons, and Bengal coal by about 55,000 tons.

Rice.—Imports rose to nearly 457,000 tons, an increase of 27,000 tons, and combined with a heavy rise in price, enormously increased the value of this food-stuff. The largest supplies came from Siam. Rangoon imports declined largely. Supplies from Saigon shew a large increase.

Opium.—Imports decreased by 769 chests. Opium from China declined by 131 chests. Patna opium fell from 525 in 1896 to 275 chests in 1897.

Tapioca.—The total export of all three kinds of tapioca was 39,973 tons, a decrease of 5,385 tons.

Copra.—Exports declined by 9,800 tons.

Sago.—Exports fell from 51,500 tons in 1896 to 44,959 tons in 1897. The decrease was in both flour and pearl sago.

Rattans.—The year's export is the highest on record, exceeding by 492 tons the figures for 1896.

Tin.—Exports largely declined, being 8,446 tons less than in 1896.

CURRENCY.

14. The decision of the Japanese Government to revert to a Gold Standard, which took effect during 1897, led to the recall of the Japanese yen, which had been current in the Colony and in its vicinity since 1872. A very large number of these coins was withdrawn from circulation and sent to Japan.

The coins were replaced by the new British dollar minted in Bombay, of which no less than $15,782,908 were imported into the Colony during 1897 by the banks alone. This new coin is already greatly in request in Siam, and its introduction into the Colony in such large quantities was a great convenience, as it may be doubted whether sufficient Mexican dollars could have been easily obtained to replace the large number of Japanese yen withdrawn.

During the year, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China obtained authority from Her Majesty's Treasury to increase its local note circulation by $1,000,000.

SHIPPING.

15. The total tonnage of the vessels arriving and departing was 12,206,782, as compared with 12,244,383 in 1896. The light dues amounted to $115,887.

Three hundred and fifty-three (353) new vessels of 13,252 tons were built in the Colony during the year.

LIGHT-HOUSES.

16. All the light-houses, launches, buoys, and beacons have been maintained in an efficient condition and periodically inspected.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

17. The public health of the Colony during 1897 has been considerably better than it was during 1896, the number of deaths registered being less by more than 2,500 than it was during that year. The death-rate is still high, averaging about 36·00 per mille for the whole Colony, but this is a great improvement on 1896. The death-rate for 1896 was given as 43·78 per mille, but there is reason to think the population was underestimated in calculating this rate. A new method of calculation has been used this year, and it is on this that the rate of 36·00 per mille is based; were this calculation used for 1896, the rate of mortality would appear as 40·66.

The Colony has been remarkably free from zymotic disease during the year.

The number of patients treated in the Government Hospital was somewhat less than that during 1896, but greater than that of 1895 or any preceding year.

The arrangements described last year as being carried out in relation to the registration of deaths have been continued during 1897 with satisfactory results.

METEOROLOGY.

18. A rainfall of 138·88 inches was recorded in Penang, the greatest fall in one day being 5·76 inches, and in one month (October) 41·17 inches. In Singapore and Malacca the rainfall was above the average. The mean temperature of the Colony was 80·6.

BANKRUPTCY.

19. There were 31 receiving orders and 23 adjudications made in Singapore, and 12 receiving orders and 10 adjudications in Penang, shewing an increase in the number made in the previous year.

Few of the bankruptcies were of any great importance, and there has been a decrease in the amount of liabilities as well as assets as shewn by the bankrupts' statements of affairs. One important failure occurred during the year in Penang.

The revenue and expenditure both shew a small decrease on those of last year.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

20. Seven joint stock companies, with a nominal capital of $1,330,003, were registered during the year.

POLICE AND CRIME.

21. There has been no change of importance during the year in the strength or constitution of the police force of the Colony. The European contingent is still six men under strength. The conduct of the inspectors and of the European contingent has on the whole been good. The police are much hampered by the want of efficient detectives.

There has been a serious falling off in the numbers of the Sikh contingent, but now that the pay has been increased and additional privileges given, it is hoped that a sufficient number of recruits will be induced to join. The Malay contingent has been kept well up to strength in Penang and Malacca, but not so well in Singapore. The conduct of this branch of the force is on the whole improving.

In January there was a strike of jinrikisha coolies in Singapore, which, as some 16,000 men of the coolie class were involved, gave rise to some apprehension, but the strike subsided after a few days without anything worse than inconvenience to a large section of the public.

A good deal of uneasiness was caused in the end of September by the appearance of two placards inciting to murder and riot. The authors of the placards were not discovered. Precautions were taken and no riot whatever took place.

Twenty-two cases of murder and twenty-three of gang-robbery were reported; of the former, three took place on the high seas; of the latter, one was certainly false.

Gambling is increasingly difficult to deal with, and in the existing state of the law the police appear to want power to cope with the forms in which gambling is now carried on.

JUDICIAL.

22. In the Supreme Court on the criminal side there was a large increase in the number of cases at each Settlement, and on the civil side the number of actions commenced showed a considerable increase at Singapore.

In the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, the work at Singapore and Malacca was greater than in the previous year, while it decreased at Penang. The number of convictions again showed a considerable increase, while the number of acquittals was less than last year. This increase in the number of convictions and decrease in the number of acquittals was especially marked at Penang.

INQUESTS.

23. Five hundred and eighty-two inquests were held during the year, as compared with 498 last year. The number in Penang showed an increase of over 50 per cent. In 399 cases the verdict was death from natural causes, accidental, &c. There were 82 suicides.

PRISONS.

24. The daily average of prisoners in the Singapore Prison is less than last year. The worst of the habitual criminals are now banished as their sentences expire.

There is again a marked decrease in the death-rate in the Singapore Prison, but an increase in the rate at Penang Prison.

There was one suicide in Singapore Prison. No escapes from prison took place in any of the Settlements.

C. W. S. KYNNERSLEY,
Acting-Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 12th May 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 287.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 236.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January, 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
261	Jamaica	1897–98
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar...	1898
277	Bahamas...	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	"
286	Christmas and Cocos–Keeling Islands ...	1899

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 287.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 236.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. B. H. MITCHELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
28th September 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,
C. B. H. MITCHELL.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for 1898 amounted to $5,071,282, corrected to $5,029,689 for arrears, the three Settlements contributing as follows :—

	$
Singapore	3,024,777
Penang	1,653,757
Malacca	392,746

There was an increase of $761,304 as compared with the revenue for 1897, and of $805,808 as compared with that for 1896.

4120—800—11/99 Wt 24600 D & S—5 (B)

The principal increases were under licences ($645,951), interest ($62,818), stamps ($30,159), postage ($18,707), and fines, fees, and forfeitures ($16,712).

There were also satisfactory advances under port and harbour dues ($4,512), fees of office ($14,682), reimbursements ($8,959), and district collections ($5,828).

There is a decrease under land sales of $79,749, but this is accounted for by the fact that no special sales of town lands in Singapore town took place.

The expenditure for the year was $4,582,951, as compared with $4,437,516 in 1897 and $3,958,898 in 1896.

The chief increases were :—

	$
Personal emoluments	153,842
Public Works Department expenditure...	134,661
Other charges	26,179
Pensions	19,347
Interest	12,038

The increase under personal emoluments is due to the increased cost of exchange compensation owing to the low rates of exchange during the year, to the 10 per cent. addition granted to the salaries of the Clerical Branch of the Service, and to grants to native subordinates as compensation for a high ruling price for rice, their staple food. The increase on Public Works Department expenditure is principally due to deferred expenditure of previous years. On the other hand, special expenses, which Her Majesty's Jubilee festivities had increased in 1897, showed a decrease of $111,201, and military expenditure $82,338, owing to completion of barracks and other works.

The Pawnbrokers' Ordinance, 1898, while defining more carefully the law affecting pawnbrokers, and limiting more narrowly their gains, has an indirect result on the revenue as section 35 permitted the farming out of the exclusive permission to keep a pawn-shop in a limited and defined locality.

The balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December 1898 was $2,803,803, as compared with $2,236,457 on the same date in 1897. The Colony has no debt.

Exchange.

Exchange was very steady during the year. The average value was 1/11$\frac{1}{16}$ on demand and 1/11$\frac{1}{4}$ at four months' sight, as compared with 1/11$\frac{13}{16}$ and 1/11$\frac{15}{16}$ in 1896. The highest rate for demand drafts was 1/11$\frac{7}{8}$ in January and the lowest 1/10$\frac{1}{16}$ in March. In the last half of the year there was very little variation.

Currency.

The currency of the Colony consisted of Mexican, Japanese, and British dollars circulating at equal value.

In 1897, Japan decided to adopt a gold standard at a ratio with silver of 1 to 32⅓. This measure was adopted in the belief that silver would not fall below that ratio, and also that the enormous number of Japanese dollars held as currency abroad was there required as currency and would not be presented for exchange for the new coins. Five-and-a-half years were allowed to holders of the old coin before it should be demonetised.

Both these beliefs proved to be errors. Silver fell below the ratio of 32⅓ to 1, and enormous quantities of (old) Japanese dollars were presented for exchange for new coins, an operation which the fall in exchange rendered profitable. In April, May, and June, 1898, large quantities of Japanese dollars were bought up and sent to Japan for exchange.

On discovering their errors the Japanese authorities suddenly curtailed the five-and-a-half years' period, making it terminate 31st July 1898.

In April, the Government of the Colony took steps to ascertain public feeling as regards demonetising Japanese dollars, and their proposal to demonetise them was referred to the home authorities, it being necessary to consult Her Majesty's Treasury; while the proposal was under consideration, Japanese dollars began to be reimported, and an Ordinance 11 of 1898 was passed in October to prevent importation. In December, authority was received from England to demonetise the Japanese dollar after giving three months' public notice of the intended step. These measures prevented the Colony being flooded with rejected Japanese dollars. The Federated Malay States also took steps to exclude Japanese dollars.

British dollars to the value of $19,492,168 were imported by the local banks alone, as compared with $15,782,908 in 1897. Other dollars to the value of $10,198,904 were imported by the banks.

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $7,737,057, as compared with $7,326,693 in 1897.

The consent of the home authorities was obtained to Government note currency for the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and steps were taken to design and print notes. The design adopted bears the value marked on it in four places, with a description in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil, and on the back the figure of a tiger.

The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $1,337,500, and their expenditure to $1,339,602.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1898.

TRADE.

The trade of the year 1898 shews considerable expansion, the fluctuation in exchange having been less serious than in previous years a fairer comparison can be made.

The trade with gold standard countries amounted to 254 million dollars, an increase of 39⅕ millions, and with silver standard countries, exclusive of inter-settlement movements, to 144 millions, an increase of 10¾ millions.

The prices of the principal products have been high, with the exception of coffee and gambier, and the large trade in cotton piece goods has been done at not unremunerative rates.

Freights have ruled high during the year owing to the action of the Shipping Conference, and indications are not wanting that the effects have been more or less prejudicial to certain low priced and bulky goods, while shipments from Batavia and Macassar direct to Europe have become more frequent. The large increase in the value of exports direct to the United States is due to the same cause.

The aggregate trade for the last five years—inter-settlement trade excluded—shews as follows ('000 omitted) :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
(Per thousand.)	$	$	$	$	$
Merchandise ...	323,103	323,849	328,065	348,852	398,052
Specie	60,153	47,343	46,999	62,515	62,367
Total ...	383,256	371,192	375,064	411,367	460,419

The increase in merchandise is thus over 14 per cent.

Imports.

The value of imports increased by more than 13½ per cent., and that of exports by over 14½ per cent.

Including the inter-settlement movements, which have been excluded in the above figures, imports of foodstuffs and opium increased by 6⅛ million dollars.

Black and white pepper increased by 2$\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, opium by 1⅜ millions, live animals by 1⅐ millions, areca-nuts by

nearly three-quarters of a million, fish by nearly half a million, sugar and spirits by over one-third of a million each, and tea, tobacco, nutmegs, malt liquors, medicines, provisions, and sago follow with smaller advances.

Decreases are marked in coffee by $1\frac{4}{5}$ million dollars, and rice by over three-quarters of a million.

Imports of manufactured textiles increased by over 5 million dollars.

Of this increase, cotton piece goods contributed $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions, sarongs and slendangs and gunnies nine-tenths of a million each, silk piece goods two fifths of a million, and apparel seven-twentieths of a million, followed by woollen cloth, umbrellas, silk sarongs, and hats and caps with smaller increases.

There are practically no decreases in this class.

Imports of manufactured metals increased by nearly one million dollars, shewn by increases in telegraph materials, hardware and ironware and tin plates, with smaller advances in machinery, corrugated iron, nails, and iron bar and nail rod.

Steel and zinc sheathing fell off in value.

The imports of miscellaneous manufactured goods increased by over $1\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, seen principally in the enhanced value of cement, earthenware, charcoal, clocks and watches and fancy goods, toys and sporting materials, followed by smaller advances in coke, glass, cabinetware, soap, paints, and carriage materials. Decreases are seen in paper, lamps, and fireworks.

Exports.

Exports of foodstuffs reflect more or less the imports, but the following may be noted :—Spices of all kinds increased in value by $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, sago by one-sixth of a million, tapioca by nearly half a million, and preserved fruits by seven-tenths of a million.

Coffee declined by nearly $1\frac{7}{10}$ millions and coco-nuts by six-tenths of a million.

Exports of raw produce, excluding the abovementioned goods, increased in value by $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars.

Gutta and rubbers increased by over $4\frac{3}{4}$ millions, copra by over $1\frac{3}{10}$ millions, coco-nut oil by four-tenths of a million, and gum copal by one-fifth of a million ; but decreases are seen in gambier of nine-tenths of a million, hides of over half a million, rattans of three-tenths of a million, followed by sandal wood and timber with less marked decreases.

The exports of tin increased in value by $3\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars.

General Observations on Trade.

The most important foodstuff (rice) fell off in supplies from Siam owing to the unsatisfactory crops, large quantities of the padi being composed of little more than husk, and as supplies from Saigon also fell off, large importations were made from Rangoon, but a distinct advance in price took place.

The low price of Liberian coffee, combined with a shortage of crop in Bali, accounts for the great decline in this trade of nearly 1,200 tons exported. Opium imports increased by 1,668 chests, and although less China opium was declared, it is probable much of that classed as Turkey and Persian received from Hong Kong is of that description.

Under raw materials imported, the chief are coal, petroleum, and tin ore. Coal imports fell off by 43,000 tons, the United Kingdom sending 48,000 tons only, a decrease of 49,000 compared with 1897, and of 139,000 compared with 1894. Japan supplies also fell off by 17,000 tons, but amounted in 1898 to 263,000 tons. While it is seen that Japan coal has practically cut out Cardiff coal, which, owing to strikes and political complications in the far East enhancing the price, has had its sale restricted for bunkering mercantile marine vessels, Indian and Australian coal shew increased supplies, cheap freights favouring these classes. Petroleum imports fell off from Russia and Sumatra, but Burma became a source of supply. From Sumatra nearly 3¼ million cases were transhipped at Singapore. It has, however, been reported for some time that some of these wells are failing; on the other hand Borneo supplies are being developed. A good deal of private enterprise originating from Singapore has been shewn in obtaining concessions for oil in the Dutch Indies, so far, however, with only limited success as to results.

The imports of tin ore received for smelting increased by nearly 60,000 pikuls. Of this increase, 12,000 pikuls were from the Dutch possessions, the remainder being from the Malay Peninsula. The tendency is to import less tin and more ore, owing to the facilities offered to miners in the way of money advances.

Imports of textiles have increased, especially in cotton piece goods, and sarongs, slendangs, and kains.

The United Kingdom held the same percentage in the quantity of piece goods sent to the Colony, *viz.*, 81 per cent., while shewing an increase of 850,000 pieces.

The imports of sarongs, slendangs, &c., from the United Kingdom show the gratifying increase of 40 per cent., while the quantity received from the Continent remained practically stationary.

In woollen cloth, the United Kingdom more than doubled her supply, while that from the Continent increased by 21 per cent.

The United Kingdom retains its hold in the cheapest class of blankets, in sewing thread, and in handkerchiefs.

The competition of India and the Continent in yarns resulted in a small decline from the mother country.

The large business done in apparel, hosiery, millinery, and haberdashery from Europe reached a value of nearly 2 million dollars, of which the United Kingdom sent three-fourths of a million, compared with a total European trade of 1⅘ million dollars in 1897, of which the United Kingdom held $715,000 value. Men's singlets, socks, and haberdashery generally comprise the bulk of the Continental imports, while drapery is a large item in the United Kingdom figures. Before the advent of Japan as a manufacturing country a fair business was done in cloth and alpaca umbrellas of British make, and in view of the unsatisfactory materials used by the Japanese manufacturers, French imports have risen from $47,000 value in 1894 to $162,000 value in 1898. A strong effort on the part of the mother country might now result in the recovery of a portion of this trade.

The United Kingdom has an increased import of $651,000 value in all metals, or over 13 per cent., and the Continent an increase of $234,000, or over 20 per cent. Metals from the United States fell from a value of $160,000 in 1897 to $99,000 in 1898, almost entirely in machinery.

The United Kingdom increases in tin plates and telegraph materials, of which she practically holds a monopoly, valued only half a million dollars, leaving for all other metals an increase of $150,000 only, of which machinery accounted for $100,000 and corrugated iron $74,000.

The decreases are noted in steel from the United Kingdom $109,000 less and gas electric lighting materials $19,000 less.

The figures for the Continent show increases in nails sent of $63,000, hardware and ironware of $185,000, and steel $22,000, but decreases in zinc sheathing of $58,000, and tinware of $25,000.

In the imports of miscellaneous manufactured goods, the United Kingdom held her own fairly well, but while she has largely increased her output in cement the Continental supplies have risen by 152 per cent. in value, showing a total trade of $192,000 in value and 30,500 barrels, an increase of 110 per cent., in quantity. The United Kingdom imports stand at $498,000 value and 82,000 casks, an increase of less than 39 per cent. in value and 24 per cent. in quantity.

British cement is high priced and manufacturers do not care to send inferior qualities to compete. Another point which has operated in favour of foreign cement is that some of it is packed in iron drums, thus obviating the risk of deterioration from exposure, so that planters, in Sumatra especially, prefer the cement

thus packed. Up to the end of 1895 dynamite was imported from Britain only, but in 1896 a German hand came into the market with the result that prices were greatly reduced and lower qualities had to be imported, and at the close of 1898 another German manufacture began to be brought in. Continental imports now value half those from the United Kingdom.

The mother country has no important decrease in any article of importance and shews considerable advance in fancy goods, toys and sporting materials, paints, soap, paper, cake, stationery, boots and shoes, earthenware and cabinetware.

The Continent has also increased her hold in most miscellaneous goods. In cycles the United States entered into competition and about 20 per cent. are of American make, but, low grade cheap machines having been found unsatisfactory, the best American productions have suffered in repute.

The increase in the export of tin is attributable to the high prices obtainable, but labour has become scarce and the prospects for 1899 are not promising.

Exports of inferior guttas and rubbers have upset comparisons, but the demand has encouraged export, as the enormously increased values testify.

Gambier exports fell off owing to the low price, the expense of labour rendering its production unremunerative.

High prices stimulated the trade in pepper and the large increase of 2,500 tons from Acheen is notable. From Johor a decrease of 1,500 tons was caused by the death of the old plants before the new ones had come into bearing. The rise in the price of food helped to create a scarcity of labour, and enterprise in replanting was not conspicuous.

An examination of the trade with different countries shews that the United Kingdom holds 13·8 per cent. of the whole, British possessions 22·5 per cent., the Malay Peninsula, Sarawak, and French India (the last named country having no trade of its own with the Colony) 16·4 per cent., and foreign countries 47·3 per cent., as compared with 14·1 per cent., 20·5 per cent., 16·6 per cent., and 48·8 per cent. respectively in 1897.

United Kingdom imports increased by 13 per cent., and exports by 9½ per cent.

Increased values of textiles, metals, cement, liquors, and tobacco are most marked.

Enhanced exports are seen in guttas and rubbers, pepper, tapioca, fruits, and gums.

Decreased imports are recorded in coal, yarn, and steel, and decreased exports in tin, hides, gambier, and sago.

The Continent shows an increase in imports of 14 per cent. and in exports of 25 per cent. Germany and Italy have the largest

increases in imports, followed by France and Holland, Belgium remaining practically stationary, while Austria shews an actual decrease.

The increases from Germany are in metals, textiles, liquors, cement, and earthenware ; from Italy in cottons, dyed yarns, sarongs, and milk ; from Holland in gin, sarongs, and hardware, and from France in brandy, umbrellas, and apparel.

Earthenware, cement, and glassware give increases from Belgium, but nearly every other article shows a decrease. Austria also has decreases in nearly every class, except apparel and dyed yarn.

The United States shewed large increases in the value of petroleum, lubricating oil, and carriage materials, including cycles.

The increased exports are seen in most of the principal articles of produce and are accounted for by direct shipments.

Imports from the Malay Peninsula increased by 13 per cent., chiefly in tin and tin ore.

Increased values of opium, textiles, metals and provisions, &c. sent give an increase of 11 per cent. in exports.

Notwithstanding a large decrease in the rice received, imports from Siam gave a small increase. Exports increased by 14 per cent., chiefly in opium and cotton piece goods.

Saigon trade fell off on the import side in rice, but the exports increased chiefly in piece goods, grey yarn, and provisions.

Imports from Hong Kong and China slightly increased, notwithstanding a decline in rice received of $1\frac{1}{8}$ million dollars. Rice, sugar, and opium shew increased exports.

From British India and Burma an increase in the value of imports of nearly 49 per cent. is recorded. Rice from Burma alone accounted for an increase of $8\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, followed by increases in opium, gunnies, coal, &c.

Exports decreased by $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. entirely accounted for by rice having been sent to Bombay in 1897—an exceptional circumstance.

From Netherlands India imports increased by over 19 per cent., seen chiefly in enhanced values of gutta and rubber, copra, areca-nuts, and sugar, but there was a serious decline in coffee.

Exports increased by over 3 per cent., principally in cotton piece goods, cattle, coco-nut oil, sarongs, tea, &c.

Increased values of coal, jinrikishas, and matches account for a rise in imports from Japan of 12 per cent. Large exports of rice account for the difference between the two years on that side of the trade.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

Under this head there is little to chronicle. Malacca as a mining centre has been almost abandoned in favour of the Federated Malay States, which are richer in ore deposits.

The Government was sounded on the question of granting a monopoly of possible petroleum deposits in Province Wellesley.

The fisheries of the Colony are very rich, and fishing is a favourite pursuit of the Malay population, but very little fish is preserved by salting, nearly all being sold fresh.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The sugar industry in Province Wellesley continued to give satisfactory results on the whole, notwithstanding increasing competition from bounty fed countries.

In Malacca a good tea plantation has been thoroughly established, which finds a local market for its produce. An enterprising syndicate of Chinese has begun to plant rubber largely in that Settlement.

In all the Settlements the cultivation of coco-nuts is progressing.

In Malacca a very successful agricultural show was held. It is intended in future that there should be a show every year in some one Settlement of the Colony.

The Botanical Garden at Singapore continued to aid planters by seeds and advice. This station is a centre for British North Borneo, Sarawak, Labuan, Johor, the Federated Malay States, and even Siam, and there was very keen competition for all the rubber seeds which could be spared. Orders were booked for quite twenty times as much seed as was available.

The Director, Mr. Ridley, visited the various Settlements and reported on the diseases prevalent amongst plantations. Some slight progress was made in the destruction of the beetles attacking coco-nut trees, but until the planters take a more lively interest in their destruction the pest will not be extinguished.

Land Grants.

For land in Singapore Island for agricultural grants the Government nearly doubled its rates of premium, with comparative success.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 12,661,442, as compared with 12,206,782 in 1897. The light dues amounted to $114,501.39.

Three hundred and eighty-six (386) new vessels aggregating 10,888 tons were built in Singapore during the year.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The schools in the Colony are all under Government inspection. Those which teach English receive grants-in-aid, dependent on the Inspector's reports. In these schools there are seven standards, and there are also grants for special subjects. Of schools teaching English there were forty, which received as grants-in-aid $47,417. Six English-teaching schools were maintained by the Government, at a cost of $31,698.

Vernacular (Malay) instruction is given in separate village schools maintained by the Government. There were 165 of such schools, costing $55,649.

A scholarship of £200 a year, tenable for four years, to any British University which exercises supervision over resident students is granted annually. This involved during 1898 an expenditure of $13,040. For this scholarship there is keen competition, and the winner usually graduates in honours.

Three industrial scholarships are annually granted to local scholars apprenticed to the local dock-yards, iron foundries, and the like.

Compared with other Colonies, public instruction is decidedly backward; there are several reasons for this; the demand for youths instructed in English is so great that the supply barely keeps pace with it; any youth who knows sufficient English to write a decent letter is sure of employment at once, and ceases to carry his studies further.

Parents are not sufficiently alive to the importance of their children being well instructed, and they will not make the sacrifice necessary to ensure their children being sufficiently long at school.

Again the language difficulty is very great. The vast majority of pupils in the English-teaching schools never hear a word of that language at home. The language of the playground and of the lowest classes in every school is Malay—and Malay of a very low and elementary type. The language of the pupil at home is generally some dialect of Chinese, Tamil, or Malay. This renders the task of acquiring English thoroughly and idiomatically very difficult.

During the year the establishment of a reformatory was sanctioned.

The large and excellently managed sugar estates in Province Wellesley are in themselves fine examples of agricultural instruction for those who desire to study that branch.

The dock-yards and the large iron foundries at Singapore and Penang supply technical instruction on a large scale. There is steadily increasing local demand for engineers for steam launches, steamships, and stationary engines, supplied from the local population.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-six meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year and 14 Ordinances were passed. Of these the more important ones are the Christian Marriage Ordinance III. of 1898, to consolidate and amend the law relating to the marriage of persons professing the Christian religion, and the Lepers Ordinance X. of 1898.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Except the Chinese hospital at Singapore, all the general hospitals in the Colony are under Government management. The plantation hospitals on the sugar estates at Province Wellesley, maintained by the planters, are frequently supervised by Government officers. In 1898 the principal causes for admission were malaria, beri-beri (less prevalent than in 1897), and venereal disease, for which the highest recorded number of admissions occurred.

The Colony escaped plague altogether, although it prevailed in China and in British India. Cholera caused 9 deaths in Singapore and 39 deaths in Penang. Small-pox prevailed extensively in Burma and this Colony; cases occurred in all three Settlements.

The hospitals received in the year 23,662 new patients. The Government maintains a lunatic asylum at Singapore, and a leper asylum at Singapore and another at Pulau Jerejah, an island close to Penang. The year began with 221 lunatics in the asylum and the number had dwindled down to 173 on the 31st December, 1898.

Cases of beri-beri occurred in the asylum throughout the year.

The quarantine regulations were admirably carried out during 1898.

Savings Bank.

There was a large increase in savings bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $410,915, an increase of $47,370, as compared with 1897. The deposits amounted to $288,781, and withdrawals to $252,386.

The total of investments at the end of the year amounted to $401,391, the particulars of which are as follows, viz.:—

Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper, $273,391.

Singapore municipal debenture stock, $48,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and $52,000 at 4 per cent. = $100,000.

Fixed deposits at chartered bank, bearing interest at 4 per cent., $28,000.

POLICE, PRISONS, AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The following changes were authorised during the year in the strength of the police force :—

Increases.—Two chief detective inspectors (European contingent), twelve sergeants and seven constables.

Decreases.—Three inspectors, vacancies to be absorbed as they occur.

On the 1st January, 1898, the force of Europeans was five constables under strength, and on the 31st December, one drill instructor and four men under strength.

The increased advantages offered to the Sikh contingent had the effect of bringing the establishment rapidly up to strength, and the extra fifty men required for Penang were obtained without any difficulty.

The Malay contingent has been kept well up to strength; there has been a marked improvement in recruiting for this contingent in Singapore since June.

The detectives, both in Singapore and Penang, have worked more efficiently this year, especially in the latter Settlement.

No serious strikes or disturbances of any kind have taken place.

There were twenty-three cases of murder and twelve of gang-robbery.

There were two arrests for murder in extradition cases, and one for a murder committed in 1894, which are not included in the above figures.

Gambling on an extensive scale by means of lotteries was exceedingly prevalent in Singapore and Penang. Great patience

and care on the part of the police in the conduct of these usually difficult prosecutions was rewarded by a large proportion of convictions.

An attack of beri-beri rendered the Singapore Prison unhealthy for a time, and a batch of sick prisoners was transferred to the Quarantine Depôt, with a very beneficial result to their health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the census of 1891, is now estimated to be 592,587. During the year 1898 there were registered 12,781 births, of which 6,625 were of male and 6,156 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 18,032, as compared with 21,427 in 1897.

The public health of the Colony during 1898 was better than during 1897, as may be seen by the great diminution in the death-rate and by the admissions to the hospitals. The only exception was that venereal disease increased. The death-rate for the whole Colony was 30·43 per mille, as compared with 36·90 per mille in 1897. No death-rate so low has been experienced for the last fifteen years.

Except for small-pox the Colony was remarkably free from zymotic disease in 1898.

The arrangements described two years ago for the registration of deaths have been continued during 1898, with satisfactory results.

In Singapore and Penang the general arrangements for the sanitation of the populace are carried out by the municipality, and both places enjoy a good water supply.

Malacca has been furnished with a water supply, also Balik Pulau, Bukit Mertajam, Butterworth, and Nibong Tebal in the Northern Settlement, and arrangements are being made to extend the areas served by some of these reservoirs.

Small improvements in drainage have been made to villages in Province Wellesley.

Climate.

The mean temperature of the Colony was 79° Fah. The mean rainfall was in inches 106·19 in Singapore; 124·51 in Penang; 90·21 in the Dindings; and 78·83 in Malacca. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 7½ inches at the Dindings on the 9th April. At the Quarantine Station, Singapore, as much rain as 25·56 inches fell in one month.

The monsoon winds make themselves felt at Singapore some two or three weeks later than in the Indian Ocean.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

During the year under review, 6,660,968 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 6,031,136 in 1897. The registration, insurance, and parcel post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all continue to show steady progress. The postal revenue amounted to $234,860, which is an excess of $19,614 over the income of the department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1898 was $204,984, being an increase of $6,848, as compared with the expenditure of the year before. There is an increase on "British Postage," due to increased weight of mails.

The increase in money order business was quite extraordinary. The transactions in sterling amounted to £13,505, in Indian currency to nearly Rs.1,046,755, and in local currency to $263,717; the total business done aggregated $1,141,606, against a total of $806,885 in 1897.

Imperial penny postage was introduced on Christmas Day.

The Government owns the telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley, and also the inland telegraphs at Malacca which are all connected with the Government lines in the Federated Malay States. The cables between the Settlements which form the Colony belong to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. The mileage belonging to Government is as follows :—

Penang Settlement nearly .....80 miles
Malacca .....36 „

The Government telephone lines in Singapore are maintained and worked by a company; in Penang and Province Wellesley they are worked by the Government. Three hundred and nine miles of wire are open which are the property of the Government.

MILITARY.

The garrison consists of Her Majesty's regular forces and Asiatic artillery. No militia force exists.

A valuable volunteer artillery force, 105 strong, exists in Singapore; only Europeans are enlisted in it. It possesses some Maxim guns in the use of which it is proficient, and it has learned to work some of the guns belonging to the regular armament of the garrison.

The constabulary force exceeds 1,900 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs. They are well drilled and armed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

A long standing difference of opinion between the Colony and the State of Johore, as to the exact boundary between Malacca and Muar, was settled amicably by arbitration early in the year, and the boundary has been delineated.

The proposed railway from Singapore to Johore Strait was unfortunately delayed by an adverse vote in the Legislative Council, due to the magnitude of the estimated cost, which was nearly a million dollars.

Designs were adopted and the ironwork was ordered for an extensive wharfage scheme in Penang.

In Singapore the principal works were the construction of new barracks.

At Blakang Mati the Asiatic Artillery Barracks and quarters for hospital sergeant were practically completed, and the work of constructing roads and paths well advanced.

At Tanglin five married quarters and the schoolmaster's quarters were finished, and work in connection with the water supply to Tanglin Barracks made considerable progress.

At Pearl's Hill two warrant officers' quarters and six married staff sergeants' quarters were completed.

The construction of emplacements for the new quick firing armament of the harbour defence forts was nearly completed by the Royal Engineers' Department and a number of the guns have been mounted.

The only other work of importance at Singapore was the extension of Beach Road Reclamation.

In Penang the Public Works Department undertook the construction of a storage reservoir and settling tanks at Bukit Seraya.

In Malacca a new court house at Jasin was completed.

Under Roads and Bridges.—In Penang, the Batu Ferringi Road was extended, and in Province Wellesley three steel bridges were completed and opened to traffic.

The Perak Railway system is under extension from Parit Buntar to Prye in Province Wellesley.

Necessary quarantine regulations restricted the flow of Chinese immigration below the average (140,000) for the last ten years, but the numbers of immigrants (133,558, including females 9,146) were considerably in excess of those for 1896. The demand for labour was very great during the year. There is still a lamentable disproportion between the sexes.

From British India there was an increase in statute labourers but a decrease in free immigrants.

The climate is a very trying one for Europeans, and the field for employment of white men is small. No man should come to the Colony without a special engagement. The disturbances in the Philippines largely increased the number of unemployed loafers, whom the community had to deport as being unable to maintain themselves.

Owing to the high price of rice the rate of wages increased, and the large influx of foreigners into Singapore raised the rates of house rent considerably.

Provided the surrounding markets in China and Siam be kept open the future prospects of trade seem encouraging. The policy of those responsible for French Indo-China seems to be to try to compel that Colony to trade almost exclusively with the mother country; with a liberal policy its trade with Singapore would be five times the present amount.

The war in the Philippines has curtailed all exports to that country, except military stores from America, and has diminished exports from it. But the Malay Peninsula and Netherlands India are being developed rapidly, and the increasing prosperity in Siam makes it likely that it will afford a more profitable market in future.

On the whole the general condition of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

J. A. SWETTENHAM,

Colonial Secretary, S.S.

September 20th, 1899.

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1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 304.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 287.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1900.

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No.	Colony.	Year.
273	Sierra Leone	1898
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar...	1898
277	Bahamas...	"
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279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
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286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.

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No. 304.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 287.)

MR. EGERTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Singapore,
17th August, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1899.

I have, &c.,

W. EGERTON.

Deputy of the Officer Administering the Government.

6784—800—9/1900 Wt 24600 D & S—5

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1899.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1899.

FINANCIAL.

1. The Revenue for 1899 amounted to $5,200,026, corrected to $5,199,150 for arrears, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

Settlement.	Amount.
	$
Singapore	3,104,376
Penang	1,671,448
Malacca	424,202

There was an increase of $128,745 as compared with the Revenue for 1898, and of $879,819 as compared with that for 1897.

The principal increases were under Licences $60,936, Land Sales $49,232, Stamps $29,501, Fees of Office $13,339, Reimbursements $12,755, and Fines, Fees, and Forfeitures $11,616.

The Pawnbrokers Ordinance, 1898, is the cause of the increase under licences. Under it the number of shops is limited, and the right to keep them let by public tender. The former system was to allow an unlimited number of shops at fixed fees.

There were also satisfactory advances under Land Revenue, $8,128, and District Collections, $7,642.

There is a decrease under Interest of $57,798, accounted for by the fact that in 1898 Pahang paid two years' interest on its loan to the Colony. There was also a special sum brought to credit in 1898 for profit on Government of India 3½ per cent. stock sold.

The Expenditure for the year was $5,062,299, as compared with $4,587,366 in 1898, and $4,429,694 in 1897.

The chief increases were:—

Expenditure.	Amount.
	$
Public Works Department Expenditure	211,822
Other Charges	133,310
Personal Emoluments	82,115
Special Expenses	52,627
Military Expenditure	24,428

The increase under Public Works Department expenditure is due to the erection of the Penang pier having been commenced; large payments for the material ordered from England were made during the year. The increase under "Other Charges" is chiefly caused by expenditure in connection with the currency note issue. Personal emoluments expenditure is greater, owing principally to the scheme for increased pay of the European police contingent. Special expenses were swollen by the colonial contribution of $50,000 to the South African War Relief Fund.

On the other hand, there is a decrease of $18,790 under Extraordinary Expenditure, the preliminary expenses of the Penang pier works having been charged to this vote in 1898; pension charges also diminished by $10,039, principally under the subhead of "Difference of Rate for Payment of Pensions in England."

The balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1899, was $2,696,295 as compared with $1,480,300 on the same date in 1898. The large increase in the credit balance during the year is due to the repayment by the Native States of Negri Sembilan and Pahang of their debts to the Colony, amounting to $1,077,000. This amount appeared last year under Dependencies.

The Colony has no debt.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange was very steady during the year. The average value was 1/11$\frac{11}{16}$ on demand, and 1/11$\frac{15}{16}$ at four months' sight, as compared with 1/11$\frac{1}{16}$ and 1/11$\frac{1}{4}$ in 1898. The highest rate for demand drafts was 2/0$\frac{1}{8}$ in April and May, and the lowest 1/11 in October.

CURRENCY.

The currency of the Colony consists of Mexican and British dollars, circulating at equal value, and the Government currency notes.

The proposed demonetization of the Japanese silver yen or dollar, referred to in the report for 1898, was carried into effect in April, 1899, on the expiration of the three months' notice given in the previous December. It caused very little, if any, disturbance to trade, as the banks had provided British dollars in ample quantity to take the place of the demonetized coin, and the Government currency note issue commenced on 1st May.

British dollars to the value of $29,349,725 were imported by the local banks alone, as compared with $19,492,168 in 1898. Other dollars to the value of $852,591 were imported by the banks.

The annual importation of British dollars since their first coinage in 1895 has been:—

Year.	Amount.
	$
1895	2,201,890
1896	3,623,000
1897	25,704,908
1898	19,492,168
1899	29,349,725

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $8,082,209, as compared with $7,737,057 in 1898.

The consent of the home authorities was obtained in 1898 to the issue of a Government note currency for the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and steps were taken in that year to design and print the notes. The design adopted bears the value marked on it in four places, with a description in English, Malay, and Chinese, and on the back the figure of a tiger.

The new notes were first issued on 1st May, the amount in circulation on the 10th of May and of each subsequent month being:—

Month.	Amount.
	$
10th May	405,000
„ June	780,000
„ July	1,118,000
„ August...	1,676,000
„ September	2,626,000
„ October	3,100,000
„ November	3,285,000
„ December	3,820,000

They at once circulated freely throughout the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and the amount issued was only limited by the supplies received from England. At the end of the year all the notes received were in circulation, except $245,000 worth of $5 notes, which had been received only on 27th of December. Notes to the value of $2,535,000 ordered in 1898 had not been supplied.

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the three municipalities, including a loan by Government of $250,000 to Penang, and a contribution from Government of $10,000 towards the expenses incurred in stamping out a small outbreak of plague in that Settlement, amounted to $1,680,287, and their expenditure to $1,389,009.

TRADE.

The year 1899 was profitable to importers, and trade increased both in bulk and value.

Prices of manufactured imports were generally higher towards the last half of 1899, and the principal articles of export, especially

tin, pepper, and tapioca, shew enhanced annual average values of from 20 per cent. to 70 per cent.

Coffee alone has declined in price.

Trade with gold standard countries rose 15 per cent., with silver standard countries 16 per cent., the greatest increases being in imports from silver countries and in exports to gold countries.

Homeward freights are now controlled by the Shipping Conference, and the abnormally high rates of 1898 were still further increased in 1900, and are a very heavy burden on producers of bulky and low priced goods, such as tapioca. There is little doubt that the conference is driving away trade from our ports—merchandise that was formerly sent to Singapore for transhipment being now sent direct to Europe. The effect of the conference is not felt as severely now when there is such general expansion and commercial activity as will be the case should its operations continue until an era of depression occurs.

The price of Cardiff coal rose to $30 = £3 per ton *ex* wharf at the close of the year, partly owing to the scarcity of tonnage caused by the demands made on steamships by the South African War, and also by the action of the conference, which prevents all but certain regular lines of steamers obtaining homeward freights at Singapore.

During the year the line of British steamers plying between Singapore, Bangkok, and Borneo was purchased by a German firm, and now sails under the German flag.

The aggregate trade for the last five years—Inter-Settlement trade excluded—shews as follows:—('000 omitted)

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	$	$	$	$	$
Merchandise ...	323,849	328,065	348,852	398,052	462,136
Specie	47,343	46,999	62,515	62,367	60,854
Total ...	371,192	375,064	411,367	460,419	522,990

The increase in merchandise is thus over 16 per cent. in value.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports increased by over 33 million dollars, or 13·4 per cent. The total amounting to $246¼ million dollars, or £24¼ million sterling.

Under foodstuffs, opium, sugar, and tapioca, shew the largest increases, with smaller advances under spices, provisions, fish, medicines, spirits, and malt liquors.

The largest decline was 5½ million dollars in rice. A decrease of $645,000 in coffee is to be noted.

Increases are general in other imported foods.

Imports of manufactured textiles generally increased, but a decline occurred in the value of cotton piece goods.

Gunnies, silk piece goods, apparel, hosiery, &c., sarongs, cotton, blankets, and woollens all increased; grey yarn alone exhibiting a decline. Manufactured metals in nearly every class display advances, but a falling off in the value of telegraph materials imported reduces the favourable balance. Hardware and ironware, steel, tin plates, corrugated iron, zinc, tools, machinery, and copperware exhibit conspicuous increases.

Miscellaneous manufactured goods shew a serious decrease in cement only, but against this increases are widespread and important, particularly in paper and paper ware, and fancy goods, followed by fireworks, lamps, books, clocks, and matches, joss sticks, perfumery, japanware, paints, crockeryware, &c.

EXPORTS.

The value of exports of merchandise from the Colony increased by 31 million dollars or 16·9 per cent.; the total export trade in 1899 being nearly 216 million dollars or £21¼ million.

Increases in imports of foodstuffs and manufactured goods are reflected more or less on the export side.

Produce not used as food increased by 6¾ million dollars, chiefly observable in the enhanced values in guttas and rubbers, copra, planks, timber, ground nuts, rattans, raw hides, and bark. Decreases occurred in the values of gambier and cocoa-nut oil.

The extraordinary rise in the price of tin, from a little over £91 per ton at the beginning of the year to nearly £150 at the end of September, though followed by a decline to £103 in December, accounts for an increase of no less than £2,300,000 in the value of the exports of that metal.

The weight exported was, however, less, being 759,551 pikuls in 1899 against 766,216 pikuls in 1898.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

The quantity of rice received reached nearly 360,000 tons, of which over 315,000 tons were re-exported. Supplies from Rangoon fell off by nearly 90,000 tons, while the quantity from Siam and Saigon slightly increased.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1899.

Opium imports rose by 611 chests, and represented an enormously increased value, owing to the price having risen from an average of $696 per chest in 1898 to $805 in 1899, the figures being:—

Year.	Chests.				
	Indian.	Persian.	Chinese.	Other.	Value.
					$
1898 ...	14,191	231	5	17	10,053,024
1899 ...	14,486	541	—	28	12,119,275

The continued low price of Liberian coffee is restricting cultivation, and the exports fell 16½ per cent. in quantity and 30½ per cent. in value.

A great rise occurred in the price of tapioca, the average for the year being $6·84 per pikul against $4·34 in 1898.

The exports of this product, which exceeded in quantity and value those of any previous year, nearly reached 52,000 tons.

The figures for the last three years are:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		$
1897	39,940	2,563,220
1898	47,738	3,480,680
1899	51,667	5,937,120

The principal spices as a rule shew well over last year's figures, with the exception of pepper, which has a decrease of about 2 per cent. The feature of the year in gums is the extraordinary increase in guttas.

Exports of gutta percha of good and inferior quality reached 194,000 pikuls compared with 114,000 pikuls in 1898. The exports consist of previously imported gutta, very little being produced in the Colony.

Benjamin, sticklac, and copal shew increased quantities, but dammar, camphor, and india-rubber fell off.

From the Celebes and Sumatra greater quantities of rattans were received.

Exports of gambier decreased, but large stocks, it is believed, were held at the close of the year, owing to the low prices then ruling.

Copra has the largest export on record, owing to increased importations from the Dutch Indies.

Tin exports, in spite of the high price, barely reached the last year's record.

The formation of several large companies for hydraulic sluicing of hill sides; the arrival of large numbers of Chinese miners in the latter half of the year, and the immigration of many more expected in the current year will probably very largely increase the production of this metal in the Federated Malay States in 1900. Nearly 33,000 tons of tin ore were imported for smelting in Singapore, all (with the exception of 1,600 tons from the Dutch Indies) being from the Malay Peninsula.

Coal imports exceeded those of previous years. 45,000 tons more were received from the United Kingdom. Japan steadily retains her hold of this trade, having sent 281,000 tons, an increase of 18,000 tons, and more than half the total import. Imports of both Bengal and Australian coal were smaller, the last-named class having been shipped to other eastern parts direct. A reduced amount of Borneo coal was also imported.

Liquid fuel from Cotie, in Dutch Borneo, was brought in to the extent of 24,000 tons, and it is probable that trade in this fuel will show considerable expansion in the near future.

Petroleum consignments increased from all places except Sumatra; supplies from Burma being double the 1898 figures.

It is noteworthy that the importation in cases and tins of Russian oil from Batoum has been entirely superseded by consignments in bulk.

The rise in the price of Manchester goods towards the latter half of 1899 was taken advantage of locally to indent heavily on stocks, but delay in making purchases took place, in spite of an active market, so that an actual decrease is apparent in piece goods imported.

The share of the United Kingdom in piece goods sent to the Colony fell from 82 per cent. of the total quantity and 86 per cent. in total value in 1898 to 75½ per cent. in quantity and about 80 per cent. in value.

The increased proportion received from other countries was chiefly in favour of Asiatic countries.

The large trade in sarongs, slendangs, and kains, which some years ago was entirely in the hands of Continental manufacturers, is being rapidly acquired by the United Kingdom, and in 1899, for the first time for many years, supplies from the United Kingdom exceeded those from all other European ports.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1899.

Imports of plain yarn from Britain fell off, as is to be expected in face of the competition from India, but dyed yarn imports increased both from the United Kingdom and the Continent.

Over 90 per cent. in the value of sewing thread imported, 77 per cent. of the quantity of handkerchiefs, and over 80 per cent. in quantity of cotton blankets, came from the United Kingdom.

Imports of apparel, millinery, hosiery and haberdashery from Europe show an increase of about £20,000 from the Mother Country, and of about £40,000 from the Continent.

The value of imports from France of umbrellas amounted to about £16,000 out of a total trade from that country of about £30,000.

The supply of gunny bags from Calcutta reached a total value of about £350,000, an increase of £50,000.

Metals of all kinds, except telegraph materials and nails, shew greater quantities and values. Home manufacturers failed to comply with orders for machinery, being unable to cope with the business offered; the prices of metals and manufactures were very high.

Omitting telegraph materials, it is seen that the values received from the Mother Country increased by 36 per cent., and from the Continent by about 14 per cent.

Machinery imports from Europe and America together are valued at £90,000, of which £75,000 came from the United Kingdom, the balance being equally divided between the Continent and the United States.

European imports of hardware and ironware valued £200,000; £115,000 coming from the United Kingdom, over £80,000 from the Continent, and the balance from the United States.

Iron bar and nail rod European imports are valued at £50,000, of which over £40,000 came from the United Kingdom, and the balance from the Continent. The whole of the corrugated iron trade, valued at £47,000, is with the United Kingdom.

Tin plates, coming almost entirely from the Mother Country, are valued at nearly £65,000. In the nail trade the Continent sent goods to the value of £24,000 out of a total of £27,000. Zinc sheathing is largely imported from the Continent. Telegraph cables and materials imported from the United Kingdom fell from a value of £208,000 to £77,000.

Miscellaneous manufactured goods exhibit increases generally. Explosives under various names, which are classified as dynamite, continue to arrive in large quantities from Germany.

The cement trade is gradually passing into the hands of Continental traders. At one time the Continental imports fluctuated between a ninth and a fourth of the amount received from England, but in 1899, for the first time, Continental imports actually exceed those from the Mother Country.

Increasing quantities of American bicycles are imported—principally of second and third grade machines, which are sold from £7 10*s*. upwards. The very cheap class of British manufacture, which would be bought by Natives and Chinese, is entirely absent from this market.

Imports from the United Kingdom increased by 2½ per cent., with a total trade of £2,800,000.

Decreases occurred in cotton piece goods and telegraph materials, yarn and cement. Most other articles shew increases. Exports to the United Kingdom amounted in value to £4,600,000, an increase of 67 per cent. This large apparent increase is, no doubt, in part attributable to the growing custom of optional bills of lading. It is not uncommon to have three and four ports declared as the optional destination of produce, and as shippers allege inability to specify the port, the first named, generally London, is taken as the port of consignment, and the United Kingdom credited with the goods.

The extraordinary rise in the value of tin alone accounts for £1½ million of the increase, guttas and rubbers for £275,000. The other headings showing the largest increases are hides, rattans, tapioca, and sago.

Exports of pepper declined.

Imports from the Continent increased 18 per cent., with a total trade of £1,380,000; Germany, Belgium, and Italy being the gainers.

A consignment of artificial indigo from Belgium, the products of the Badische Analine and Soda Works, of Ludwigshafen, Germany, may fore-shadow the extinction of an important local industry.

Imports of apparel and hosiery, malt liquors, lamps, dynamite, provisions, and hardware from Germany increased. On the other hand, matches and cement received from that country decreased.

From Belgium increased quantities of crockeryware and zinc sheathing were received, but less machinery.

Imports from Italy of dyed yarn and condensed milk increased; but cotton piece goods received from that country diminished.

Denmark, with increased shipping facilities, almost doubled her previous figures. Sweden sent more matches and bar iron.

France largely increased her hold on the umbrella trade, and the trade with Holland and Austria shows little variation in the total value.

Russian imports are confined to petroleum, which shows an increase in value owing to rise in price.

Exports to the Continent increased by 14 per cent., with a total value of £2¾ millions.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1899.

Our exports to France alone exceeded in value those to all the other continental countries combined, with an increase of over 40 per cent., and a trade of £1 $\frac{2}{5}$ millions. This again may be partly due to the use of optional bills of lading; the chief increases occurring in copra, tin, guttas, rubbers, tapioca, and rattans, while a smaller value of coffee and white pepper were sent to that country.

Exports to Germany show a trifling increase in the total value sent, chiefly in pepper, but there was a decline in tin, gambier, and copra.

Exports to Italy increased chiefly in tin, copra, and sago flour. The value of pepper exported, however, was less.

Consignments to Austria of copra and pepper increased.

A fall of half the whole trade took place in the case of Holland, caused by the falling off in tin sent, but the remarks relative to optional bills of lading are very applicable in this case. An apparent decrease occurred in sago flour sent to Holland.

To Russia less copra, tin, and pepper were sent.

Imports from the United States rose from £80,000 to £130,000, and the exports to that country from £2$\frac{1}{4}$ million to nearly £3 million.

Petroleum, lard and tallow, clocks and watches, and metals generally account for the increased imports. Tin contributed the increase in exports.

Heavy declines occurred in gambier, coffee, copal, and rattans exported.

Imports from the Dutch Indies increased by 22 per cent., chiefly in copra, guttas, rubbers, tin ore, sugar, raw cotton, ground nuts, oils, live animals, spices, fish, gums generally, rice and produce generally.

Coffee, rattans, gambier, black pepper, tin, tobacco, charcoal, planks, teel seeds, and gum copal decreased.

Exports to Dutch Indies totalled nearly the same value as in 1898, but increased to Java and Dutch Borneo.

Fish, cotton goods, oil cakes, gunnies, opium, and sarongs, &c., sent, all shew increases, rice, cocoa-nut oil, wheat flour, matches, coffee, confectionery, and cattle declined.

There was a decreased import trade with India and Burma of 7 per cent. more than accounted for by the fall in the value of rice received from Rangoon, owing probably to famine demands in India.

Imports of opium, gunnies, cotton piece goods, oil cakes, live animals, books, fruits, ghee, and twine increased. A fall in the value of coal and plain yarn are the only other declines of note.

The exports to India show a small increase, chiefly in areca-nuts, rice, sago, gambier, apparel, sugar, matches, and fish,

while those of tin, pepper, camphor, teel seeds, coffee, and petroleum decreased.

Trade with the States of the Malay Peninsula shows an increase in imports of over 43 per cent., tin and tin ore accounting for the greater portion; pepper, arecanuts, gambier, copra, tapioca, curry stuff, live animals, rattans, &c. for the remainder.

Exports to the Peninsula increased 7 per cent., opium, swine, machinery, cotton, lard, kachang oil, tobacco, and sugar contributing to the expansion. Exports of rice show a large decline; smaller decreases occurred in apparel, cement, and gunnies sent.

Trade with Siam and Siamese States increased slightly, both in imports and exports, chiefly owing to an increase in tin, and to a much smaller extent in cattle, rice, and bark. The value of exports of bran, silk piece goods, black pepper and timber, sugar and gunnies largely increased.

Exports of cotton goods fell off largely.

Hongkong and China trade rose by 21 per cent. in imports, mainly seen in medicines, provisions, paper, tea, silk piece goods, apparel, and hosiery.

Exports chronicle a small increase, especially noticeable in raw cotton, black pepper, and timber. A large decrease occurred in rice exports.

French Indo-China trade increased 13 per cent. in imports, and fell off slightly in exports. The export trade is being slowly killed by increased protective duties, against which even the French colonial merchants protest in vain.

Imports from Japan of apparel, hosiery, japanware, and coal increased. The smaller exports of rice more than account for the heavy decrease in the total value of our export trade with that country.

It should not be overlooked that, in the several cases where large increases are noted in tin and tin ore, they are almost entirely due to the abnormally high price of that metal in 1899; the average price in 1898 being £69 6*s.* 8*d.* a ton, and in 1899 £121.

Attention is also called to the fact that a correct estimation of our trade with the different countries of Europe is becoming impossible, owing to the large adoption of optional bills of lading. Where goods are exported under optional bills of lading, the country first mentioned is credited with their contents, and there exist at present no means of ascertaining the actual destination of the goods.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are practically no mines in the Colony. The tin deposits of Malacca are usually left undisturbed, though prospectors visit the Settlement from time to time, and small quantities of the

metal are still exported. The rich deposits of the rapidly developing Federated Malay States attract all the most experienced miners. No other metal has ever been mined in the Colony, though traces of the gold-bearing quartz veins of the interior are found within the boundaries of Malacca.

The laterite deposits of Singapore and Malacca supply an excellent and cheap metalling for the country roads, while granite of good quality from the islands to the east of Singapore is used for the roads of the town.

Laterite is absent from the Island of Penang, and from Province Wellesley. The roads in that settlement being formed of granite, which is abundant in every locality where the land rises much above sea level.

The Colony has few manufactures, the prosperity of the towns of Singapore and Penang being due to their positions as collecting and distributing centres for the trade of the surrounding countires. Singapore, however, has the largest tin-smelting works in the world; 31,567 tons of ore were converted into tin at these works in 1899.

The fisheries of the Colony are very rich, and give occupation to a large number of people. Most of the fish caught near Singapore and Penang is consumed fresh. That caught at the Dindings is salted for consumption in Penang and Perak. In both Penang and Malacca large quantities of a very small species of shrimp are manufactured into "belachan"—a favourite native condiment for eating with curry.

Large establishments for the tinning of pine-apples exist in Singapore, where this industry first originated, and which is still the chief source of supply to the European and Australian markets.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Coco-nuts are very widely grown throughout the Colony, the largest plantations existing in Penang and Province Wellesley.

Singapore is not an agricultural settlement, but coco-nuts are grown round the coast, and pine-apples for the tinning manufactories cover most of the hills within easy reach of the town. Indigo is grown for local use in dyeing the cloth used by the Chinese.

In Penang, after coco-nuts and padi, the chief products are sugar from European and Chinese estates, the former being the largest and most important, with the most modern machinery; tapioca from one large European owned estate, and spices cultivated by Chinese on the hills.

Large fruit plantations also exist, which supply the towns in the Settlement and Perak.

Rubber cultivation is also attracting attention.

A very successful agricultural show was held at Butterworth, in Province Wellesley.

In Malacca are large and profitable tapioca estates, owned exclusively by Chinese. The method of cultivation is wasteful. Forest land is cleared and planted with three crops or four crops (the plant takes from 18 to 24 months to mature), and then abandoned. Much land, however, is fit for cultivation again after lying fallow from 15 to 20 years, and it has, as yet, been found impossible to cultivate tapioca profitably in this settlement in any other manner.

The price of this product rose during the year to nearly double the average of the last few years, and in consequence there was an eager demand for land, no less than 10,985 acres being alienated during 1899 for tapioca cultivation.

Coco-nuts are largely grown along the littoral, and the Malay population plant padi sufficient for their own consumption. Some rice has always to be imported for the Chinese in the town, and on the large estates.

Malacca is famed for its fruit, and is one of the chief sources of fruit supply to Singapore.

The low price of gambier during recent years has caused this cultivation to be much neglected.

The tea estate at Durian Tunggal produces tea of good quality. The area under cultivation has been extended, and new machinery erected.

Rubber is attracting the attention of Chinese estate owners, and is being largely planted on the Bukit Asahan estate, owned by a Chinese syndicate. Both Para rubber (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) and india rubber (*Ficus Elastica*) thrive in the settlement, and the cultivation is only limited by the difficulty in obtaining seed and cuttings. The Government plantations of both these trees should, in a few years, be capable of supplying all demands.

Towards the close of the year preparations were made for starting a large Government plantation of gutta-percha-producing trees.

The Botanical Gardens of Singapore and Penang continue to supply planters with seeds and plants.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 13,187,010, as compared with 12,661,442 in 1898. The Light dues amounted to $114,501·39.

Two hundred and ninety-eight new vessels, aggregating 7,273 tons, were built in Singapore during the year.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The principal schools of the Colony are either entirely maintained by Government or in receipt of a substantial Grant-in-Aid. There are 31 schools in which the English language is alone taught, 10 schools in which Tamil is taught as well as English, 2 schools in which Chinese only is taught, and 168 schools in which Malay is the only medium of instruction.

The expenditure on Government English schools was $28,032, and on Aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, and Chinese) $46,338.

The Malay schools, all of which are entirely supported by Government, cost $57,807.

Compared with other Colonies, public instruction is decidedly backward; there are several reasons for this—the demand for youths instructed in English is so great that the supply barely keeps pace with it; any youth who knows sufficient English to write a decent letter is sure of employment at once, and ceases to carry his studies further.

Parents are not sufficiently alive to the importance of their children being well instructed, and they will not make the sacrifice necessary to allow their children being sufficiently long at school.

Again, the language difficulty is very great. The vast majority of pupils in the English-teaching schools never hear a word of that language at home. The language of the play-ground, and of the lowest classes in every school is Malay—and Malay of a very low and elementary type. The language of the pupil at home is generally some dialect of Chinese, Tamil, or Malay. This renders the task of acquiring English thoroughly and idiomatically very difficult.

There are no organized technical or industrial schools in the Colony. A certain amount of practical instruction is, however, obtainable in mills, work-shops, and building-yards, and industrial scholarships are granted to enable boys to support themselves during the period of their apprenticeships. Two such scholarships were awarded in 1899.

Two valuable scholarships, known as the Queen's Scholarships, of the value of £200* a year for 4 years, are annually awarded after competitive examination to enable the best instructed youths from the Colony to continue their studies at a British residential University. One of these students obtained his degree in first class honours in natural science during the year 1899. Higher education is also fostered by the grant of local Government

* Increased in 1900 to £250.

scholarships, and of a bonus for passes in the Cambridge Senior Locals.

The number of pupils in the English-teaching schools of the Colony has been yearly increasing. One Government English school was closed during the year as being unnecessary, the pupils for the most part joining the large and efficient Penang Free School. Two new Grant-in-Aid schools were opened.

In Vernacular instruction the year was marked by the sanction given to the establishment of a Malay Training College for teachers at Malacca, the creation of scholarships to enable Malay boys to receive free instruction in English, and the re-organisation of Tunku Syed Husain's Home at Penang, to enable poor scholars from the country to obtain board and lodging while attending town schools.

A new education code was passed; it substitutes a grant by inspection for the former system of grants by result of individual examination of each scholar. Schools now receive Government aid in the form of a capitation grant, varying according to the classification of the school as a whole; and the older methods, which made the finances of a school dependent in a great measure upon the uncertain results of a single examination, have now been done away with.

LEGISLATION.

Thirty-five meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year, and 22 Ordinances were passed. Of these the more important ones are:—

Ordinance I., of 1899, to regulate the manufacture, use, sale, storage, transport, importation, and exportation of explosive substances.

Ordinance IV., of 1899, to provide for the issue of Government paper currency.

Ordinance V., of 1899, to repeal and re-enact with amendments "The Lepers' Ordinance, 1898."

Ordinance VII., of 1899, for the protection of Indian immigrants.

Ordinance VIII., of 1899, to regulate the construction of a railway through a portion of Province Wellesley, and

Ordinance XX., of 1899, to prevent the propagation of plague.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Except the Chinese hospital at Singapore, all the general hospitals in the Colony are under Government management. The plantation hospitals on the sugar estates at Province Wellesley maintained by the planters, are frequently visited by Government officers. In 1899, the principal causes for admission were malaria, beri-beri and venereal disease.

There was a slight outbreak of plague in Penang during May, June, and July. Forty-nine cases occurred, resulting in 37 deaths. The origin of the outbreak was not definitely ascertained.

Cholera caused two deaths in Singapore, and one death in Penang. Cases of small-pox continued to be reported from all three Settlements, the numbers being—

Settlement.	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore	339	106
Penang and Province Wellesley ...	707	163
Malacca	47	4

The hospitals (exclusive of the lunatic asylum) received in the year 23,265 new patients. The Government maintains a lunatic asylum at Singapore, a leper asylum at Singapore, and another at Pulau Jerejak—an island close to Penang. The year began with 173 lunatics in the asylum, and the number had increased to 178 on the 31st December, 1899.

Cases of beri-beri occurred in the asylum throughout the year.

The quarantine regulations were admirably carried out during 1899.

SAVINGS BANK.

There was a steady increase in savings bank transactions as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $431,263, an increase of $20,347 as compared with 1898. The deposits amounted to $316,017, and withdrawals to $297,411.

The total of investments at the end of the year amounted to $419,907, the particulars of which are as follows, *viz.*:—

Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper, $273,391.

Singapore municipal debenture stock, $48,000 bearing interest @ 5 per cent., and $57,000 @ 4 per cent. = $105,000.

Fixed deposits at Chartered Bank bearing interest @ 4 per cent., $33,000.

Cape stock bearing interest @ 3 per cent., $8,516.

POLICE, PRISONS, AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The following changes, which were authorised in 1898, were carried out during the year:—

Increases.—Two chief detective inspectors were appointed.

Fourteen European constables were enrolled, of whom twelve came from England. It was not found possible to bring the number of sergeants up to the estimate provided for, owing to the absence of constables qualified by conduct and experience for promotion.

Decreases.—Three inspectorships, which fell vacant, were absorbed.

On 1st January, 1899, the force was one drill instructor, eight sergeants, and five constables under strength, and on the 31st December, one inspector and five sergeants under strength, and one constable over strength.

One inspector was added during the year to the Singapore force for duty with the marine police.

There is no difficulty in keeping the Sikh contingent up to full strength with good men.

The general rise of wages throughout the Colony has been prejudicial to the enlistment of Malays.

No Klings or Bengalis are now enlisted for the Malay contingent in Singapore, which tends to keep it below strength, but taking the three Settlements as a whole the contingent has been kept fairly up to strength.

There have been no disturbances.

The detective force has worked fairly well.

There were twenty cases of murder, and sixteen of gang-robbery.

There has been much less serious gambling in Singapore than in 1898, but it is still rife in Penang. Lotteries are somewhat common in Singapore.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the census of 1891, is now estimated to be 604,916. During the year 1899 there were registered 14,537 births, of which 7,598 were of male and 6,939 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 19,150 as compared with 18,032 in 1898.

The public health of the Colony during 1899 was fairly good, the death rate being very slightly higher than that for 1898 (31·66 as against 30·43).

Except for small-pox, the Colony was remarkably free from zymotic disease in 1899. A very limited outbreak of plague occurred in Penang, but was soon stamped out.

The arrangements described three years ago for the registration of deaths have been continued during 1899 with satisfactory results.

In Singapore and Penang the general arrangements for the sanitation of the populace are carried out by the municipality, and both places enjoy a good water supply.

The town of Malacca, and the villages of Balik Pulau, in the island of Penang, Bukit Mertajam, Butterworth, Prye (and the adjacent sugar estate), and Nibong Tebal, in Province Wellesley, enjoy water supplies from reservoirs erected and maintained at Government expense.

CLIMATE.

The mean temperature of the Colony was 80·0 Fahrenheit. The mean rainfall was, in inches, 108·60 in Singapore; 131·22 in Penang; 96·91 in the Dindings; 117·62 in Province Wellesley; and 74·25 in Malacca. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 9·30 inches at Penang on the 5th September. At Government Hill station, Penang, as much as 27·92 inches of rain was recorded in one month (August).

The monsoon winds make themselves felt at Singapore some two or three weeks later than in the Indian Ocean.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

During the year under review 8,068,788 articles passed through the Postal Department of the Colony as compared with 6,660,968 in 1898. The registration, insurance, and parcel post branches, as well as the Chinese sub-post office, all continue to show steady progress. The postal revenue amounted to $227,271, as compared with $234,860 for 1898. Imperial penny postage was introduced on Christmas day, 1898, and the first year's working has thus resulted in only the very small decrease of revenue, $7,589 or 3¼ per cent. This is a triumphant vindication of the arguments of the advocates of universal penny postage. There is little doubt that the receipts in 1900 will more than cover the small loss in 1899, and that the accustomed yearly increase of postal revenue will be resumed. The expenditure charged to 1899 was $211,958, being an increase of $6,973 as compared with the expenditure of the year before.

The sum payable as the Colony's share of the amount due to the Peninsular and Oriental Company, under the new mail contract, is still undecided.

The money order business continues to increase. The transactions in sterling amounted to £15,646, in Indian currency to nearly Rs.1,296,162, and in local currency to $328.812; the total business done aggregated $1,374,520 against a total of $1,141,606 in 1898.

The Government owns the telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley, and also the inland telegraphs at Malacca, which are all connected with the Government lines in the Federated Malay States. The cables between the Settlements which form the Colony, belong to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. The mileage belonging to Government is as follows:—

Penang Settlement nearly	...		85 miles.
Malacca	...	...	36 „

The Government telephone lines in Singapore are maintained and worked by a company. In Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca they are worked by the Government. Three hundred and nine miles of wire are open, which are the property of the Government.

MILITARY.

The garrison of Singapore consists of Her Majesty's regular forces and Asiatic artillery. No militia force exists.

A valuable volunteer artillery force, 105 strong, exists in Singapore; only Europeans are enlisted in it.

Its principal armament consists of a complete battery of six 2·5-inch R.M.L. screw guns, utilised with 7 pr. limbers as a field battery with pony draught, an experiment which has proved successful. It also possesses some Maxim guns (·45), in the use of which it is proficient. A volunteer rifle corps is in course of formation.

During the year a movement was set on foot among the British residents of Penang which resulted in the enrolment of a volunteer infantry corps, 150 strong. The corps received a great deal of local support, and was almost immediately brought up to full strength. Its armament consists of Martini-Enfield rifles with sword bayonets.

The constabulary force exceeds 1,900 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs. They are well drilled and armed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The boundary between the Settlement of Malacca and the State of Johol, the settlement of which had been deferred pending the fixing of the Malacca-Muar boundary, was agreed upon in November, at a conference consisting of the Resident Councillor, Malacca, the British Resident, Negri Sembilan, and two of the Negri Sembilan Chiefs. It was subsequently confirmed by the Officer Administering the Government, and by the Yang Di Per Tuan, of the Negri Sembilan, with the advice of the British Resident. It will be permanently demarcated during the current year, and follows the line which has long been observed as the boundary.

The first railway in the Colony, from Prai to Bukit Mertajam, being the first section of the line through Province Wellesley to join the Perak railway system, which is being constructed by the Federated Malay States Government, was opened by the late Governor Sir C. Mitchell on the 28th of June.

Though the section opened is under 7 miles in length, a large passenger traffic was at once developed, the numbers carried during the remaining six months of the year being 104,704.

The long proposed railway from the town of Singapore to the Straits dividing the Island from Johore and the Peninsula, was approved by the Legislative Council, and preparations made to commence its construction early in 1900.

Work was commenced on the new iron pier and wharf at Penang.

Other important works were:—In Singapore, the completion of the Asiatic artillery barracks, quarters for hospital sergeant at Blakang Mati, and the Tanglin water supply.

The emplacements for the quick-firing armament of the harbour defence forts were completed by the Royal Engineers, and the guns mounted.

Substantial progress was made with the new civil prison, the reformatory, and with the erection of quarters for the senior police officers.

Four miles were added to the road system.

In Penang progress was made with new quarters for the Superintendent of Police, and for the Assistant Postmaster-General.

The large block of buildings to accommodate the Marine Department boarding officers and lascars and the Marine Police was commenced.

A large new police station was built at Jalan Bahru, near the Prai terminus of the Province Wellesley railway.

The Nibong Tebal water supply was improved, and the construction of a new and more elevated reservoir for Balik Pulau commenced.

In Malacca a new ward was added to the Durian Daun hospital, and the telephone system was extended.

The roads were well maintained, and a number of timber culverts and bridge abutments renewed in masonry.

Owing to the prevalence of plague in Hong Kong, coolie immigration from that port was entirely prohibited from June to October, and from the rest of China from June until August. Notwithstanding this restriction, the number of Chinese immigrants (149,697, including 7,717 women) was in excess of the average of the last ten years. The figures for the last three years are:—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1897	101,722	8,271	114,978*
1898	124,412	9,146	133,558
1899	141,980	7,717	149,697

* In addition to these immigrants 4,985 children arrived.

The lamentable disproportion between the sexes tends to increase.

The supply of labour was far below the demand.

A South African War Relief Fund was opened in Singapore by the editor of the *Straits Times*, and largely subscribed to. Other funds were opened in Penang, Malacca, and in the Federated Malay States.

A large public meeting was held on the 30th December, when the *Straits Times* fund was merged in a general fund, to be organised by a representative committee appointed at the meeting.

A case of plague was detected in Penang on the 11th of May, and between that date and the 16th July 49 cases were reported, of which 37 proved fatal. Vigorous and successful steps were taken to stamp out the disease, and no cases occurred after the 16th July. The outbreak caused considerable loss to Penang, as its trade was seriously impeded by the quarantine regulations imposed by foreign powers.

A large sum was also spent by the municipality in sanitary measures taken to suppress the disease. A pleasing feature of the outbreak was the assistance rendered by all races in carrying out the measures advised by the medical officers. This contrasts very favourably with the rioting and bigoted opposition to sanitation and segregation met with in India and elsewhere in Asia.

German trade flourished during the year, and a fleet of eleven steamers trading to Siam, Borneo, and Hong Kong, with an aggregate tonnage of 8,621 tons, was transferred from the British to the German flag as feeders to the German mail line from Hamburg to China.

This large German mail line also commenced running their boats fortnightly instead of monthly, and far larger and finer boats than the Peninsular and Oriental use on their eastern section were placed on the line.

The doubling of the German line, and the purchase of the Bangkok-Singapore fleet of 11 vessels, and other extensions of German shipping in Eastern waters, has probably been much hastened, if not directly caused, by the large profits now being realised by members of the Shipping Conference. This conference is a confederation of all the regular lines of steamers running between China and Europe. They fix the rates of freight, and allow to all merchants shipping exclusively by Conference steamers a rebate of 10 per cent.

This rebate is paid at the end of each year, and is forfeited if the merchant ships goods by any outside steamer, or otherwise breaks the Conference regulations. The result, of course, is that all must ship by Conference steamers, as other boats are few and uncertain. The effect of the Conference has been to raise freight

to London from a normal rate of from 23/- to 27/- a ton to one from 37/6 to 52/6. Freights, when the Conference started, had owing to excess of competing tonnage, dropped as low as 15/- per ton, and even less in some cases. This led to the Conference, and, though its members are now profiting largely by the high freights they receive, its effects are likely to be very injurious to British trade.

Some of the effects so far have been—

(*a.*) The rapid extension of German shipping in the far East.

(*b.*) Rise in the price of coal, owing to colliers being unable to obtain return freights from conference ports. This will probably cause, and perhaps has already caused, steamers to avoid coaling at Singapore where possible.

(*c.*) The extinction of shipments *viâ* the Cape of Good Hope, which is forbidden by the conference.

(*d.*) The restriction of all trade with Europe to steamers of the Conference lines.

(*e.*) Lower rates of freight to countries to which Conference regulations do not extend. Thus freights to London and Europe are from 50 per cent. to nearly 100 per cent. dearer than to New York, though the distance is much less.

The high price of rice noticed in last year's report continued.

Owing to this, and the rapid expansion of trade in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, the rate of wages continued to increase. Town lands rose in value. House rents have been steadily rising for some years past.

The scheme for the erection of a railway to the summit of Penang Hill, the only hill sanitarium in the Colony, took definite shape. A company styled the "Penang Hills Railway Company, Limited," was formed, and an Ordinance (No. XIX., of 1899) passed giving the company the necessary powers to construct the line.

The sanitarium on Penang Hill was formerly frequented by invalids from stations as far distant as Calcutta and Madras, before the hill stations of India were easily accessible.

In more recent years it has become the favourite health resort for Europeans in the Colony and Federated Malay States as well as from the Dutch Settlements in East and Northern Sumatra, no means of ready access to the extensive mountain ranges of that island yet existing.

The elevation of the inhabited portion of Penang Hill varies between 2,550 and 2,000 feet; this, combined with its proximity to the sea, gives it a perfect climate, and when the railway has been constructed it will be within an hour's journey from the town and harbour.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1899.

The sudden death of the Governor on the 7th of December, from a stroke of paralysis after less than one day's illness, threw a gloom over the closing month of the year. Sir Charles Mitchell had been amongst us nearly six years, and was universally liked by all classes of the community, and esteemed as a valued friend by all who knew him.

WALTER EGERTON,

Acting Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements.

Singapore,
July 23rd, 1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 330.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 304.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
306	Gold Coast	1899
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia...	1899–1900
312	St. Vincent	1899
313	Basutoland	"
314	Hong Kong	1899–1900
315	Southern Nigeria	"
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda...	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas...	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla...	Vital Statistics, 1898
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 330.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 304.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR F. A. SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
9th July, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1900.

I have, &c.,

F. A. SWETTENHAM,
Acting Governor.

9719—875—8/1901 Wt 25152 D & S—5

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1900.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for 1900 amounted to $5,386,927, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

Settlement.	Amount.
	$
Singapore	3,244,431
Penang	1,736,130
Malacca	406,366

There was an increase of $186,901 as compared with the Revenue for 1899 and of $315,645 as compared with that for 1898.

The principal increases were under Stamps $90,418, Special Receipts $58,001, Port and Harbour Dues, $15,939, Fines, Forfeitures and Fees of Court $15,660, Fees of Office $14,677, Postage $12,508, Reimbursements $12,298, District Collections $11,603.

Under Special Receipts is included the refund of the Government share of contribution towards the Permanent Jubilee Memorial. There was an advance of $7,270 under "Miscellaneous Receipts."

There were decreases under the heads of "Interest" and "Land Sales," amounting to $28,631 and $23,507 respectively. The former may be attributed to the interest on the Loans to Native States having been paid up in 1899. There was a smaller value of land sold during the year under review.

The Expenditure for the year was $6,037,084, as compared with $5,060,523 in 1899 and $4,587,366 in 1898.

As compared with 1899 the Expenditure shews an increase of $976,561, the principal item being under Works and Building, Special Services $925,543. This increase is due to two large works, viz.:—The Singapore-Kranji Railway and Penang Pier, which were well in hand during the year. There were also some minor increases, $29,976 under Expenditure under "The Volunteer Ordinance," due to the forming of the Volunteer Rifle Corps at Singapore and Penang; $24,188 under Interest,

due to the writing off of a sum of $20,653 for difference in Exchange on balances in England; $23,757 under Roads, Streets, and Bridges, Special Services; $16,893 under Land and Houses purchased.

Of the decreases the most important is under Special Expenses, viz.:—$44,213. The payments in 1899 included $50,000 subscribed towards the South African War Relief Fund. Under Military Expenditure there was a decrease of $12,602 due to the adjustment of the contribution in respect of 1898 (paid in 1899) being of a larger amount than was paid in 1900 for adjusting the 1899 Contribution.

The balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1900, was $2,053,134, as compared with $2,698,065 on the same date in 1899.

The Colony has no debt.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange was unsteady during the year. The average value of the dollar was 2/0$\frac{3}{8}$ on demand, and 2/0$\frac{9}{16}$ at four months' sight, as compared with 1/11$\frac{11}{16}$ and 1/11$\frac{15}{16}$ in 1899. The highest rate for demand drafts was 2/1$\frac{5}{16}$ in October and the lowest 1/11$\frac{3}{8}$ in January.

CURRENCY.

The currency of the Colony consists of Mexican and British dollars, circulating at equal value, and the Government Currency Notes.

British dollars to the value of $21,571,488 were imported by the local Banks alone, as compared with $29,349,725 in 1899. Other dollars to the value of $3,988,750 were imported by the Banks.

The annual importation of British dollars by the Banks since their first coinage in 1895 has been:—

Year.	Amount.
	$
1895	2,201,890
1896	3,623,000
1897	25,704,908
1898	19,492,168
1899	29,349,725
1900	21,571,488

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1900.

The average Bank Note Circulation of the Colony for the year was $6,713,133, as compared with $8,082,209 in 1899. The falling off is due principally to the reduction by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of the amount of its local issue.

The amount of Government Currency Notes in circulation on the tenth of each month (when statistics are published) was:—

Month.	Amount.
	$
January	4,165,000
February	4,875,000
March	5,025,000
April	5,300,000
May	5,300,000
June	5,300,000
July	5,300,000
August...	5,500,000
September	5,660,000
October	5,885,000
November	5,725,000
December	5,928,000

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $1,684,149, and their Expenditure, including a sum of $138,260 expended on Loan Works in Singapore, to $1,737,962.

TRADE

The year 1900 was one of high prices in both manufactured goods and raw materials, but in the closing months the fall at home in the price of cotton and iron tended to a reduction in the former class.

The China War had a disturbing influence on Trade, and other causes, such as the prevalence of epidemic diseases and consequent traffic restrictions, also contributed to curtail business.

Trade with countries having a gold standard increased by 17%, and with silver countries by 5½%, but included in the former class are places under Dutch rule, where silver dollars are for all purposes the only medium of exchange.

Freights are still controlled by the Shipping Conference, and during the year frequent alterations of rates have taken place. New York tin importers pay 15/- a ton, compared with 27/6 paid by the Liverpool consignee,—a distinct advantage to the American Tin-plate maker over his Welsh rivals. Meanwhile it is reported that Macassar and Java are receiving cargo formerly sent to Singapore.

The growing influence of Germany as an oversea carrying power in these waters is more marked than ever, and this result is largely due to the tactics of the Shipping Conference, who, not content with ousting British tramp steamers from these seas, now notify that "Shippers are warned that shipments by "sailer may be prohibited (except to Marseilles) to all Con-"ference supporters."

In connection with this prohibition claim it may be noted that 13 sailing vessels cleared from Singapore with cargoes in 1900, of which 2 only were for Marseilles.

The aggregate Trade for the last five years—Inter-Settlement Trade excluded—shews as follows:—

(,000 omitted.)

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	$	$	$	$	$
Merchandise ...	328,065	348,852	398,052	462,136	519,483
Treasure ...	46,999	62,515	62,367	60,854	57,225
Total ...	375,064	411,367	460,419	522,990	576,708

The increase in Merchandise is thus about 12½% in value.

IMPORTS.

The value of Imports of Merchandise increased by over 33½ million dollars, or over 13½%, the total amounting to nearly 279 9/10 million dollars, or £28¼ million sterling.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1900.

Under Foodstuffs,—Opium, Rice, and Sugar shew enormous increases, with smaller advances in Coffee and Pepper, followed by Tobacco, Medicines, Lard, and Fish.

Almost without exception the items forming this class yield substantial increases.

Of Raw Materials treated as Imports, Coal and Petroleum increased in value by 2 million dollars each, followed by Timber with over $\frac{1}{4}$ of a million increase.

In the Textile Class, Cotton Piece Goods imported increased by $1\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, Sarongs by nearly as much, Gunnies by over $1\frac{1}{4}$ million, and Silk Piece Goods by over $\frac{1}{2}$ a million. Yarns and Sewing Thread both shew a decrease, especially the former.

Imports of Manufactured Metals yielded an increase of $1\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars over the whole class, of which Machinery accounted for nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a million dollars, Hardware and Ironware for over $\frac{3}{5}$ of a million, and Nails for $\frac{1}{5}$ of a million, followed by Iron Bar and Steel with an increase of about $150,000 each, and Tools, Tramway Materials, and Brassware with smaller increases. The decreases are most marked in Telegraph Materials, Cycles and Accessories, Zinc Sheathing, and Yellow Metal.

Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods imported increased by about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, of which Glassware and Matches each contributed over $\frac{1}{4}$ of a million, and Cement about a fourth of the same amount. Other principal increases are seen in Candles, Woodenware, Chinese Shoes, Japanware, Cabinetware, Lamps, Joss Sticks, Beads, Bamboo, and Rattanware.,

Declines are noticeable in Fancy Goods and Toys, Fireworks, Dynamite, Tanned Hides, Earthenware, and Oil Cakes, but the amount of reductions are nearly all between $70,000 and $100,000 only.

EXPORTS.

The value of Exports of Merchandise from the Colony increased by $23\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, or 11%, the total export trade in 1900 being nearly 240 million dollars or £$24\frac{1}{4}$ million sterling.

Increases in Imports of Foodstuffs and Manufactured Goods are shewn more or less on the Export side.

Pepper, Coffee, and Sugar exported increased by over a million dollars each in value.

Nutmegs and Padi shewed decreases.

Raw Materials generally, not used as Foodstuffs, rose by nearly $6\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, of which Guttas accounted for over 4 million, Rattans for $2\frac{7}{20}$ million, Petroleum for $1\frac{3}{4}$ million, and Gambier for about $1\frac{3}{20}$ million, followed by Raw Hides,

Coco-nut Oil and Gum Copal. Of the decreases, Copra alone shewed $2\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars, Borneo and India Rubbers over $\frac{17}{20}$ of a million, and Kachang Oil $\frac{1}{6}$ of a million.

Tin exports valued over 61 million dollars, an increase of nearly 5 million, due to an increased output, combined with an increased average price.

TRADE RETURNS.

The quantity of Rice received reached nearly 388,000 tons, of which nearly 83% was re-exported. Supplies from Rangoon rose by nearly 18,000 tons, while the quantities from Siam and Saigon also increased.

Opium imports rose by nearly 2,000 chests, and represented an increased proportional value owing to the price having risen from an average of $805 per chest in 1899 to $929 in 1900.

Year.	Chests.			
	Indian.	Persian.	Other.	Value.
				$
1899	14,486	541	28	12,119,275
1900	15,853	1,145	20	15,427,897

Wines and Spirits as a rule declined in the quantity imported, with the exception of native liquor. The fall in Malt Liquors is especially noticeable owing to the substitution of Indian for European troops in Singapore.

The Imports of Fish, Dried and Salted, reached the total of 50,000 tons, a decrease of nearly 1,200 tons.

Wheat Flour imports rose from 21,000 to 23,000 tons—nearly the whole of which was of American production, and brought from Hongkong.

Coal Imports are the heaviest on record, having increased by 123,000 tons.

Japan Coal has considerably increased its average price, and shews an increase of 162,000 tons over the previous year's figures.

Cardiff Coal imported decreased in quantity by 13,000 tons.

Australian Coal imported decreased by 20,000 tons, and Borneo Coal by 16,000, while Bengal Coal shewed the same as in 1899, viz., 75,000 tons.

The enormous expansion in the Sumatra petroleum industry is worthy of note. No less than a quantity equal to over $1\frac{1}{5}$ million cases of 65 lbs. each was imported, representing two-thirds of the whole supply. Dutch Borneo, for the first time, figures in the returns as a supplier of this oil, having sent 132,000 cases. American and Russian Oils both declined, and Burma sent only 52,000 cases—less than half the previous year's supply.

The year was marked by unusually violent fluctuations in the Cotton trade, but the tendency was towards a higher level of prices, although these invariably lagged behind Manchester quotations, and, in the absence of margins, the process of buying in and replacement of stocks was considerably curtailed. Those who were fortunate in having stocks on hand had a successful year.

Nearly $5\frac{2}{5}$ million pieces of Cotton Piece Goods and $\frac{4}{10}$ of a million corges (one corge=20 pieces) of Sarongs were imported, an increase of about 90,000 pieces and the same number of corges respectively. Of the total import of Piece Goods over 3 million pieces were declared as plain, $1\frac{1}{2}$ million as dyed, and over $\frac{4}{5}$ of a million as printed.

The United Kingdom supplied 73% of the total imports of Piece Goods in quantity, and 74% in value, shewing a decline of $2\frac{1}{2}$% in quantity and 6% in value compared with 1899.

An increase from India of $\frac{1}{5}$ of a million pieces was observable.

The increase of 30% in the quantity of Sarongs imported was accompanied by an increase of 42% in value. The United Kingdom, although barely keeping her relative position when compared with the Continent, shews she has got a firm hold of a business so long monopolised by her rivals.

The trade in Dyed Yarns displays a decline of 38% in imports, the figures for Grey and Bleached Yarn remaining practically the same as in 1899.

The United Kingdom sent 3,350 bales less of Dyed, and over 1,000 bales less of Grey Yarn.

Silk Piece Goods imported record an advance of 70,000 pieces, chiefly from Hongkong and France.

Umbrellas again shew a large increase from France, amounting to $135,000 on a total trade of $300,000 in 1899.

Manufactured Metals fell considerably in price in the latter half of the year, leaving holders with large stocks of high priced goods, much of which had to be disposed of at an actual loss. This is especially seen in Wire Nails, Steel, and Corrugated Iron.

Of those metals whose quantities as well as values are declared, Tin Plates, Zinc Sheathing, and Yellow Metal alone shew declines.

The Continent of Europe has largely increased its hold in metals, having risen by 41%, while the United Kingdom, after the exclusion of Telegraph Materials, is found to have risen by 22%.

The United States of America has entered the market in competition with the Continent in supplying Wire Nails, and is steadily securing a hold in Machinery, Tools, and Hardware.

Hongkong is taking a front place in the Cement trade, and it is satisfactory to see attempts on the part of British merchants to regain their position from Continental importers.

In supplying Paints the United Kingdom well retained the premier position, but Germany takes first place in the export to the Colony of aniline Dyes.

In providing this market with Paper, Beads, Crockeryware, Clocks and Watches, Glassware and Lamps, the United Kingdom has to entirely give way to Continental manufacturers, but as regards Perfumery, Soap, Cycles, and Shoes, she takes front rank.

The average price of Coffee was $2.40 per pikul higher than in 1899, but quotations weakened towards the close of the year, and the prospects of this industry are not promising.

The quantity exported increased by 57%, reaching over 7,300 tons.

Tapioca exports fell in quantity by over 16%, the total export figures amounting to a little over 43,000 tons. The declines were in the Flake and Flour varieties, Pearl Tapioca having an increased export.

Sagos exported declined by 475 tons on a total of about 43,000 tons.

The quantities of Spices sent out were, on the whole, well up to last year's figures.

Peppers increased by 1¾%, Areca-nuts by 7½%, but Nutmegs, Mace, and Cloves fell slightly.

Tin exports recorded 48,000 tons, an increase of about 3,000, or 6%, although the anticipation was general that a considerable advance would take place. The local average price declared was $74.90 per pikul, an increase of nearly $2 on the 1899 average price. To the United Kingdom nearly 26,000 tons were sent, an increase of over 8,000 tons, and to the United States of America nearly 14,000 tons, a decrease of 5,500 tons.

Gambier exports fell by 3,500 tons on a total trade of over 50,000 tons in 1899. A gradual yearly decline is observable in the output since 1897.

Copra exports record the phenomenal decrease of over 20,700 tons on a total trade of nearly 61,000 tons. The Celebes alone account for more than a third of this decrease, and Dutch Borneo for about another third, but all sources of supply shew more

or less marked decreases. To France alone the exports declined by nearly 27,000 tons. Prices altered little from those of the previous year.

Gutta of good quality increased its export figures by over 1,000 tons, but inferior kinds fell off by about the same amount. This low priced produce, chiefly Gutta Jelotong, is sent principally to the United Kingdom and the United States.

Borneo and India Rubber exports decreased by over 500 tons.

Gum Copal, Gum Benjamin, and Sticklac each shew increases.

The Rattan output increased by nearly 7,000 tons, the whole trade amounting to 37,000 tons.

Exports of Manufactured Goods reflect more or less the imports.

TRADE WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

The United Kingdom imports increased by close on 5%, or by £135,000. This increase is chiefly apparent in greater values of Cotton Piece Goods and Sarongs, Machinery, Hardware, and Ironware, with other Metals generally, Coal, Cement, and Paper.

The decreases were few and unimportant, the largest being Telegraph Materials, which declined by £20,000.

Exports increased by nearly 30%, or by £1,360,000. In Tin alone an increase of over a million pounds is seen, and in Gutta of £375,000, followed by Hides and Gambier with increases of over £20,000 each, and by Rattans and Rice with smaller advances. A falling off in Pepper by £40,000 is followed by smaller declines in Rubbers, Nutmegs, Preserved Fruits, and Isinglass.

From the Continent of Europe imports increased by 23%, or £320,000, of which Germany contributed £170,000, Holland £53,000, France £30,000, Belgium £22,000, and Austria £20,000. From Germany, Apparel, Hosiery, and Smallwares, &c., account for over a third of the increase, but advances are also seen in the values of Hardware, Nails, Glassware, and Malt Liquors received. The only article of note having a decline was Dynamite.

Dutch supplies shew enhanced values in Cotton Piece Goods and Sarongs, Hardware, Railway and Tramway Materials. Gin alone exhibits a decline.

From France, Umbrellas, Brandy, and Silk Piece Goods give important advances.

Imports from Belgium were well distributed; but Earthenware shewed a decline.

Sugar from Austria accounted for three-fourths of the increase in this country's supplies, the Indian protective tariff against bounty-fed beet causing exporters to look round for other openings, but our close proximity to cane-producing countries offers little scope for enterprise here.

Matches from Denmark, Apparel from Spain, and Apparel and Sarongs from Italy shew increased values, but Dyed Yarns and Cottons from Italy decreased, as well as Petroleum from Russia.

Exports to the Continent of Europe decreased by 9%, or over £250,000.

To France alone the falling off was nearly £400,000, followed by Holland with a decrease of £80,000, and Austria and Denmark with small declines.

Russia took a value of nearly £95,000 more, Italy of £50,000 more, and Spain, Belgium, and Germany each of about £30,000 more.

To France, Copra fell off by £300,000 value, Tin by £125,000, and Borneo Rubber by nearly £20,000, followed by Gambier with a smaller decline.

Gutta to France increased by £35,000, White Pepper and Coffee by about £25,000 each, and Rattans by £9,000.

To Holland, Tin alone decreased by £60,000, and to Austria exports of Tin also fell, but Coffee and White Pepper slightly increased in value.

Rattans to Germany increased by £50,000, followed by Pepper and Copra, but there was an enormous decline in Gutta, followed by falls in Gambier and Tin.

Tin and Gambier increased to Belgium, and Copra declined.

Tin to Italy increased by £40,000, and Copra by about £10,000.

Enhanced values of Black Pepper, Copra, and Tin accounted for the increase to Russia.

To Spain, Copra and Black Pepper explain the cause of increase.

The practice of granting optional bills of lading, "London, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Swansea, New York," is extremely common, and in such cases the first port named is taken as the destination.

The imports from the United States increased by 32%, or £43,000.

Coal from America figures in the trade returns for the first time, and, combined with advances in the values of Lard, Lubricating Oil, and Metals generally, more than accounts for the increase. Petroleum imports fell off.

Exports decreased by 10%, or £295,000,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1900.

The decline in Tin sent alone was £580,000, but Rattans increased by £120,000, Coffee by over £50,000, Gambier by nearly £40,000, Black Pepper by £30,000, and Tapioca Pearl, and Preserved Fruits each by £20,000.

From Netherlands India, imports increased by over 16%, or by £730,000.

Petroleum, Guttas, Sugar, Rattans, Pepper, Coffee, Tobacco, Tin Ore, Oils, Gambier, and produce generally yielded advances, but a heavy decline is seen in Copra received.

Exports increased by nearly 16%, or £604,000.

To Java alone an increase of £345,000 is noted, chiefly seen in Rice, Fish, and Gambier, and to a less extent in Petroleum, Matches, Sarongs, Oil Cakes, Yarn, &c.

To Sumatra, Cotton Piece Goods and Sarongs, with Rice, shew the most important increases. Opium alone had a decline. To Dutch Borneo, Cotton Piece Goods shewed an increase of £30,000, followed by Coco-nut Oil, Tramway Materials, Provisions, Biscuits, Petroleum, &c., with small increases.

To this country the value sent of Rice, Sarongs, and Hardware declined.

To other parts of the Dutch Indies, Opium, Cotton Piece Goods, Provisions, Rice, and Gambier, &c., shew advances.

British India and Burma sent to the Colony goods of an increased value of 21%, or £750,000. From Bombay, Grey Yarn and Piece Goods shew the increased imports.

Opium alone from Calcutta increased by over £300,000, and Gunnies by over £125,000.

Sarongs and Cottons from Madras increased by £145,000, and from Burma, Rice alone accounted for £140,000, followed by Tin and Bran with enhanced values, but declines are apparent in Raw Cotton, Petroleum, India Rubber, and Precious Stones received.

Exports increased by about 15%, or about £170,000.

To Bombay, Tin and Coffee rose, but the value of Rice and Areca-nuts sent decreased.

To Calcutta, Sugar, Gambier, Tin and Areca-nuts mark the chief advances.

To Burma, Sarongs, Teel Seeds, Raw Silk, Matches, Preserves, Provisions, Piece Goods, and Sugar shew increases, but a heavy decline in Salt Fish sent is recorded.

Imports from the East Malay Peninsula increased by £27,000, seen in greater values of Tin, Gutta, Cattle, Fish, and Padi received, but Tin Ore fell off in quantity.

The Imports from the Western States increased by £675,000, or 13%, of which Tin Ore alone yielded an enhanced value of £450,000, Tin £75,000, Black Pepper £70,000, Gambier £50,000, and Coffee £40,000.

White Pepper, Areca-nuts, and Rattans were the only declines worth noting.

Exports to the East Malay Peninsula decreased by £2,000, chiefly seen in Piece Goods, Opium, and Yarn sent, Rice alone shewing an increase.

To the West Malay Peninsula exports increased by over £390,000, or 19½%.

Rice sent out increased by £120,000, Opium by over £75,000, Provisions by £35,000, followed by Lard, Machinery, and Tobacco, with about £15,000 each.

The only decline of note was in the value of Kachang Oil sent.

Trade with Siam and the Siamese States increased in imports by about £28,000, and exports by above £88,000.

Imports of Rice rose by nearly £70,000, Cattle by £15,000, and Black Pepper by about £10,000, but Tin alone fell off by over £50,000 value and Fish by nearly £30,000.

Benares Opium sent increased by £56,000, and Petroleum, Areca-nuts, Sugar, and Sarongs by £15,000 each, but Cotton Piece Goods declined by nearly £25,000, Yarn by £10,000, Gunnies and Corrugated Iron by £6,000 each.

Imports from French Indo-China increased by 19½%, or £115,000, chiefly seen in enhanced value of Rice, Fish, Swine, and Raw Silk received, but Hides fell off in value.

Exports rose by £66,000, of which the value of Gunnies sent accounted for £57,000.

The Hongkong and China Trade increased in imports by 11%, and decreased in exports by 2%. Greater values of Medicines, Silk Piece Goods, Beans and Peas, and Opium, followed by Precious Stones, Fish, Cotton Piece Goods, Provisions, and Raw Silk account for the increased imports. Apparel, however, shewed a decline.

Rice, Timber, Precious Stones, Sugar Candy, Areca-nuts, Raw Cotton, Padi, and many other articles sent shew declines.

Tin, Opium, Sugar, Rattans, Beche-de-mer, and Planks record increases.

Japan Coal had an advance of £200,000 in value received out of a total increase in imports of £207,000, and of the increase of £100,000 in exports Petroleum alone accounted for £72,000, followed by Tin and Cardiff Coal.

From Australia a small decline is seen in imports, for which Coal and Sandalwood are responsible. Tin Ore and Wheat Flour received increased in value.

Exports to Australia increased by £15,000, chiefly seen in greater values of Rice, Tapioca, Pepper, and Preserved Fruits sent.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

The tonnage of German shipping in these waters has enormously increased of late, and the Germans have principally benefited from the action of the Shipping Conference, which, by arbitrarily raising freights, has tended to drive trade to other neighbouring ports. Produce, for instance, is now shipped direct from Macassar which formerly found its way to Singapore. Of late years trade with the Philippines has declined, copra, coffee, and other produce being now shipped direct to Europe or America. There is still a considerable import of hides. It is impossible to say at present what effect the transfer of these islands from Spanish to American rule will have on the trade of this Colony.

From a Bangkok paper it appears that whereas formerly 80% of the shipping that entered that port was British, now Germany has the lead. Of the 440 steamers that entered the port in 1900, 44% were under the German flag, and 38% under the British. Of the total value of cargoes from foreign countries, 58% came by German vessels and 34% by British. Of the outward cargoes to foreign countries, 54% went in German, and 34% in British bottoms.

It is of the utmost importance that, in view of the increasing competition for the carrying trade in these waters, the Government should endeavour to increase the facilities of its ports and take every means in its power to foster trade. The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company has, by a large expenditure of capital, provided wharves and docks which have, until recent years, proved sufficient for the requirements of the Port; but it has become a matter for serious consideration whether the time has not come for the formation of a Harbour Trust.

The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company has secured a virtual monopoly of the Wharves and Docks at Singapore, and there is a danger lest the imposition of increased tariff charges for the immediate benefit of shareholders may tend to direct shipping to foreign Ports.

When the Steamer Pier at Penang is completed it is intended that a Harbour Board shall be vested with the management of the wharves and goods landing sheds.

Of late years considerable attention has been paid in England to the important question of supplying information for British Merchants at home as to the state of the Markets and the openings for commercial enterprise in the Colonies and elsewhere.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, which was opened in 1899, should be of great assistance in this matter.

The aims of this Office have recently been brought under the notice of the Chambers of Commerce in this Colony, and

it is to be hoped that these bodies will co-operate in carrying out these objects in the interests of British Trade.

It must be borne in mind, however, that these Chambers are in no sense British Chambers—foreign firms being largely represented—and also that the Straits Merchants are for the most part middlemen acting as Agents for Foreign as well as British Houses.

It can hardly be expected that foreigners will be disposed to assist in ousting their own manufactures from the Market.

It therefore is incumbent on the Government to use every means in its power to collect and place at the disposal of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade the fullest and latest information as to the conditions of the local Markets, the openings for new ventures, and the different classes of goods for which there is a demand.

With this object it is contemplated to charge a Government Officer, who is in a position to obtain trustworthy information in commercial matters, with the duty of receiving and answering enquiries addressed to him officially by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, or unofficially by Merchants and others who may seek advice direct.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are practically no mines worked in the Colony, though deposits of tin exist in the Dindings territory and in Malacca. The rich deposits of the rapidly developing Federated Malay States attract all the most experienced miners.

The Colony has few manufactures, the prosperity of Singapore and Penang being due to their positions as collecting and distributing centres for the produce of the surrounding countries. Singapore, however, has at Pulau Brani the largest tin smelting works in the world.

Tin smelting works are also being erected at Butterworth in Province Wellesley.

Large establishments for the tinning of pineapples exist in Singapore, where this industry first originated, and which is still the chief source of supply to the European and Australian markets.

A large Chinese Biscuit factory has been started, which turned out during the year 10,800 pikuls of Biscuits, and a total of 344,000 tins. An average of 70 workmen are employed.

The fisheries of the Colony are very rich and give occupation to a large number of people. Most of the fish caught near Singapore and Penang is consumed fresh. That caught at the Dindings is salted for consumption in Penang and Perak. In both Penang and Malacca large quantities of a species of shrimp are manufactured into "belachan," a favourite native condiment for eating with curry.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Coco-nuts are very widely grown throughout the Colony, the largest plantations existing in Penang and Province Wellesley.

Singapore is not an agricultural Settlement, but Coco-nuts are grown round the Coast, and Pineapples for the tinning manufactories cover most of the hills within easy reach of the town. Indigo is grown for local use in dyeing the cloth used by the Chinese.

In Penang and Province Wellesley, after Coco-nuts and Padi the chief products are Sugar, from European and Chinese Estates, the former being the largest and most important, with the most modern machinery, Tapioca from one large European owned estate, and Spices cultivated by Chinese on the hills.

Large fruit plantations also exist which supply the towns in the Settlement and Perak.

Rubber cultivation is steadily increasing.

In pursuance of the recently instituted policy of encouraging Agriculture among the native population of the Colony by the holding, with the assistance of Government, of an Agricultural Show in some one of the Settlements annually, a Show similar to that held in Province Wellesley in 1899, was opened at Alor Gajah, in Malacca, in July. It was well attended and was equally successful.

In Malacca are large and profitable Tapioca estates, owned exclusively by Chinese. The method of cultivation is wasteful. Forest land is cleared and planted with three or four crops (the plant takes from 18 to 24 months to mature) and then abandoned. Much land, however, is fit for cultivation again after lying fallow from 15 to 20 years, and it has as yet been found impossible to cultivate Tapioca profitably in this Settlement in any other manner.

Coco-nuts are largely grown along the littoral, and the Malay population plant padi sufficient for their own consumption. Some rice has always to be imported for the Chinese in the town and on the large estates.

Malacca is famed for its fruit, and is one of the chief sources of fruit supply to Singapore.

The low price of Gambier during recent years has caused this cultivation to be much neglected.

The tea estate at Durian Tunggal produces Tea of good quality. The area under cultivation has been extended and new Machinery erected.

Rubber is attracting the attention of Chinese estate owners, and is being largely planted on the Bukit Asahan Estate, owned by a Chinese Syndicate, and at Durian Tunggal. Both Para rubber (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) and India rubber (*Ficus Elastica*) thrive in the Settlement, and the cultivation is only limited by the difficulty in obtaining seed and cuttings. The Government plantations of both these trees should in a few years be capable of supplying all demands.

During the year plantations of Gutta Percha producing trees were started in Singapore and Malacca. The supply of young plants and seeds is limited, and it is difficult to obtain any large number at a time. Five hundred young "Getah Taban" (*Dichopsis Gutta*) trees were, however, obtained from Penang and planted in Malacca. Most of these are doing well. About six hundred "Getah" trees (*Dichopsis Gutta* and *Dichopsis oblongifolia*) of various ages were also discovered growing in different parts of Malacca and were cleared of under-growth and marked.

The Botanical Gardens of Singapore and Penang continue to supply planters with seeds and plants.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 14,469,405, as compared with 13,187,010 in 1899. The Light dues amounted to $158,572.

Four hundred and twelve new vessels, aggregating 9,487 tons, were built in Singapore during the year.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony during the year under review. Thirteen of these contain amendments of previous enactments.

The most important of the new Ordinances was the Criminal Procedure Code, an enactment somewhat modified from that of 1892, which was passed but never brought into force.

The new Code will radically alter the practice of the Police Courts, and also contains certain provisions affecting Juries and the Conduct of Inquests, and is also designed to amend and improve the initiation of criminal prosecutions by the Police. It will entail a largely increased expenditure by Government, which it is hoped may be justified by the improvements in criminal procedure generally.

Another Ordinance provided for the better administration of Christmas Island, a new dependency of Singapore, lying some 500 miles south of Java. The Island is leased to a Company, who have established a highly remunerative industry by working the rich beds of Phosphates which it contains, and upon which the Government of the Colony receives a royalty. A District Officer has now (1901) been permanently stationed on the Island to conduct its administration.

Other important Ordinances passed were Ordinance VIII., of 1900, for making and maintaining a Railway between Singapore and Johore, and Ordinance IX., of 1900, to further amend the Opium Ordinance.

EDUCATION.

The principal schools of the Colony are either entirely maintained by Government or are in receipt of a substantial Grant-in-Aid. There are 30 schools in which the English language is alone taught, 9 schools in which Tamil is taught as well as English, 2 schools in which Chinese only is taught, and 169 schools in which Malay is the only medium of instruction.

The expenditure on Government English schools was $22,181, and on Aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, and Chinese) $54,210.

The Malay schools, all of which are entirely supported by Government, cost $58,739.

The new Educational Code introduced in the previous year has worked well and given general satisfaction. English education is showing a marked advance, both in the number of pupils taught and the quality of the instruction given. The variety of languages spoken by the pupils at most of the English Schools constitutes, however, a very serious obstacle to the work of the teachers at these schools.

Two valuable Scholarships, known as the Queen's Scholarships, of the value of £250 a year for four years, are annually awarded after competitive examination to enable the most

eligible candidates from the schools of the Colony to continue their studies at a British University. Higher education is also fostered by the grant of local Government Scholarships and of a bonus for passes in the Cambridge Senior Locals.

A Malay College for the training of teachers for vernacular schools was opened in Malacca at the beginning of the year. The course is a two year one, and it is as yet too early to estimate the likelihood of the college proving successful. Admission to it has, however, been eagerly sought. Unfortunately, towards the end of the year an outbreak of beri-beri among the students caused the college to be prematurely closed for the annual long vacation.

The Industrial Scholarships which are given for the encouragement of technical instruction, chiefly in engineering, have not yet secured the popularity among the Eurasian community to which they are entitled. But, though not so eagerly sought for as they should be, there appear to be signs that they will shortly attract more and better competitors.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Except the Chinese hospital at Singapore, all the general hospitals in the Colony are under Government management. The hospitals on the Sugar Estates in Province Wellesley, maintained by the planters, are frequently visited by Government Officers. In 1900, the principal causes for admission were malaria, beri-beri, and venereal disease.

The hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, received throughout the year 24,983 patients. The Government maintains a lunatic asylum at Singapore and another on Pulau Jerejak, an island adjoining Penang.

Cases of beri-beri occurred in the Singapore asylum throughout the year, as did also a short outbreak of cholera.

REFORMATORY.

A Reformatory was built during the year, but not opened till after its close. Technical instruction in carpentry, shoe-making, and other trades will be given to the boys, as well as instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

SAVINGS BANK.

There was a slight increase in Savings Bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $434,590, an increase of $3,327, as compared with 1899. The deposits amounted to $312,098, and withdrawals to $320,950.

The total investments at the end of the year amounted to $440,707, the particulars of which are as follows:—

Indian 3½% rupee paper, $273,391.

Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, $48,000, bearing interest @ 5%, and $72,300 @ 4% = $120,300.

Fixed Deposits at Chartered Bank, bearing interest @ 4%, $23,500.

Cape Stock, bearing interest @ 3%, $8,516.

Queensland Stock, bearing interest @ 3%, $10,000.

South Australian Stock, bearing interest @ 3%, $5,000.

POLICE.

The following increases, which were authorised in 1899, were provided for:—

European Sergeants	5
European Constables	4

Fourteen European Constables were enrolled, of whom ten came from England.

One Inspector died, three were pensioned, and two were reduced: one of the latter was subsquently re-promoted for good work done.

Four Sergeants were promoted to Inspectorships.

Eleven Constables were promoted to Sergeants.

One Constable died and three were dismissed.

It is anticipated that there will be no difficulty in bringing the European Contingent up to strength during the coming year.

The Sikh Contingent has been kept fairly up to strength: but continued severe fever at the Dindings is beginning to act adversely on recruiting for this contingent.

Recruiting for the Malay Contingent has been exceptionally bad, more especially in Singapore, where at the end of the year this contingent was 90 men, or 13%, under strength.

The detective force has worked well.

There were eighteen cases of murder and sixteen cases of gang-robbery.

Gambling, especially in the form of lotteries, has been satisfactorily dealt with in Singapore and Penang.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the Census of 1891, is now estimated to be 617,595. During the year 1900 there were registered 14,814 births, of which 7,700 were of male and 7,114 of female children.

The number of deaths registered was 23,385, as compared with 19,150 in 1899.

The public health of the Colony during 1900 was not good, the death-rate being very considerably higher than that for 1899, as is shewn by a comparison of the figures for the two years, 36·25 as against 31·66.

Zymotic disease was prevalent in all three Settlements, and there was a sharp outbreak of cholera in Singapore during the last two months of the year, during which 243 cases, of which 216 proved fatal, were reported. 22 cases occurred in Penang. Cases of small-pox continued to be reported from all three Settlements. The numbers being:—

Settlement.	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore	220	91
Penang and Province Wellesley ...	297	77
Malacca	89	16

Two fatal cases of plague occurred in Penang in October. Precautionary measures were at once taken by the authorities, and no further cases were discovered.

The arrangements described four years ago for the registration of deaths have been continued with satisfactory results.

In Singapore and Penang the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipalities. Both places have a good water supply, but there is a certain amount of overcrowding in the towns, and the measures for the disposal of night-soil and sewage are inadequate.

The town of Malacca and the villages of Balik Pulau, in Penang Island, Bukit Mertajam, Butterworth, Prai (and the adjacent Sugar Estate), and Nibong Tebal, in Province Wellesley, enjoy water supplies from Reservoirs erected and maintained at Government expense.

CLIMATE.

The mean rainfall was, in inches, 90·98 in Singapore; 108·94 in Penang; 71·94 in the Dindings; 101·15 in Province Wellesley; and 65·69 in Malacca. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 5·71 inches at Singapore, on the 19th August.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

A heavy increase is to be recorded as well in the number of articles as in the weight of the mails which passed through the hands of the Postal Department during the year 1900, as compared with 1899. Insurance and Parcel Post branches, as also the Chinese Sub-Post Office, continue to show steady progress. The Postal Revenue amounted to $233,478, as compared with $224,392 for 1899. The expenditure charged to 1900 was $209,695, a decrease of $2,263 from the expenditure of the previous year.

The money order business continues to increase. The transactions in sterling amounted to £16,669, in Indian currency to Rs. 1,795,744, and in local currency to $336,000, the total business done thus aggregating $1,729,791, and shewing a substantial advance upon the total of $1,374,520 for the year 1899.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley, and also the inland telegraphs in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system in the Federated Malay States, are the property of the Government. The cables connecting the three Settlements which comprise the Colony belong to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. The length of lines belonging to the Government is as follows:—

Penang	85 miles.
Malacca	39¼ „

The Government telephone lines in Singapore are maintained and worked by a Company; in Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca they are worked by the Government. Three hundred and eighteen miles of wire are open, which are the property of the Government.

MILITARY.

The garrison of Singapore consists of His Majesty's regular forces and Asiatic Artillery. No Militia force exists.

A valuable Volunteer Artillery force, 111 strong, exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it.

Its principal armament consists of a complete Battery of six 2·5-inch R.M.L. screw guns, utilised with 7-pr. limbers as a field battery, with pony draught, an experiment which has proved successful. It also possesses some Maxim guns (·45), in the use of which it is proficient. A Volunteer Rifle Corps, 173 strong, also exists, composed of Europeans. Its armament consists of Lee-Enfield rifles and sword bayonets.

A Volunteer Infantry Corps, 150 strong, also exists in Penang. Its armament consists of Martini-Enfield rifles with sword bayonets.

The Constabulary force numbers nearly 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs. They are well drilled and armed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Progress has been made on the construction of the Singapore-Johore Railway. The execution of this work has been much hampered by delay in the supply of Rolling Stock and Permanent Way, and by local difficulties as regards labour.

In Singapore, the following buildings were completed during the year:—

Sub-Post Office, Tanglin.

Quarters for Senior Dresser, General Hospital.

Quarters for Chief Police Officer.

Detective Station, with Quarters for Staff.

Reformatory.

Extension of Drill Shed.

New Native Hospital Ward, Quarantine Station.

Two Quarters for Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Two cells for violent Native patients, General Hospital.

Temporary Supreme Courts.

Progress was also made on the following Works and Buildings:—

Quarters for Boarding Officers.

Telok Ayer Reclamation.

Dredging entrance to Singapore River.

Addition of an upper storey to Women's Block, General Hospital.

New Civil Prison.

Disinfector Building.

Ward for Female Lunatics at Pasir Panjang.

Reconstruction of Balestier Range.

Enlargement of Patent Slip.

Alterations and additions to Supreme Court.

Experimental Ward at Tan Tock Seng's Hospital.

A new ladder Dredger for the Singapore River was constructed, and has worked very satisfactorily.

A steam launch has been purchased, and the construction of six Hopper Barges commenced. The Departmental Plant received a much needed addition in the shape of a four-ton Traction Engine and two three-ton trucks.

All works, buildings, and roads in charge of the Public Works Department were maintained on the usual votes, assisted in a few instances by special provision.

Owing to the large number of private buildings under erection, and to the absorption of any available labour by the Singapore-Johore Railway, considerable difficulty was experienced in procuring an adequate supply of materials and labour.

In Penang, progress was made with new quarters for the Superintendent of Police and for the Assistant Postmaster-General.

The block of buildings to accommodate the Marine Department Boarding Officers and Lascars and the Marine Police which was commenced in 1899 was completed and occupied.

A large iron shed and two smaller ones, for storage of transshipment cargo, were built along the sea front to the north of the iron pier in course of erection. The existing Jetty Sheds were extended.

The Public Telephone Exchange was commenced and will be opened in March, 1901.

The conversion of the Government English Branch School, Chaurasta, into a Detective Police Station, and the erection of Quarters for the Chief Detective Inspector, Detective Inspector, and a European Detective Sergeant were carried out.

The Nibong Tebal Pontoon Bridge was repaired, and six new pontoons provided.

In Malacca, a new ward, substantially built on brick piles, and roofed with tiles, was erected at Durian Daun Hosptial, the Servants' Quarters being pulled down and re-erected outside the compound to make room for it.

The renewal of the timber superstructure of the pier was completed.

The channel at the mouth of the Malacca river was slightly enlarged both in depth and width.

New Quarters for an Assistant Forest Ranger were constructed at Jasin, and the Overseer's Quarters removed from Kesang to Jasin.

Additional accommodation was provided for the Portuguese Mission Boys' School, and a new Vernacular School was constructed at Paya Rumput.

Two new cooly lines were constructed to replace old decayed lines.

Two cuttings were made across acute bends in the Kesang River, with a view to increase the discharge during floods.

The telephone was extended from Batang Tiga Police Station to Sungei Udang Police Station.

The Malacca-Johol Frontier Boundary was surveyed by contract.

The principal road works have been the construction of a second class road near the Town and the making up of about three miles of road near Bukit Asahan.

Several gradients on the main road from Malacca to Tampin have been eased either by cutting or filling or by small deviations.

A footpath was completed from Sungei Rambei to Tasek.

The roads were well maintained. Upwards of 30 miles were entirely regravelled.

Several bridges and culverts previously constructed of wood were rebuilt in masonry and iron.

The bridge over the Duyong River was completed.

IMMIGRATION.

During the year immigration from Hongkong was prohibited from June till August, and from Hoihow from March till July. Amoy and Swatau were both declared infected, but immigration was not prohibited. Notwithstanding these restrictions, the number of Chinese Immigrants (200,947, including 20,470 women and children) was the largest recorded since the foundation of the Colony. The figures for the last three years are:—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1898	124,412*	9,146	133,558
1899	141,980†	7,717	149,697
1900	188,965‡	11,982	200,947

The disproportion between the sexes still increases.

The supply of labour remained far below the demand.

The number of Immigrants from Southern India largely increased, as will be seen from these figures:—

Immigrants.	1899.	1900.
1. Statute Immigrants	4,677	7,615
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets)	2,217	7,052
3. Other Immigrants	12,625	23,862

In addition to these there were 3,178 minors.

During the year 10,995 left for Southern India, so that the Tamil population of the Colony and Federated Malay States has largely increased.

The physique of the coolies generally was very bad and rendered them very liable to disease after arrival. In consequence the death-rate on the Estates was abnormally high.

Since the appointment of a new Superintendent of Emigration at Negapatam, there has been a decided improvement in the class of men sent over.

* Of these 6,252 were children. † Of these 6,650 were children.
‡ Of these 8,488 were children.

Towards the end of the year negotiations were entered into with the British India Steam Navigation Company for a weekly service of steamers between Negapatam and the Straits. An agreement was made providing for a fortnightly mail service homewards and outwards *viâ* Negapatam and Bombay, and for the transport on favourable terms of immigrants under contracts to labour in the Colony and Federated Malay States. This agreement has worked most satisfactorily.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G., continued to administer the Government throughout the year, no appointment to the Governorship, rendered vacant by the death of Sir Charles Mitchell, in December, 1899, being made.

The European Regiment was withdrawn in May on account of the South African War, and was replaced by a Madras Native Infantry Regiment.

A European Volunteer Rifle Corps was formed in Singapore.

The Singapore-Kranji Railway was commenced. This undertaking is being carried out by a special Railway Engineer working under instructions received from the Consulting Engineers at home.

It was decided to import Tamil labour for the work, and a certain number of Statute Immigrants were engaged. There was a large amount of sickness among them as also among the Chinese employed, especially where earth had to be excavated.

The latest Estimates prepared by the Consulting Engineers are largely in excess of those prepared in the Colony. The amount to be paid as compensation for lands and houses was found to be much under-estimated.

The Excise Farms were let in July for three years at an increase of a million-and-a-half dollars a year. The largely increased revenue anticipated enabled the Government to bring forward various schemes for Harbour Improvement and other important Public Works. Steps were taken to carry out the recommendations of a Commission which was appointed to enquire into the congested state of traffic in the Singapore River.

The construction of a Canal through to Keppel Harbour is contemplated.

Schemes for Harbour Improvement at Penang also received attention, increased accommodation being provided by Government for goods landed.

The question of extending the iron steamer pier which is being constructed has been left over for the Report of an Expert Harbour Engineer, who is expected to visit the Colony towards the end of this year.

An additional section of the Prai-Parit Buntar Railway in Province Wellesley was opened during the year from Bukit Mertajam to the Perak boundary. The traffic receipts have proved satisfactory, and when the bridge over the Krian River has been finished, and a short length of line in Perak territory constructed, Penang will be connected with the main system of the Federated Malay States. Excellent ferry steamers run between George Town, Penang, and Prai.

It is probable that Malacca will soon be connected with the line which is projected through Johore and Negri Sembilan.

A survey of the line through Malacca territory, the construction of which presents practically no difficulties, has been already made.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

Speaking generally, it may be said that there are many signs of the increasing prosperity of the Colony as a whole, intimately connected as it is with the welfare of the Federated Malay States. The towns of Singapore and George Town, Penang, continue to extend. Immigration from China and India shows a satisfactory increase. The value of town property has enormously increased. The letting of the Excise Farms for the next triennial period at such a greatly enhanced rate, notwithstanding the high price of opium, may be taken as an index of the prosperity of the place.

Concurrently with the general increase in trade and business the cost of living has advanced enormously. House rent, both in Singapore and Penang, has risen greatly, while the price of labour and building materials deters many from investing their capital in building operations.

The increased output and high price of tin in the Federated Malay States, the bulk of which finds its way to the Smelting Works in the Colony, have largely contributed to the wealth of the population, especially the Chinese, many of whom have made fortunes out of tin and invest a large proportion of their gains in the Colony.

The town of Singapore must be considered very backward as compared with other cities of similar size in the East. The streets are badly lighted by gas—incandescent gas being only employed in certain thoroughfares. The Municipality has now purchased the Gas Works, and it is intended to improve the system and to introduce electric light as a subsidiary scheme.

The Singapore-Kranji Railway is a Government undertaking which as yet meets with little favour from the representatives of the mercantile community.

Tramways do not exist, although it cannot be doubted that a well organized system of electric tramways would be a boon to the place.

It was decided in November that the Government should purchase the Penang Steam Tramways, which were in liquidation.

It is proposed to substitute as a Municipal undertaking electricity for oil lamps by which the streets in George Town are at present lighted, and if an electric installation is decided on it may be found desirable to work the Tramways by electric power. The Tramway service would be worked in connection with the Hill Railway Scheme.

C. W. S. KYNNERSLEY,

Acting Colonial Secretary,

Straits Settlements.

Singapore,

4th July, 1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 360.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 330.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
339	British Honduras	1900
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900–1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei...	General Report.

No. 360.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 330.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. A. SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Singapore,
10th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1901.

I have, &c.,
F. A. SWETTENHAM.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1901.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for 1901 amounted to $7,041,595, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

Singapore	$4,327,462
Penang	2,221,919
Malacca	492,214

There was an increase of $1,655,038, as compared with the Revenue for 1900, and of $1,841,569 as compared with that for 1899.

The principal increases were under Licences, $1,491,853; Land Sales, $90,311; Stamps, $30,980; Port and Harbour Dues, $20,926; Miscellaneous Receipts, $18,449; Postage $12,845; Land Revenue, $11,477; Fines, Forfeitures and Fees of Court, $11,049.

The principal decrease was under Special Receipts ($59,524), which in 1900 included the refund of the Government share of contribution towards the Permanent Jubilee Memorial.

The Expenditure for the year was $7,322,236, as compared with $6,030,740 in 1900 and $5,060,523 in 1899.

As compared with 1900, the Expenditure shows an increase of $1,291,486.

The principal increases were:—

Military expenditure	$326,457
Personal emoluments	292,468
Land and houses purchased ...	264,807
Works and buildings, special services.	193,324
Other charges	78,327
Special expenses	65,832
Miscellaneous services	31,056
Works and buildings, annually recurrent.	24,652
Pensions, &c.	14,404
Roads, streets, &c., annually recurrent.	10,313

The increase under Military Expenditure is due to the increased Revenue receipts, on which 20 per cent. is payable. The increase under Personal Emoluments is due to the grant of

double exchange compensation and to the bonus granted to the subordinate and clerical branches of the Service. Of the item Land and Houses purchased,—Goodwood Estate and Nassim Hill Estate were acquired by the Government during the year. There was a larger amount expended on the Singapore-Johore Railway during this year than in the previous one, which item is included under the head of "Works and Buildings, Special Services," which is the main cause of the increase. The increase under "Other charges" is inevitable, owing to the expansion of the Colony where departments are extending and the price of stores and labour goes on increasing. The expenditure in connection with the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, $45,000, and the purchase of the Penang Tramways, $40,000, were charged to the head "Special Expenses" in 1901. On the other hand, the contribution towards the Indian Famine Fund, $20,000, was included under the same head in 1900. The increase under "Miscellaneous Services" is due to the Expenses in taking the Census. The increases in "Public Works Department, Annually Recurrent," in "Works and Buildings" and "Roads, Streets, and Bridges" are owing to more buildings and roads having to be looked after. The increase under "Pensions" is partly due to a larger amount charged to "Difference in Exchange on Pensions payable in England," owing to the fall in exchange and partly due to new pensions granted.

Of the decreases, the most important is under "Interest," viz., $14,834, due to the writing off of a certain sum for difference in exchange on balances in England in 1900.

The balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1901, was $1,806,968, as compared with $2,059,378 on the same date in 1900.

The Colony has no public debt.

Exchange.

Exchange was very unsteady during the year. The average value of the dollar was 1/11$\frac{3}{8}$ on demand and 1/11$\frac{11}{16}$ at four months' sight, as compared with 2/0$\frac{3}{8}$ and 2/0$\frac{9}{16}$ in 1900. The highest rate for demand drafts was 2/1$\frac{5}{8}$ in October, and the lowest 1/9$\frac{7}{8}$ in January.

Currency.

The currency of the Colony consists of Mexican and British dollars circulating at equal value and of Government currency notes.

British dollars to the value of $17,281,263 were imported by the local banks alone, as compared with $21,571,488 in 1900. Other dollars to the value of $2,087,260 were imported by the banks.

The annual importation of British dollars by the banks since their first coinage in 1895 has been:—

Year.	Amount.
	$
1895	2,201,890
1896	3,623,000
1897	25,704,908
1898	19,492,168
1899	29,349,725
1900	21,571,488
1901	17 281,263

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $5,473,755, as compared with $6,713,133 in 1900. The falling off is due principally to the reduction by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of the amount of its local issue.

The amount of Government currency notes in circulation on the tenth of each month (when statistics are published) was:—

Month.	Amount.
	$
January	6,205,000
February	6,946,000
March	7,046,000
April	7,046,000
May	7,046,000
June	7,220,000
July	7,535,000
August...	8,114,000
September	8,484,000
October	8,703,000
November	8,753,000
December	8,753,000

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $2,067,611, and their expenditure, including sums expended on loan works, to $2,161,131.

TRADE.

The condition of trade for the period under review appears to have been fairly prosperous though the large percentage of increase of the immediately preceding years was not maintained.

The total volume of trade—inter-Settlement trade excluded—is shown as under:—

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	$	$	$	$	$
Merchandise	348,853,428	398,051,723	462,136,001	519,482,193	528,162,575
Treasure ...	62,515,245	62,366,718	60,853,178	57,225,012	48,772,939
Total ...	411,368,673	460,418,441	522,989,179	576,707,205	576,935,514

The increase in the value of merchandise as compared with the trade of 1900 is about 2 per cent.

Trade with countries having a gold currency decreased by something less than one per cent.; trade with silver currency countries increased some 6 per cent.

The Imports of merchandise in 1901 reached a total of 283 million dollars, while Exports accounted for some 245 million dollars. Converted into sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year these values are equivalent to about 27¾ million pounds and 24 million pounds, respectively.

These values, expressed in dollars, show an increase, as compared with the figures of 1900, of over one per cent. in Imports and over 2¼ per cent. in Exports. But the values, expressed in sterling, show a decrease of Imports of half a million pounds, and in Exports a decrease of nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

The percentages of increase for the four preceding years were, for Imports, 6¼, 13½, 15½, and 13½ respectively, and for Exports, 6½, 14½, 10¾ and 11, respectively.

Imports of manufactured goods fell off as regards metals and cotton goods, except yarns. Yarns show a large increase both of quantity and of value.

The average prices of Straits produce were, generally speaking, lower than in 1900, except for gutta percha, gambier, rattans and sticklac, the prices of which showed a distinct advance. This dullness of the market, combined with a decline in the quantity of the principal articles exported, necessarily tended to lower values.

Smaller quantities of gambier, rattans, copra, coffee, hides and gutta percha were exported, while tin, jelutong rubber and tapioca were sent out in increased quantities.

IMPORT.

The net increase, as compared with the year 1900, in the values of Imports, was some $3,250,000.

In the "Food and Drink" class there was an important increase (upwards of $6,500,000) in rice and padi; and increases of less magnitude in sugar, bran, tapioca, spirits, onions, fish, birds' nests and nutmegs.

In the "Raw Materials" class, the value of tin ore imported shows an increase of $2,750,000. Wood goods, too, give increased returns, while in the cases of petroleum and coal there is a decrease.

Under the head of "Manufactured Articles" the value of cotton piece goods imported reached the very large total of $14,800,000, a slight increase as compared with the preceding year, the value of sarongs imported reached $5,200,000, a decrease on the year of $500,000; but yarns increased by $800,000 to a total value of $2,600,000. Sewing threads, handkerchiefs and blankets are amongst the articles that show an increase, while in jute bags there is a falling off in value of nearly a million dollars.

The value of silk piece goods imported increased largely; the value of the imports of hosiery and millinery and drapery reached close on $4,500,000, a decrease, as compared with the values of 1900, of $200,000, the falling off being in imports from Germany.

From the United Kingdom piece goods to the value of $12,000,000 were received, equal to about 80 per cent. of the whole trade, and an increase on the imports of the previous year of some 6 per cent. The value of piece goods imported from the continent of Europe was upwards of $1,000,000, about 7 per cent. of the whole trade, and a decrease of half per cent. as compared with the trade of 1900.

Imports from Bombay and Madras decreased in value by nearly one half.

There was a falling off in the value of sarongs imported from the United Kingdom of 16 per cent., and from the continent of Europe of 15 per cent.

From the United Kingdom came nearly 27 per cent. of the imports of plain yarn and some 71 per cent. of the dyed yarn imported.

Of sewing thread, the United Kingdom sent us 83 per cent. of the total value imported.

Taken as a whole, the imports of piece goods were fairly maintained, but the year is considered not to have been a good one for importers; the steady fall in Manchester prices made importers anxious to clear stocks. Demand was not at any time good and was occasionally distinctly poor, nor were signs of

improvement visible at the close of the year. Tightness of money locally was an important factor in the case; and stocks were rather heavy, especially in grey goods.

In metals, imports did not attain to the dimensions of the preceding year, but stocks were low and an average business was done with a tendency to lower rates.

The total value of manufactured metals imported decreased by nearly a million dollars, the falling off being observable mainly in nails, corrugated iron, bar and rod iron, and in a less degree in steel and machinery. The apparent decrease would be considerably greater were it not for the value of imports of telegraph materials included under this head.

Excluding telegraph materials, the imports of metals from the United Kingdom show a decrease of nearly $900,000, or some 15 per cent., while supplies from Continental ports fell off by $324,000, equal to a decrease of 14 per cent.; imports from the United States also decreased by some 14 per cent.

An increase of $347,000 in the value of miscellaneous manufactures is due to increased values of fireworks, earthenware, mats, paper, carriages, and carriage materials, saddlery, beads, and rattanware. Some decrease under this head is apparent in the case of oil cakes, matches, fancy goods and toys, lamps and lampware, wood goods, clocks and watches, perfumery, glassware and cabinetware.

It is noticeable that in the case of candles imported from Europe less than a tenth appears to have been received from the United Kingdom; in crockeryware, out of a total value of $1,700,000, the United Kingdom contributed only $136,000; and in the case of glassware, the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to only $170,000 out of a total trade with European ports in this article of $800,000. In the matter of carriages imported a more satisfactory result is shown, the imports from the United Kingdom being 90 per cent. of the whole trade.

The value of imports of lamps and lampware was over $340,000, of which Germany sent goods to the value of $150,000, a decrease as compared with 1900 of 50 per cent.; the United Kingdom accounted for $85,000, and the United States of America $12,000, the figures being much the same as in the preceding year.

Paints and dyes to the value of $640,000 were imported, a falling off as compared with the imports of 1900 of $30,000. The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to upwards of one-half of the total, about the same as in the previous year.

The value of paper and paperware and stationery of European manufacture imported in 1901 is $870,000—imports from the United Kingdom accounting for nearly $400,000; Austria, $350,000; and Germany, $80,000. In 1900, the total receipts were $700,000; of which imports from the United Kingdom represented some $320,000, from Austria, $250,000, and from Germany, $90,000.

The imports of perfumery reached a value of $400,000; of which the United Kingdom contributed $135,000, the same as in 1900; Belgium, $79,000, an increase of $5,000; France, $62,000, as in 1900; and Germany, $56,000, a decrease of 50 per cent.

European Continental countries, more especially Germany, continue to be our main source of supply for musical instruments, though 1901 shows an increase in this respect from both the United Kingdom and the United States.

The United Kingdom continues to maintain its pre-eminence for the supply of cycles, 85 per cent. of the total imports coming from there. Machines of American and Continental makes show a falling off.

Export.

Exports show a net increase in value of nearly $5,500,000 as compared with the figures of 1900.

In the "Food and Drink" class the imports of rice increased in value to the extent of nearly $6,000,000. Increases of smaller amount appear in sugar and sugar candy, pepper, preserved pineapples, bêche-de-mer, tapioca, birds' nests, beans and peas, and opium.

Decreases took place in the value of exports of coffee, fish, live stock, sago, tea and areca-nuts.

Under the head of "Raw Materials," produce generally shows a small decrease in value, including the value of tin exported, the decrease in this latter being due to the low average price realised. The decreases are large in Borneo and india rubbers, raw hides, ground-nuts, petroleum, canes and gutta percha.

Increases are observable in the values of gutta jelutong (pontianak), and other inferior rubbers. Increases are also to be found in coconut oil, gum copal, planks, timber, sticklac and sandalwood, though in a less degree.

In manufactured goods there is an increase of a million dollars.

Textile manufactures show an increase of $1,350,000, chiefly in piece goods and yarn; metals show a trifling increase of value, spread generally over all the articles in the class, and miscellaneous manufactures show a decrease of $400,000.

Import and Export Quantities.

The total quantity of coal imported remained about the same as in 1900, 668,000 tons. Japan varieties increased by 32,000 tons; Cardiff coal fell off by 17,000 tons; Australian and Borneo coal show a reduction of about 6,000 tons each; and Indian coal retained its position in the list with some 77,000 tons.

The imports of petroleum attained large dimensions during the year, reaching close on 2½ million cases of 65 lbs. each, an increase of 28½ per cent. This increase was due mainly to the large quantity of Russian bulk oil introduced—930,000 cases, as compared with 277,000 cases in 1900. From the Dutch possessions there came nearly 1⅓ million cases; American shipments improved slightly; and shipments from Burma ceased.

The declared imports of liquid fuel amounted to 23,000 tons, much the same as in the preceding year.

Sixteen thousand five hundred and eighty-four chests of opium were imported in the course of the year; of this quantity, 14,395 chests were of Benares quality. The exports of opium amounted to 13,593 chests, in addition to 266,000 taels which went mostly to Australia. The average declared import price of the Benares quality was $909 a chest, slightly less than the price for 1900. Serious fluctuations, as usual, marked the trade in this article.

Not included in these figures are transhipments from Calcutta aggregating 505 chests, of which 400 chests went to Java.

Rice, the staple foodstuff of the Colony, was imported to the extent of half a million tons, an increase in quantity of 30 per cent.; over 83 per cent. of this was re-exported. Rangoon and Bangkok largely increased their output to these Settlements while the supply from French Indo-China fell off. The average export price was slightly under that of the preceding year, and complaints were frequent as to the quality of the Rangoon article supplied.

Cattle imported exceeded by 2,200 the imports of 1900, but the number of pigs brought in decreased from 68,000 to 55,000.

The imports of fish aggregated 815,000 pikuls, a decrease in quantity of 36,000 pikuls, but the average price was much higher.

The supplies of wheat flour fell from 23,000 to 21,000 tons. American flour imported *viâ* Hong Kong practically rules this market, but the quantity received from Australia reached the substantial figure of 2,000 tons, an increase of 75 per cent.

The total quantity of malt liquors imported shows a decrease of upwards of 5 per cent.; 118,000 gallons of whiskey, 4,000 gallons less than in 1900, were imported; and the imports of arrack and samsoo fell off by 27,000 gallons; but other spirits, more especially brandy and gin, show an increase.

The decrease in the importation of wine is chiefly in respect of champagne and port.

Cotton piece goods imported decreased by 300,000 pieces. Upwards of 5 million pieces in all were imported, of which 3⅓ million pieces were declared as plain cottons, upwards of 900,000 pieces as coloured, and upwards of 800,000 pieces as printed. The imports into Singapore absorbed 74 per cent. of the whole quantity, an increase of 2 per cent.

Over 4 million pieces were received from the United Kingdom, an increase as compared with the previous year of 7 per cent.

From the continent of Europe the receipts were 440,000 pieces —equal to 8½ per cent. of the whole—a decrease of ½ per cent.

The imports from Madras and Bombay decreased by one half.

Sarongs and slendangs were imported in less quantity by 82,000 corges. Supplies of these articles from the United Kingdom decreased by 19 per cent., and from Continental ports by 25 per cent., while from Madras they remained much the same as in 1900.

Dyed yarn imports nearly doubled in quantity, the receipts being larger than in any previous year. Plain yarn increased by upwards of 20 per cent. to about an average year's importation —the years 1899 and 1900, it should be remembered were remarkable for small imports of this article.

Of the plain yarn, nearly 20 per cent. came from the United Kingdom; and of the dyed yarn, some 73 per cent. Upwards of 9,000 bales of grey and bleached yarn were received from India, being an increase of 1,300 bales; and of dyed yarn, 3,200 bales, an increase of about 1,200 bales, came from Continental ports.

The imports of silk piece goods, much of which is of mixed material, amounted to 403,500 pieces, a decrease of upwards of 20,000 pieces; but the average price in 1901 was much better than for 1900.

Of woollen cloth, of pure and mixed quality, 30,000 pieces were imported, a falling off as compared with the previous year of some 8,000 pieces.

The imports of cement reached 103,000 casks, an increase of 13,000 casks. Of this quantity about a fifth came from Hong Kong, an increase as compared with 1900 of upwards of 50 per cent.; while 50,000 casks were received from the United Kingdom against 46,000 in the preceding year. From the Continental ports there came about 30,000 casks, about the same quantity as in 1900.

The quantity of dynamite imported, though actually of small amount, is relatively important. Besides the Anglo-Swedish Nobel brand there are two other marks, both German, to be found in this market.

Turning now to exports, we find that the shipments of tin again increased this year by upwards of 9 per cent., reaching a total of 52,500 tons. The home market in respect of this article was marked by violent fluctuations said to be caused by a continuous struggle between conflicting interests. On the whole, a retrogade movement in prices may be said to have taken place.

Gambier exports have steadily decreased since 1897, and for the year under review amounted to 40,000 tons. The quantity exported in 1901 decreased by 14 per cent., but the average price of bale and cube gambier combined increased by 25 per cent.

The shipments of tapioca and sago increased 6½ and 1½ per cent., respectively, in quantity; but coffee again fell off, this time by 35 per cent.; hides, raw and tanned, the export of which is alleged to be seriously affected by high freights, fell off by 25 per cent.

The export of horns increased in quantity.

The exports of spices kept well up to the level of the previous year. Areca-nuts, black pepper, and nutmegs exhibit increases of 4, 10 and 17 per cent. respectively. In other descriptions there were trifling decreases except in the case of cloves.

Shipments of copra again decreased, the decrease as compared with the results of 1900 being nearly 18 per cent. It is suggested that the continued decrease in the shipments of this article may be due to the high rates of freight ruling at Singapore, possibly combined with decreased output at the places of production.

There is a fair increase in the total quantity of gums exported. The particular articles included under this head, in which the largest decreases are seen, are gutta percha and rubbers (except jelutong). The decrease in quantity of gutta percha is compensated for by the higher prices obtainable for the finer qualities, due to purchases made on account of the cable companies. The output of jelutong (pontianak) rubber increased 60 per cent. for the year.

Rattans exported fell off from 37,000 tons in 1900 to 30,900 tons in 1901, a decrease of 16½ per cent.

The trade in preserved pineapples continues to steadily increase. The shipments to Europe and America in 1901 reached a total of 400,000 cases, 75 per cent. of which went to the United Kingdom.

Trade with Other Countries.

A classification of the trade of the Colony according to countries shows that 15·9 per cent. is with the United Kingdom, 19·8 per cent. with British Possessions, and 19·2 per cent. with the Malay Peninsula, Sarawak and French India, the last-mentioned of which exports chiefly British goods. Thus what may be called British trade may be said to absorb 54·9 per cent. of the total against 45·1 per cent. with other countries.

Imports from the United Kingdom increased by 4 per cent. Cotton piece goods accounted for an increase of upwards of a million dollars; yarns for nearly $750,000; and telegraph materials for $400,000.

In metals imported from the United Kingdom there is a marked decrease, especially in corrugated iron, steel, bar iron and machinery; and in textiles there is a decrease in sarongs.

Exports to the United Kingdom decreased by nearly 11 per cent. Tin showed a decrease in value of $4,360,000; pepper upwards of $800,000; hides, $600,000; india rubber nearly $400,000; and gutta percha nearly $300,000. There was a decrease in value also in sugar, rattans, rice, and liquid fuel.

The only articles exported to the United Kingdom in which important increases appear are gambier, sago, flour, and preserved fruits.

The increase in imports from the continent of Europe is only 3 per cent.; in 1900 the increase was 23 per cent. Germany, which headed the list for 1900 with an increase of 30 per cent., shows, in 1901, a decrease of 14 per cent. The falling off in the imports from Germany is in all principal articles except crockeryware, and is especially noticeable in apparel and hosiery, nails, lamps and provisions.

The imports from Holland show a decrease as compared with the imports of 1900. The falling off is in cotton piece goods, hardware, tramway materials and tobacco; in other articles an increase appeared, notably in gin.

The value of imports from Austria nearly doubled in amount, sugar alone accounting for an increase of $700,000. The value of the imports of paper exceeded those of the previous year by over $90,000.

The imports from France also show a reduction in value, due to smaller importations of umbrellas, clocks, and watches. The import of brandy increased.

The value of petroleum introduced from Russia shows an increase.

The decreased value of matches from Sweden accounts for the most part for the decline in the value of imports from that country. Apparel from Spain exhibits, as was the case in 1900, an increased value.

The total value of the exports to the continent of Europe fell off, as compared with 1900, to the extent of less than one per cent.

The exports to France fell off in value to the amount of two million dollars, tin being responsible for $526,000 and copra for $824,000, followed by coffee with a decrease of nearly half a million dollars and, at a distance, by hides, gambier, rattans, white pepper and flake tapioca. The only article exported to France that showed a marked increase is gutta percha.

The exports to Germany and Holland also declined in value, to the former country mainly in gutta percha and copra and to the latter country in tin and rattans.

Tin and copra of greater value than in the preceding year were exported to Italy and Russia respectively, but there was a falling off in the export of copra to Italy and of pepper to Russia.

The exports of tin and pepper to Austria show an increase while copra shows a decrease.

The total value of exports to Belgium is much the same as in 1900. Tin and copra, however, show a decrease of nearly a quarter of a million dollars, the decrease being made up by increases of smaller amount in various other articles.

Tin and copra are responsible for the increase in the value of exports to Spain.

As compared with 1900, the import trade with the United States of America shows a marked decrease—a decrease in value of nearly 23 per cent.—but the export trade was in a very flourishing condition, the increased demand for produce for ports of the United States of America being doubtless due to the great manufacturing activity of that country as well as to the very low freights offering from Singapore. Tin exports increased in value by $3,630,000; black pepper by nearly one million; jelutong rubber by upwards of half a million; rattans and gambier showed an increase each of upwards of $310,000; and increases of smaller amount appear under white pepper, gutta percha and tapioca pearl. The only article of importance in which there was a falling off is coffee.

The imports from the Netherlands India show a decrease as compared with 1900 of 10 per cent., but even so the total exceeds that of any year previous to 1900. The principal falling off is in supplies from Sumatra and Java.

From Sumatra there is a falling off, amounting in the aggregate to 2½ millons of dollars, in nearly all the chief articles of produce—gutta percha, petroleum, fish, tobacco, rubber and rattans.

From Java there is a decrease in the value of imports of gutta, coffee, ground-nuts, kachang oil and sarongs, while rattans show a fair increase.

The imports from Dutch Borneo though in the aggregate slightly below the amount of the imports of the preceding year were on the whole well maintained. Copra increased to the extent of nearly $700,000, and gutta percha by an almost equal amount; rattans decreased by $700,000, Borneo rubber by nearly $300,000, and petroleum with residue by a still larger sum.

The trade with the Celebes equalled in value that of 1900; the imports from the Dutch islands increased.

The principal articles imported from the Celebes which show a falling off are copra and rattans; nutmegs, dammar, and precious stones show an increase.

From the Dutch islands was received more tin ore, petroleum and gambier, but less (in value) of copra and pepper.

From Acheen the imports, mainly into Penang, show a decrease in areca-nuts, black pepper and gutta percha.

The imports from Bali decreased by upwards of $500,000 in coffee, by $400,000 in copra, and to a smaller extent in raw cotton; the imports of cattle increased in value.

The value of copra brought from the Natunas and Anambas Islands increased by $200,000; while from Rhio there was a falling off in cube gambier and in pepper.

The exports from the Colony to the Netherlands India increased as compared with the exports of 1900 by nearly 6½ per cent.

This increase is more than accounted for by the increased exports to Java of rice, the export of which exceeded the export of 1900 by nearly $4,000,000. All the other principal articles of export to Java, except earthenware, show a decrease, amounting in the aggregate to some $1,500,000.

Rice was exported to Sumatra and to Dutch Borneo also in increased quantities; but cotton piece goods and sugar exported to these places showed a decrease.

There was an increase in the export to Achinese ports of cotton piece goods, confectionery, rice, opium, and cattle.

The export trade with Bali, Natunas Islands and Rhio calls for no remark except that in the case of the first named there was a decrease in piece goods and opium.

The value of imports from British India as a whole is much the same as in 1900. Taken separately, however, a decrease appears in the imports from all parts of that Empire with the exception of Burma. Rice is responsible for the increase from Burma.

The decrease of two million dollars in imports from Calcutta is made up of a diminution in the value of imports of opium and of gunnies in nearly equal proportions.

Imports from Madras decreased by upwards of a million dollars, towards which cotton piece goods contributed some $800,000. There was a decrease also in oil cakes, cattle and goat skins; in sarongs there was an increase.

The volume of exports to India increased about 3¾ per cent. as compared with an increase of 15 per cent. in 1900.

In respect of exports to Bombay and to Calcutta there was a decrease; the decrease in the exports to Bombay being in coffee, gum benjamin and pearl sago, while there was an increase in both rice and tin. In the case of exports to Calcutta, areca-nuts fell off to the extent of upwards of half a million dollars, pepper to the amount of $110,000; gambier, sugar and tin each $100,000; in sticklac there was a large increase.

The increase of $700,000 in the case of Madras is mainly accounted for by the increased value of cotton piece goods sent from Penang—an increase of upwards of $500,000. There were increases of smaller amount in areca-nuts and tin, while petroleum exported decreased in value by $100,000.

Of the advance in value of nearly one million dollars in goods despatched to Burmese ports, fish, dry and salted, contributed upwards of half a million dollars; increases are also to be noted in areca-nuts, curry-stuffs, matches, hides and rice, while raw silk and Chinese preserves show a falling off.

The value of imports from the East Malay Peninsula increased by 3½ per cent. while exports increased by $230,000—equal to nearly 14 per cent. There was increase in the value of fish, cattle, padi and birds' nests imported, but a decrease in refined tin, copra and swine. Much of the copra that used to come to Singapore for shipment now finds its way to Bangkok. In the matter of exports there was an advance in value of cotton goods and yarn, rice alone showing a falling off.

From the West Malay States the imports increased in value by nearly $5,800,000 dollars, or nearly 10 per cent. From Selangor alone the increase is $3,372,000. Tin ore gave an increased value of $2,700,000; tin, an increase of $2,400,000; and gambier nearly a million dollars. A heavy decrease occurred in pepper imported and, though of less moment, in rice.

The exports show a net increase of upwards of $300,000, equal to about one per cent. Rice exported increased in value nearly $900,000, and Benares opium decreased by $200,000; other fluctuations though numerous are unimportant.

The imports from Siam and the Siamese States increased by some $4,500,000, equal to some 23 per cent. of the value of the imports of 1900.

Tin fell off by upwards of a million dollars, but rice accounted for an increase of $5,300,000. The imports of cattle decreased by $250,000; pepper, too, decreased, though to a smaller extent, but in fish there was an increase of nearly half a million dollars and in padi an increase of $160,000.

The exports increased by 10½ per cent. Cotton piece goods show an increase of nearly $600,000; gunnies nearly $500,000; yarns upwards of $250,000; and sarongs upwards of $235,000. In the value of exports of apparel and of sugar there was a fair increase, while in rice and petroleum are to be found the chief decreases.

The imports from French Indo-China decreased by 31 per cent.—nearly $2,200,000, of which rice was responsible for close on $2,000,000.

Exports decreased upwards of 12 per cent.—$370,000, of which $325,000 were for gunnies, $32,000 for sharks' fins, and $25,000 for opium.

The total value of imports from Hong Kong and China remained about the same; there were many fluctuations in the way of both increase and decrease, but none calling for special comment.

The exports increased in value upwards of 11 per cent., or $2,100,000. The more important increases were in sugar and sugar candy, $1,400,000; petroleum, $700,000; black pepper and other articles. On the other hand, there is a decrease in tin ($500,000), ground-nuts, rattans, padi, etc.

The imports from Australia decreased upwards of 10 per cent, the decrease being due chiefly to reduced imports of tin ore and coal. The value of sandalwood imported was nearly doubled as compared with the imports of the preceding year; the value of the imports of wheat flour also increased largely.

The total value of exports to Australia shows a slight increase. In the value of prepared opium there is an important increase, but in rice and pearl tapioca a decrease.

The value of the imports from Japan increased upwards of 6 per cent. the advance being accounted for by the increased values of coal, jinrikishas, cigars and matches.

The exports decreased upwards of 21 per cent., the decrease being visible chiefly in petroleum, while rice and indigo show increases.

General Observations on Trade.

The feature of the trade as judged from the total values of imports and exports is a want of expansion. While there has been no going back there has been an absence of the forward movement so observable in preceding years, and so far as an opinion can be formed from figures practically no progress was made.

While this was the case with respect to the goods and produce trade of the Colony a very different condition of affairs held good in respect of the shipping trade. Of the large increase in the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared at ports in the Colony, the British shipping of the United Kingdom comes first with an increase of tonnage of 800,000 tons, then Germany with an increase of 480,000 tons, Russia 210,000 tons, and Norway and Sweden with 145,000 tons.

Towards the end of 1901 the Registrar of Imports and Exports was, in compliance with instructions from the Secretary of State, entrusted with the duty of corresponding with the newly-created Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade on the subject of commercial matters affecting the Colony, and was empowered to reply directly or through that department to enquiries made from home by merchants and manufacturers.

Several of his reports on trade matters have appeared from time to time in the columns of the Board of Trade Journal, and it will no doubt be found to be to the advantage of British trade that such an appointment should exist in so important a trade centre as this.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines of importance in the Colony, though deposits of tin exist in the Dindings and Malacca. The output of alluvial tin from Malacca in 1901 was valued at $1,396. Prospectors from Selangor and Perak have visited parts of this Settlement and possibly the industry may be revived.

The Straits Trading Company, who own the enormous smelting works at Pulau Brani at the entrance to Singapore Harbour, have also erected large tin smelting works at Butterworth in Province Wellesley. The erection of buildings was carried on there throughout the year, and this industry promises to be one of great extent and importance.

Large establishments for the tinning of pineapples exist in Singapore, and the area planted for this purpose has increased.

A large Chinese biscuit factory exists and appears to be prospering.

The fisheries of the Colony are very rich and give occupation to a large number of people. Most of the fish caught near Singapore and Penang is consumed fresh. That caught near the Dindings is salted for consumption in Penang and Perak. In Penang and Malacca large quantities of a species of shrimp are manufactured into "belachan" a favourite native condiment for eating with curry.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Coco-nuts are very widely grown throughout the Colony, the largest plantations existing in Penang and Province Wellesley. During the past year they attained the highest price known for many years, viz., $37 per 1,000 nuts.

Singapore is not an agricultural Settlement, but coco-nuts are grown round the coast, and pineapples, which are used to supply the tinning manufactories, cover most of the hills within easy reach of the town. Indigo is grown for local use in dyeing the cloth used by the Chinese, and there are also some small plantations of pepper and the betel-vine (Sireh).

In Penang and Province Wellesley after coco-nuts and padi, the chief product is sugar from European and Chinese estates, the former being the largest and most important and being furnished with the most modern machinery. Tapioca is grown on one large European-owned estate, and spices (nutmegs and cloves) are cultivated by Chinese on the hills. Most of the sugar

estates suffered severely from the excessive drought during the first three months of the year, while the nutmeg plantations were visited by disease.

Large fruit plantations also exist, which supply the towns in the Settlement and Perak.

Rubber cultivation is steadily increasing and has been organized to a considerable extent by some of the larger landholders.

In pursuance of the recently instituted policy of encouraging agriculture among the native population of the Colony by the holding, with the assistance of Government, of an Agricultural Show in some one of the Settlements annually, a Show, similar to that held in Province Wellesley in 1899, was opened at Penang in August. It was well attended and was in every way successful. The proposed Show at Jasin in Malacca was postponed, owing to bad harvests and sickness among the cattle.

In Malacca there are large and profitable tapioca estates owned exclusively by Chinese. The method of cultivation is wasteful, Forest land is cleared and planted with three or four crops (the plant takes from 18 to 24 months to mature) and then abandoned. Much land, however, is fit for cultivation again after lying fallow from 15 to 20 years, and it has as yet been found impossible to cultivate tapioca profitably in this Settlement in any other manner.

Coco-nuts are largely grown along the littoral, and the Malay population plant padi sufficient for their own consumption. A certain quantity of rice has always to be imported for the Chinese in the town and on the large estates.

Malacca is famed for its fruit and is one of the chief sources of the fruit supply of Singapore.

The tea estate at Durian Tunggal continues to produce tea of good quality.

Rubber is attracting the attention of Chinese estate owners, and is being largely planted on the Bukit Asahan estate, owned by a Chinese syndicate, and at Durian Tunggal. Both para rubber (*Hevea Braziliensis*) and India rubber (*Ficus elastica*) thrive in the Settlement. Experimental tappings of *Ficus elastica* have already taken place with good results

The plantations of gutta percha-producing trees started in the Colony last year were supplied with no less than from thirty to forty thousand seedlings and saplings which were divided between the three Settlements. It is noticeable that the gutta percha tree was seen in fruit during the year 1901 for the first time on record.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 16,289,704, as compared with 14,469,405 in 1900. The light dues amounted to $178,872.62.

Four hundred and seventy-seven new vessels, aggregating 10,519 tons, were built in Singapore during the year.

LEGISLATION.

The year 1901 was not characterized by many important additions to the Statute Book. Twenty-one Ordinances were passed, of which eleven contained amendments of previous enactments.

Three of the Ordinances deal with land, namely one (No. 1) validating and legalizing Leases of Foreshores and Submerged Lands, another for the Improvement of Agricultural Lands (No. II.), and a third to provide for a better system of transferring rights in Customary Land in Malacca (No. VII.).

Ordinance No. V. of 1901 consolidates and amends the previously existing law as to granting pensions to the widows or children of deceased public officers.

Another Ordinance of some importance regulates the transit of cattle and other live stock by sea. The immediate cause of the introduction of this measure was the cruel treatment of cattle in the trade between Singapore and Bangkok, due to the animals being stowed on deck and between decks, without proper pens to keep them from being maimed and disabled in rough weather.

EDUCATION.

The schools of the Colony are divided into two classes—Vernacular schools, nearly all for Malays and directly managed and financed by the Government, and English schools, mostly managed by private bodies and receiving grants-in-aid from the Government There are, however, a few Government English schools and a few grant-in-aid schools where Tamil or Chinese are taught.

There are 29 schools in which English only is taught, 7 in which English and Tamil are taught; 2 in which Tamil only, 2 in which Chinese only, and 161 in which Malay only is taught.

The expenditure on Government English schools was $29,935, on aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese) $79,350, and on the Government Malay schools, $73,393.

Two Queen's Scholarships of a value not exceeding £250 a year, tenable up to five years, are awarded annually on the results of the Cambridge Senior Local Examination. Local Government Scholarships, and Industrial Scholarships, for the encouragement of boys taking up engineering or surveying, are also given.

A Training College for Malay teachers for the Colony and Federated Malay States is making satisfactory progress in Malacca. The cost for the year was $6,805. Twenty-eight students passed out in December, 1901.

A Training College for teachers in English schools is shortly to be opened.

A Bill was introduced during the year to make attendance at school compulsory on boys living within a certain radius of a school where a free education is provided in their own language.

This will apply chiefly to Malays. It had not yet been brought into force at the close of the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Except the Chinese hospital at Singapore, all the general hospitals in the Colony are under Government management. The hospitals on the sugar estates in Province Wellesley, maintained by the planters, are frequently visited by Government officers. In 1901, the principal causes of admission were malaria, beri-beri, and venereal diseases, the first two less and the last being more prevalent than in 1900.

The hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, received throughout the year 25,154 patients. The Government maintains a lunatic asylum at Singapore and a leper asylum on Pulau Jerejak near Penang.

Cases of beri-beri occurred in the Singapore Asylum throughout the year, which led to a seaside establishment for female patients being organized at Pasir Panjang, about five miles from the town, with satisfactory results.

Reformatory.

A Reformatory was opened early in the year, seven miles from the town of Singapore. At first an insufficient boundary fence allowed a number of the boys to escape. A wall has now been built enclosing the buildings. At the end of the year there were 28 boys in the reformatory, learning carpentry or shoe-making, as well as reading and writing in Romanised Malay. The expenditure on this institution amounted to $7,977.

Savings Bank.

There was a large increase in Savings Bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $487,098, an increase of $52,518 as compared with 1900. The deposits amounted to $361,694, and withdrawals to $321,708.

The total investments at the end of the year amounted to $476,486, the particulars of which are as follows:—

Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper, $273,391.

Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, $48,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and $71,500 at 4 per cent. = $119,500.

Fixed Deposits at the Chartered Bank, bearing interest at 4 per cent., $28,500.

Cape Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., $8,516.

Queensland Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., $10,000.

South Australian Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., $21,044.

Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. guaranteed loan, $15,535.

POLICE.

Two superintendents of police and one chief detective inspector retired on pension in the course of the year 1901.

One inspector resigned.

One chief inspector reverted to first class inspector.

One chief inspector was promoted to chief detective inspector.

Two first class inspectors were promoted to chief inspectors.

One first class inspector was promoted to acting chief inspector.

One inspector was reduced to sergeant for six months.

One chief inspector and two inspectors went on leave.

One sergeant was promoted to inspector.

Three sergeants were acting as inspectors.

Three sergeants were reduced to constables.

One sergeant and five European police constables were dismissed.

The following increases in the Sikh contingent were provided for to supply a small Police Force at Christmas Island:—

One corporal.

Seven constables.

The whole Sikh contingent has been fairly kept up to strength. The detachment of Sikhs formerly stationed at the Dindings was relieved by Malays in consequence of the prevalence of fever there.

Recruiting for the Malay contingent was on the whole slightly better than in the previous year.

Thirty Malays were transferred from Malacca to Singapore for duty.

The Detective Force worked fairly well.

There were twenty-five cases of murder and twenty-four cases of gang-robbery reported.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony which was 512,342 according to the Census of 1891 was returned by the Census of 1901 as 572,249. During the year 1901 there were registered 14,568 births, of which 7,573 were of male and 6,995 of female children.

The number of deaths registered was 22,876 as compared with 22,385 in 1900.

The public health of the Colony was not very good, the death-rate 39·85 being high, though only slightly higher than that for 1900, which stood at 39·46.

Zymotic disease was not very prevalent in the Colony as compared with last year. In Singapore 149 cases of cholera, of which 145 proved fatal, were reported. No cases were reported in the other Settlements. The cases of small-pox were considerably less than in the previous year, viz.:—

Settlement.	1900.		1901.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths
Signapore	220	91	62	14
Penang and Province Wellesley ...	297	77	41	15
Malacca	89	16	4	1

In Singapore and Penang the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipalities. Both places have a good water supply; but there is a certain amount of overcrowding in the towns. The town of Malacca and the villages of Balik Pulau, Bukit Mertajam, Butterworth, Prai (and the adjacent sugar estate) and Nibong Tebal, enjoy water

supplies from Government reservoirs. Those in Province Wellesley however require certain improvements, which are to be carried out during the next two years.

CLIMATE.

The mean rainfall was, in inches, 83·56 in Singapore; 126·04 in Penang; 89·58 in the Dindings; 105·63 in Province Wellesley; and 87·13 in Malacca. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 7·50 inches at Malacca on the 6th February.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

An unusually heavy increase is recorded in the weight of the mails which passed through the hands of the Postal Department during the year 1901, as compared with 1900. Insurance and Parcel Post branches, as also the Chinese Sub-Post Office, continue to show steady progress. The Postal Revenue amounted to $245,516 as compared with $233,478 in 1900. The expenditure charged to 1901 was $223,479, an increase of $13,784 over the expenditure of the previous year. The Money Order business continues to increase. The transactions in sterling amounted to £17,049, in Indian currency to Rs. 1,824,573, and in local currency to $355,239; the total business done thus aggregating $1,789,794, and showing a distinct advance upon the total of $1,729,791 for the year 1900.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley, and also the inland telegraphs in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system in the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

Singapore possesses a well-organized telephone system worked by the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company, which also works and maintains the Government telephone lines connecting the Government offices, police stations, &c.

In Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca, Government maintains its own lines. In Penang there are 136½ miles of service telephone lines, of which 49½ miles are connected with the Public Exchange and 87 miles not so connected. The mileage of subscribers' lines connected with the exchange is 105½ miles. The Telephone Exchange which is worked by Government was opened in Penang on the 1st March with 50 subscribers. On the 31st December there were 105 subscribers' lines and 22 service lines connected.

MILITARY.

The garrison of Singapore consists of His Majesty's Regular forces and Asiatic artillery. No militia force exists.

A valuable Volunteer Artillery force, 111 strong, exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it. Its principal armament consists of a complete battery of six 2·5 inch R.M.L. screw guns, utilised with 7 pr. limbers as a field battery with pony draught. It also possesses four Maxim guns (·45) in the use of which it is proficient. A Volunteer Rifle corps, 173 strong, also exists, composed of Europeans. A company of Eurasians and a company of Straits-born Chinese, each 100 strong, was also organized during the year. These three corps are armed with Lee-Enfield rifles and sword bayonets. A Volunteer Engineer corps, composed of Europeans, and a cadet corps, are in process of formation. A Volunteer infantry corps, 150 strong, also exists in Penang, and one is in process of formation in Malacca. The armanent consists of Martini-Enfield rifles with sword bayonets.

The constabulary force numbers nearly 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs. They are well drilled and armed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year, in addition to the carrying on of works previously commenced, a considerable number of new projects were undertaken. Owing to the large demand for skilled labour on all sides, prices have advanced and progress on Public Works was not so expeditious as could be desired.

In the Budget were entered three large items which it was found advisable to postpone. These were the construction of the light house at Pulau Aor, canal to Keppel Harbour, and erection of a new museum and library.

Towards the end of the year the Colony secured the services of Mr. Matthews, C.M.G., of the firm of Coode, Son, and Matthews, to visit the Colony and report upon harbour improvements for the three Settlements.

In addition to the usual works of maintenance of roads and buildings the following projects were completed during the year:—

SINGAPORE.

Quarters for coolies, Tanah Merah magazine.

Magazine pier, Tanah Merah.

Quarters for mandore in charge of planting of gutta percha, Bukit Timah.

Completion of the new civil prison.

New quarters for boarding officers, Marine Department.

Erection of a furnace battery and the addition of a double roof to the Government analyst's office.

Temporary beri-beri ward for female patients, Pasir Panjang.

Erection of a building at the foot of Mount Palmer to contain the Singapore disinfector.

Temporary ward at the Leper Asylum, Seranggong, to accommodate leper patients.

Construction of an examination depôt for immigrants at Telok Ayer.

Quarters for boatmen and gardeners, Christmas Island.

Progress was also made on the following works and buildings:—

Quarters for the Superintendent of Works and Surveys, Singapore.

New light house on Fort Canning.

Reclamation on sea face between the mole near the drill hall and Johnston's pier.

Alterations to Supreme Court.

Quarters at Christmas Island for the district officer, interpreter, and police.

Improvements to the rifle range, Balestier Plain.

Dredging Singapore River and removing rocks near the entrance.

Alterations to the General Post Office.

Completion of Telok Ayer sea wall and reclamation to Fort Palmer Point.

Under "roads, streets, bridges and canals," the following works were completed:—

Portable light railway and trucks for construction work.

Construction of a road from the municipal limit on Alexandra Road to near the tenth mile on Reformatory Road.

Additional culvert on the Kranji Road at 10½ mile.

New road from Tanjong Katong to Bedoh.

PENANG.

The following works and buildings were completed during the year:—

Duplicating syphon across Prai River.

New quarters for Lascars near the Marine Police quarters.

Erection of quarters for Veterinary Inspector.

Constructing separate lavatory for officers' quarters, General Hospital.

Quarters for Chinese interpreters, Prison Department.

Erection of servants' quarters, Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak.

Teacher's quarters, Kuala Prai Vernacular School.

Quarters for chief clerk and interpreter, Butterworth.

Erection of clerks' quarters, Nibong Tebal.

Erection of a brick building for district office, Nibong Tebal.

Erection of two cells, General Hospital.

Erecting four houses for public officers.

Additions to jetty sheds.

Erection of building to contain a disinfector.

Construction of quarters for Sikhs.

Screw pile beacon.

Progress was also made on the following works and buildings:—

Weld Quay reclamation.

Sungei Pinang reclamation.

Extension of Government offices.

Erection of new Supreme Court.

Exchange and club building.

Erection of goods shed on New Reclamation.

New reservoir, quarantine station.

Reconstruction of Marine Police and Harbour Master's Department buildings.

Drill hall for Penang Volunteers.

Reclamation north of new iron pier.

MALACCA.

Quarters for six married constables were built at the Central Station.

A detailed survey of the proposed Malacca-Tampin railway was made.

Progress was made in widening the entrance to the Malacca River, on the construction of quarters for forester at Ayer Koroh, and on the erection of frontier pillars on the Malacca-Johol frontier.

The principal work carried out on roads has been the extension of the frontier road to Relau, a short length of road to connect Sungei Bharu with the Sungei Bharu—Kuala Linggi road near the 27th mile, and a bridge at Sungei Rambei. The Johore Government paid half of the cost of the last item. A deviation was also completed between the 17th and 18th miles on the Tampin road, and three new coolie lines were erected.

The usual maintenance services were carried out on buildings, roads, and bridges.

IMMIGRATION.

During the year immigration from Hong Kong was prohibited from the end of May to the beginning of August. Amoy and Swatow were both declared infected but immigration was not prohibited. These restrictions are becoming an annual feature on account of the regular visitation of plague in the southern ports of China.

The immigration figures for the last three years were:—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1899	141,980*	7,717	149,697
1900	188,965†	11,982	200,947
1901	166,956‡	11,822	178,778

* Of these 6,650 were children. † Of these 8,488 were children. ‡ Of these 8,147 were children.

The disproportion between the sexes still continues.

The number of immigrants from Southern India largely decreased, as will be seen from these figures:—

Immigrants.	1900.	1901.
1. Statute Immigrants	7,615	2,785
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets)	7,052	3,476
3. Other Immigrants	23,862	21,998*

* Of these 2,902 were children.

During the year 15,434 adults and 770 minors left for Southern India.

The appointment of a Superintendent of Emigration at Negapatam has resulted in an improvement in the class of coolies arriving in the Colony, but, owing to the stricter examination, the numbers have decreased.

There has been a weekly service of steamers between Penang and Southern India throughout the year.

In the earlier part of the year there was a very high death-rate among the coolies on the Singapore-Johore railway, but this gradually fell off after proper medical attendance was arranged for.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The news of the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in January was received in this Colony with manifestations of deep sorrow on the part of all classes of the community. A memorial service was held in the cathedral on the 2nd February. His Majesty the King was proclaimed in each of the three Settlements on the 28th January in the presence of a large concourse of people.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G., continued to administer the Government until the 18th February, when he went on leave. Sir Frank Swettenham, K.C.M.G., Resident-General of the Federated Malay States, replaced him as Administrator, and in September was appointed to be Governor of the Colony, High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States, and Consul-General for Borneo and Sarawak.

In the month of May the Colony was honoured by a visit from the Duke and Duchess of York, who remained three days in Singapore on their way to Australia. Their Royal Highnesses received many tokens of loyalty and devotion from the people of the Colony, and were pleased to express themselves much gratified with their reception.

The construction of the Singapore-Kranji Railway continued during the year, and it is hoped that it may be opened for traffic towards the end of 1902. It has been decided to eventually extend the line to the docks, *viâ* Kampong Saigon and Sepoy lines, and thence past Tanjong Pagar and the P. & O. Wharf to Keppel Harbour. The land required for this purpose will be acquired without delay. Negotiations are also on foot for leasing the railway to the Singapore Tramway Company who would probably use electricity as the motive power and would connect the Kranji line with their system of street tram lines.

In November, Mr. Matthews of the engineering firm of Coode, Son and Matthews, came to the Colony to enquire into and report upon the question of the improvement of harbour accommodation of each of the three Settlements. His recommendations include a protected harbour for local and coastwise shipping at Singapore and an extension of the iron pier now in course of construction in Penang. The carrying out of the last-named work has been already decided upon and arrangements have been made for borrowing a sum of $600,000 for this work from the Government of the Federated Malay States. Final consideration of the Singapore scheme is deferred until the results of a preliminary survey recommended by Mr. Matthews are known. It is not proposed at present to take any steps to carry out Mr. Matthews's suggestions for improving the harbour of Malacca, as the trade of the place is not sufficient to justify the large expenditure that would be necessary.

The Prai-Taiping Railway progressed satisfactorily, the bridge over the Krian River having been almost completed by the end of the year, and the Perak section of the line all but finished.

A company of engineers, a corps of infantry, consisting of Straits-born Chinese and Eurasians, a cadet corps and a company at Malacca were added to the Volunteer Force of the Colony.

A successful agricultural show was held in Penang in July.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The prosperity of the Colony continues. The Census taken in 1901 shows a total population of 572,249, as against 512,342 in 1891, thus showing an increase of 59,907 during the past decade. This increase is accounted for entirely by immigration, nor indeed does it represent the true augmentation due to the influx of population, inasmuch as the birth-rate of the Colony itself is, owing to the paucity of women, much lower than the death-rate. The principal increase of population has been in the Settlement of Singapore, and China has supplied the greatest number of immigrants.

The cost of living continues to advance and the price of land and house-property has risen enormously, especially in Singapore. The price of labour and building materials has also increased, while the exchange value of the dollar has steadily declined.

The lighting of the town of Singapore has been much improved by the adoption of Welsbach incandescent burners in some of the principal thoroughfares.

The Singapore Tramway Company was formed during the year for the installation of electric tramways and the supply of electric energy in the town; the Company has obtained from the municipality a thirty-five years' concession for this purpose, and it is proposed to use electric power supplied by them to supplement the existing system of lighting by gas the streets of Singapore. An Ordinance has been passed to facilitate and legalize the operations of the Company, which will probably commence before the close of 1902.

The Penang Tramways were taken over by the Government early in the year, and have since been carried on by a lease on a short agreement. This arrangement is not satisfactory, and negotiations have been opened for letting the lines to the Singapore Tramway Company with a view to their being worked by electricity. The power supplied by the Company could also be utilized for the lighting of the town.

The increased output of tin in the Federated Malay States has led to further development of the tin smelting business in the Colony.

W. T. TAYLOR,

Colonial Secretary,

Straits Settlements.

Singapore, 24th June, 1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 406.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 360.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1903.

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1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar	"
388	Weihaiwei	"
389	Sierra Leone	"
390	British Honduras	"
391	Gambia	"
392	St. Helena	"
393	Hong Kong	"
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados	1902–1903
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"
401	British Solomon Islands	1902–1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1902
405	Southern Nigeria	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.

No. 406.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1901 *see* No. 360.)

ACTING GOVERNOR TAYLOR to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
13th October, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1902.

I have, &c.,

W. T. TAYLOR.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1902.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for 1902 amounted to $7,754,736, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

	$
Singapore	4,907,459
Penang	2,337,510
Malacca	509,767

There was an increase of $713,050 as compared with the Revenue for 1901 and of $2,368,179 as compared with that for 1900.

The principal increases were under Land Sales $163,556, Stamps $133,341, Reimbursements $123,270, Fees of Office $95,288, Post Office and Telegraphs $83,139, Licences $64,118, Miscellaneous Receipts $15,435, Port and Harbour Dues $13,497 and Land Revenue $10,497.

The principal decrease was under Fines and Forfeitures ($22,355) which in 1901 included all the Court Fees now placed under the head of Fees of Office.

The Expenditure for the year was $7,601,354, as compared with $7,315,001 in 1901 and $6,030,740 in 1900.

As compared with 1901 the Expenditure shews an increase of $286,353.

The principal increases were:—

	$
Personal Emoluments	259,865
Other Charges	247,500
Military Expenditure	100,721
Roads, Streets, &c., Special Services ...	82,482
Pensions, &c.	43,801
Interest	38,179
Expenditure under the Volunteer Ordinance	30,365
Special Expenses	20,515

The large increase under the head Personal Emoluments is in a great measure due to the increase to Exchange Compensation in consequence of the fall in the value of the dollar,

The increase under the head Other Charges is due to a large sum expended for the new Colonial steamer and the increase in price of stores and labour. Military Expenditure increases with the Revenue receipts on which 20 per cent. is payable. There was a greater number of votes taken out in 1902 for re-forming the roads already in existence. The increase under Pensions is mainly due to a larger amount charged to Difference in Exchange on Pensions paid in England owing to the fall in exchange. There was also a larger amount charged to Difference in Exchange on remittances to Crown Agents for Salaries and for Pensions to the Widows and Orphans payable in England owing to the fall in exchange. Both of these are charged under the head of Interest. The increase under the head Expenses under Volunteer Ordinance is due to more Volunteers being enrolled. A sum of $50,000 was paid as part of the Government's contribution towards the new Theatre and Victoria Memorial Hall, while the expenses in connection with passages, &c., of the Straits Settlements Volunteer Contingent which went to England for the Coronation of their Majesties the King and Queen amounted to $58,108·56. Both these were charged to the head "Special Expenses" in 1902. On the other hand in 1901 the following were charged to the same head—Expenditure in connection with the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York $45,000, and the purchase of the Penang Tramways $40,000.

The principal decreases were under Works and Buildings, $275,937·75, owing to diminished expenditure on construction of the Singapore-Johore Railway and under Land and Houses purchased, $271,130·88.

The balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1902, was $1,973,176 as compared with $1,814,294 on the same date in 1901.

Arrangements were made for borrowing a sum of $600,000 from the Federated Malay States for the completion of the Penang Pier.

Exchange.

Exchange was very unsteady during the year. The average value of the dollar was 1*s.* 8½*d.* on demand and 1*s.* 8$\frac{15}{16}$*d.* at four months' sight, as compared with 1*s.* 11⅜*d.* and 1*s.* 11$\frac{11}{16}$*d.* in 1901. The highest rate for demand Drafts was 1*s.* 10$\frac{7}{16}$*d.* in January and the lowest 1*s.* 6$\frac{7}{16}$*d.* in December.

Currency.

The currency of the Colony consists of Mexican and British dollars circulating at equal value and of Government Currency Notes.

British dollars to the value of $32,547,677 were imported by the local Banks alone, as compared with $17,281,263 in 1901. Other dollars to the value of $5,318,404 were imported by the Banks.

The annual importation of British dollars by the Banks since their first coinage in 1895 has been:—

Year.	Amount.
	$
1895	2,201,890
1896	3,623,000
1897	25,704,908
1898	19,492,168
1899	29,349,725
1900	21,571,488
1901	17,281,263
1902	32,547,677

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $4,960,518, as compared with $5,473,733 in 1901. The falling off is due principally to the reduction by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of the amount of its local issue.

The amount of Government Currency Notes in circulation on the tenth of each month (when statistics are published) was:—

Month.	Amount.
	$
January	9,595,650
February	9,769,492
March	10,351,738
April	11,056,900
May	11,543,029
June	12,152,100
July	12,395,900
August...	12,395,900
September	12,395,900
October	13,150,495
November	13,393,537
December	13,476,020

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $2,074,407, and their expenditure, including sums expended on Loan Works, to $2,403,660.

TRADE.

The total volume of trade, inclusive of the Inter-Settlement trade, as indicated by the Returns of Imports and Exports, of the Colony compares favourably with that of the preceding year. Expressed in dollars and including specie, the figures are:—

—	1901.	1902.
	$	$
Imports ...	320,520,209	362,934,818
Exports ...	278,753,805	314,034,936
Total ...	599,274,014	676,969,754

a difference in favour of 1902 of $77,695,740.

Excluding specie the figures are:—

—	1901.	1902.
	$	$
Imports ...	292,810,167	322,396,485
Exports ...	256 773,550	285,953,815
Total ...	549,583,717	608,350,300

an increase as compared with the year 1901 of $58,766,583, equal to 10·7 per cent. in nominal value.

The Trade of 1902 was divided among the Settlements as follows:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
Singapore ...	280,516,661	234,224,585
Penang ...	79,358,895	76,449,068
Malacca ...	3,059,262	3,361,283
Total ...	362,934,818	314,034,936

In all the classes of Imports and Exports but one the sterling values show a decrease, the difference being most marked in the case of the Imports and Exports of manufactured articles. The one exception is in the class of Exports of raw materials, the sterling value of which exceeded the sterling value of 1901

by £282,000, though even in this class the value was less than the sterling value of 1900 by a sum of £237,000.

As usual the value of the Imports largely exceeds the value of the Exports. The difference in this instance amounts to some $48,900,000 the excess in the matter of treasure alone being nearly $12,500,000. No doubt a considerable portion of the excess of specie imported may be attributed to the large imports of dollars towards the close of the year, due to speculation in view of the possible change in the currency. There still remains, however, a very large difference to be accounted for, some at least of which may be set down to the large quantity of bunker coal and liquid fuel shipped, of which no account is taken, and some probably to the raw materials used up in connection with the ship-building industry which is considerable. The recorded value of coal imports in the year under review is $6,547,375, while the value of the Exports as shown in the Trade Returns is only $98,440. Liquid fuel of the value of $406,725 was imported while the value of the Exports is given as $34,507. The difference is mainly due, as already mentioned, to shipments of bunker coal and liquid fuel on ships calling here to coal.

As regards the relative trade with gold and silver-using countries the recorded figures go to show that Imports from gold countries increased in value by some 2½ per cent., while the Imports from silver-using countries increased by upwards of 18 per cent.; the value of Exports to gold-using countries increased by nearly 14 per cent. while to silver-using countries the increase was only some 6 per cent. It would thus appear that the tendency of trade is to draw our supplies, as far as possible, from countries having a silver currency and to send goods to places where the standard is on a gold basis.

Measured in dollars the Import Trade with the United Kingdom may be regarded as stationary for the whole period dealt with, but measured in sterling it shows a distinct falling off; the increase as regards Imports is with foreign countries and British Possessions. The chief increases are with the States of the Malay Peninsula, British India and China. As compared with the trade of 1901 the year 1902 shows a general falling off in the value of Imports from all the countries of Europe.

The Export trade to the United Kingdom was in a more satisfactory state; if it shows no great increase it shows no falling off. In the case of British Possessions there was a marked falling off in the trade; with the other countries of Europe there was a substantial increase, and a marked increase in the Exports to the United States of America.

Looking to the classification of trade it will be seen that, while there has been a large increase in the food class and in

raw materials imported, manufactures stand still or, if anything, show a tendency to decline. In Exports the same disposition is apparent in the several classes.

Import and Export Quantities.

Excluding bullion and specie the value of the Imports of the Colony for 1902 exceeded 311 millions of dollars, an increase as compared with the values recorded for 1901 of nearly 28 million dollars, but converted into sterling at the average rate of exchange a decrease of value of upwards of a million pounds.

The Imports of live animals and articles of food and drink reached an aggregate value of $127,915,000. Rice, pepper, wheat flour, live stock, provisions, coffee, tobacco, fish, lard, vegetables, beans and peas, tapioca and sago all show large increases in value; the only articles of importance giving decreased values are opium and sugar.

Rice was imported to the amount of upwards of half a million tons of a declared value of $37,559,000, of which, however, nearly 94 per cent. was re-shipped to the neighbouring countries. The increase in the quantity imported is in respect of imports from Burma.

Imports of wheat flour show an increase of nearly 6,000 tons with a higher average value, the increase in value amounting to almost a million dollars. Some 95 per cent. of the wheat flour imported is of American origin brought to this Colony from Hongkong.

The value of provisions, under which designation are included biscuits, butter, milk, cheese and oilman's stores, exceeded 5¼ million dollars, by far the greater part being in respect of foodstuffs of Eastern origin.

The value of tobacco and cigars imported from the United Kingdom came to $553,000, an increase of some $80,000; and the United States sent tobacco and cigars to the value of $65,000, an increase of some $34,000.

Fish imported amounted to 45,250 tons valued at 7½ millions of dollars—a decrease in quantity of 3,270 tons but an increase in value of $600,000.

Increased quantities of malt liquors and decreased quantities of spirits were imported.

Fifteen thousand nine hundred and seventy-six (15,976) chests of opium were imported, a decrease as compared with the imports of the preceding year of 543 chests with a decrease in value of upwards of $700,000.

Fifty-four thousand five hundred (54,500) tons of sugar were received, a decrease of 1,000 tons in quantity but showing a

decrease in value of over $500,000. The import of Austrian beet sugar fell off by 1,000 tons and of Java cane by 2,500 tons.

The Imports of raw materials aggregated $127,775,295, an increase as compared with 1901 of upwards of $15,200,000.

Tin and tin ore account for $68,600,000, an increase of $11,600,000. Some 22,000 tons of refined tin were imported and 41,000 tons of tin ore.

Copra and gambier show increases of $4,500,000 and $3,200,000 respectively, smaller increases being shown by gum copal, hides, Kachang oil, wax and timber. Decreases are apparent in the imports of gutta percha, petroleum, rattans and Borneo rubber.

The imports of petroleum fell from 2½ million cases in 1901 to 1⅓ million cases in 1902, with a corresponding decrease in value. This may be attributed as, in some degree at least, due to the understanding, or combination as it is usually termed, now existing between the Shell Transport and Trading Company and the Royal Dutch Company. The imports of liquid fuel did not show such expansion as was anticipated, only 26,500 tons having been brought in during the year.

The quantity of coal imported was less by 12½ per cent. for the period under review than for 1901. Cargoes from Japan were less by 88,000 tons and from the United Kingdom by 12,000 tons; from Bengal, however, the receipts were nearly 95,000 tons, an increase as compared with 1901 of 18,000 tons.

Coming next to the class of "Manufactures" under the heading of textiles the Imports of 1902 do not show a satisfactory condition of trade. The nominal increase in value is upwards of one million dollars as compared with the totals of 1901. Converted into sterling at rates of Exchange current during the year, the difference is the other way, there being an apparent falling off in value of £380,000. Taking separately the principal sub-heads we find that while gunnies imported show an increase of value to the extent of $1,743,000, silk goods $530,000 and woollens nearly $200,000, the other principal articles show large decreases. Cotton goods show a falling off of $5,500,000 and apparel, hosiery, &c., $585,000. Cotton piece goods imported were fewer in number by half a million pieces. Sarongs and slendangs fell off some 24 per cent. in quantity, the supply from the United Kingdom being 53 per cent. less than in 1901 and from Continental ports upwards of 22 per cent. less—the trade with Java alone showing an increase. The total value of sarongs and slendangs imported amounted to $4,639,000, representing 240,000 corges of 20 pieces each. Yarns and threads generally show unimportant increases, but in the case of dyed yarn the trade was brisk, the imports amounting to 16,400 bales with a value of $1,520,000. The

value of umbrellas imported shows a decrease; from France the imports of these goods fell off from $265,000 in 1901 to $95,000, while the United Kingdom sent us to the value of $100,000, an increase of $35,000.

Metal manufactures decreased by nearly a million dollars in value, the falling off extending to all the articles in the class with the exception of corrugated iron, zinc and tools. Most of the difference is due, however, to the smaller imports of telegraph materials which were less by $850,000 than in 1901.

"Other" manufactures show an increase in value of nearly half a million dollars, due to increased imports of matches, lamps, joss sticks and joss paper, fancy goods, paints, soap, &c. Decreases are apparent in fireworks, earthenware, glass, oil cake, and mats.

EXPORTS.

Excluding specie and excluding the Inter-Settlement trade, the total value of Exports of the year 1902 amounted to $273,620,000, an increase as compared with the figures of 1901 of $28,550,000. If, however, the values are converted into sterling at average rates of exchange the result is not so satisfactory—giving, as it does, a decrease of some £400,000. It must be borne in mind that a comparison in sterling is not strictly applicable to goods and produce having their origin in countries with a silver currency. Inclusive of the Inter-Settlement trade the Exports reached a total of $285,953,815.

Class A.—Animals, food and drink and narcotics—give a total of $119,200,000, an increase as compared with 1901 of some 12 million dollars. Foodstuffs such as rice, pepper, fish, coffee, wheat flour, sago and tapioca, that show increases under the head of Imports, show practically corresponding increases in the matter of Exports. Opium, sugar and preserved fruits show a falling off.

Exports of coffee increased by 30 per cent., consignments from Bali having risen from 715 tons in 1901 to 1,900 tons in 1903; the average price as declared also shows an increase of 6 per cent.

Tapioca shows a decrease in price in the several classes but an increase in quantity of 21 per cent., chiefly in pearl and flour.

Exports of black pepper increased by 2 per cent., exports of white pepper by 25 per cent.; the average price for black was $31½ the pikul and for white $52·90—both averages being the highest on record.

Four hundred and twenty-six thousand (426,000) cases of pineapples were sent to Europe and America during the year, an increase of 25,000 cases.

The value of "raw materials" exported reached the very large total of $131,830,000, an increase of $18,635,000 over the Exports of 1901. Cotton and silk account for $1,320,000, tin and tin ore $73,800,000, and Straits produce some $56,600,000.

The shipments of tin rose to nearly 54,500 tons, the largest export on record. In Straits produce there appears an increase in quantity in all important articles except rattans and gutta percha; prices also had an upward tendency.

Increased values are marked in the case of copra, gambier, coconut oil, gum copal, gutta percha and hides. Gambier exports, though 2 per cent. in excess of the Exports of 1901, are still considerably lower than the average of previous years; prices, however, advanced 35 per cent.

The quantity of copra exported was the highest since 1899—854,000 pikuls of the value of $8,873,000 as compared with 556,000 pikuls valued at $4,573,000 in 1901. Average prices show an increase of 23 per cent.

Gutta percha, while showing a falling off in quantity, shows an increase of the average price by nearly 20 per cent., the declared value averaging $234½ a pikul. Jelutong rubber and low grades of gutta increased in quantity but the average price fell somewhat. In gum copal there was an export of nearly 6,370 tons, an increase, as compared with the previous year, of over 1,000 tons; the average price also rose by 5 per cent.

Rattans show a falling off in both quantity and value.

Exports of raw hides decreased in quantity by some 4,000 pikuls but the average price rose 30 per cent.

The value of coconut oil exported increased from $1,690,000, in 1901 to $2,032,000 in 1902.

Trade with Other Countries.

The following Table shows how the Trade of the Colony was distributed:—

—	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	$	$	$
United Kingdom	29,481,982	61,536,208	91,018,190
British Possessions ...	81,352,829	32,608,111	113,960,940
Foreign Countries... ...	200,275,704	179,477,736	379,753,440
Inter-Settlement	11,285,970	12,331,760	23,617,730
	322,396,485	285,953,815	608,350,300

These values are exclusive of bullion and specie, the Imports and Exports of which for the year are under review were:—

	$
Imports	40,538,333
Exports	28,081,121
	$68,619,454

The specie transactions were particularly numerous and heavy towards the close of the year, influenced no doubt by speculations as to the recommendations of the Committee then engaged in considering the question of the currency and the means whereby fixity of exchange might be obtained.

The value of Imports from the United Kingdom reached nearly 29½ million dollars, a decrease as compared with the Trade of 1901 of 3½ per cent. The articles chiefly responsible for this falling off are telegraph materials, sarongs, coal, cotton piece goods, grey yarn, machinery and cotton blankets. There was, on the other hand, an increase in the value of Imports of oilman's stores, soap, brandy, dyed yarn, earthenware, malt liquors, corrugated iron, woollen cloth, and blankets.

The value of Exports to the United Kingdom exceeded 61½ million dollars, an increase of some 15¾ per cent. as compared with 1901. The increase in tin alone would account for the whole difference, but increased values are also visible in the case of pepper, sago flour, tapioca, isinglass and copra. The Exports of gutta and rubbers, gambier, and preserved fruits also show a falling off.

The value of the Imports from the other countries of Europe amounted to $15,396,000, a decrease of upwards of 12½ per cent.

Of the total trade Germany accounted for six million dollars, a decrease of a quarter of a million, due to smaller imports of apparel, hardware, glassware, and earthenware. Beer is the only article of importance showing an increase.

A notable decrease is apparent in the Imports of petroleum from Russia.

From Belgium also came decreased Imports, more especially in the case of earthenware and glassware.

There was a marked falling off in the Imports of umbrellas from France, and an increase in the quantity of brandy imported from that country.

Italy sent fewer textile articles, but more condensed milk—there being a large market here for this article.

The Imports from Spain decreased, more particularly in respect of apparel.

From Austria came increased supplies of dyed yarn, paper and stationery, but in sugar there was a serious falling off, the total decrease from this country amounting to some quarter of a million dollars.

Holland is the only Continental country the total Imports from which show an increase, due to enhanced values of dyed yarn and cotton piece goods brought in.

The value of goods exported to Continental countries exceeded $34,800,000, an increase as compared with the trade of 1901 of upwards of 38½ per cent. The difference is accounted for by increased values of tin, copra, pepper, and coffee shipped to France—the total shipments to that country amounting to close on 10 millions, gutta percha, copra, white pepper and gambier to Germany; tin, gambier, pepper and copra to Italy; copra, black pepper, tin and gambier to Russia; black and white pepper, tin and copra to Austria; copra to Belgium; white pepper to Holland; tapioca pearl to Denmark; and copra to Spain. The Exports of gutta percha to France, of rattans, tin and inferior rubbers to Germany and of tin to Holland show a decrease.

The Trade with the United States showed a notable increase in the year 1902, more especially as regards Exports. The value of goods imported from that country amounted to $1,558,000, an increase of about 14½ per cent., while Exports reached a total of $38,527,000, an increase of more than 17 per cent. The value of the import trade is understated, goods from the United States of America received *viâ* the United Kingdom and Hongkong being in some cases credited to the countries of transit. Increased values are recorded in respect of oilman's stores, hardware, ironware, tools, lubricating oil, miscellaneous manufactures and hard goods. In the matter of Exports there are increases under the head of tin, white pepper, gambier, gum copal, prepared opium and preserved fruits, and decreases in rattans, coffee and gutta percha.

Imports from the Dutch Indies amounted to $48,637,000, an increase of 3⅓ per cent., and Exports to $45,227,000, a decrease of 3½ per cent.

Of the Imports, Java contributed to the extent of $8,524,000 and Sumatra $12,263,000. Java sent larger quantities of coffee and Kachang oil but less sugar, black pepper, rattans and ground-nuts; while from Sumatra came less gutta, raw cotton and tobacco but more black pepper and copra.

Imports from Dutch Borneo reached $10,018,000, a total increase of $370,000. Copra alone shows an increase of $1,100,000, while gutta percha and gutta jelutong from Pontianak, Borneo rubber and coconut oil show a falling off.

Imports from the Dutch Islands and from the Celebes aggregate $9,416,000, an increase of $1,360,000. Increased values are shown in gum copal, tin ore, copra and Bêche-de-mer, while there are decreases in rattans, dammar, petroleum and nutmegs.

The supply of black pepper from Achinese ports was much the same as in 1901, and the quantity of areca-nuts increased.

Copra and coffee from Bali, and gambier and pepper from Rhio were imported in increased quantities. Copra was imported from the Natunas and Anambas groups to the value of $1,400,000, an increase of some half million dollars.

Exports to Java amounted to $14,479,000, a decrease as compared with the trade of 1901, of $1,417,000, the falling off being wholly accounted for by the decrease in Exports of rice.

The value of goods exported to Sumatra also shows a marked decrease, the total being $12,234,000 against $12,979,000 in 1901. More rice, opium and cattle were exported, but less textiles.

To Dutch Borneo were sent goods to the value of $4,720,000, a decrease of $105,000. Exports of rice increased by $537,000, while cotton piece goods decreased by $433,000 and coconut oil by $70,000.

Celebes and the Dutch Islands took from us goods to the value of $6,672,000, an increase of close on one and a half million dollars, due to increased exports of rice, gambier and gunnies.

The value of cotton piece goods and opium to Achinese ports decreased, while increases are apparent in the same articles and in gambier exported to Bali. Exports of rice to Rhio and the Natunas and Anambas groups also show an increase.

Goods were imported from British India to the value of $48,722,000, an increase as compared with 1901 of $5,511,000. The Imports from Calcutta amounted to $22,721,000 and from Burma to $20,123,000.

From Calcutta came increased values of jute gunnies, coal and precious stones, and from Burma rice of an increased value of more than four million dollars. Reduced values of cotton piece goods, manure, oil cake, sarongs and sheep account for a falling off of $384,000 from Madras, while an increase of $424,000 in the case of Bombay is made up from grey yarn, onions, rice and cotton goods.

The Exports to British India reached a total of $13,173,000, an increase of $324,000. The Export trade to Burma shows a falling off in value of $1,442,000, while the trade to Calcutta gives an increase of $947,000. There was increase of $330,000

to Bombay, and a decrease of $265,000 in the value of Exports to Madras. The decrease in the case of Burma is in fish, hides, sugar, raw silk, tin, rice and areca-nuts, and in the case of Madras the decrease is in cotton goods. The increase to Calcutta is made up mainly of tin, areca-nuts and gambier, and to Bombay of sugar, tin, gum benjamin and coffee.

The value of Imports from French Indo-China amounts to $4,979,000, an increase of $124,000. Imports of fish show an increase and raw silk and rice a decrease. The total exports reached a value of $3,369,000, an increase of $743,000, the highest figure attained for many years. There was a marked increase in the values of jute gunnies and petroleum exported, but a falling off in grey yarn and areca-nuts.

Imports from Hongkong were valued at $33,907,000, an increase as compared with 1901 of $5,384,000. There are increases in wheat flour (of American origin), tobacco, silk piece goods, lard, fish, joss sticks, Kachang oil, cottons, raw hides and numerous other articles. The only goods in respect of which any decrease of importance is apparent are fireworks.

The Exports amount to $19,204,000, a decrease of $1,334,000. Tin, sugar, opium, petroleum, black pepper and precious stones are the articles in respect of which there was a falling off, while in values of rice, bêche-de-mer and medicines an increase is shown.

The Import trade with the Malay Peninsula, excluding the Siamese States and including Kedah, Kelantan, Patani, Singora, Tringganu, Johore and the Federated Malay States, reached a total for the year of $85,515,000, an increase as compared with the Imports of 1901 of $15,877,000. Amongst the articles the Imports of which show increased values are tin and tin ore, gambier, pepper, copra, coffee, live animals, and rice. Decreases are apparent in fish, gutta percha and areca-nuts but are of minor importance.

The value of Exports to the same States amounts to $29,883,000, an increase of $3,553,000, the increase being due to higher values of rice, opium and chandu, sugar, wheat flour. Kachang oil, swine, bran, tobacco, fireworks, poultry, apparel, fish, &c., exported. There are decreases in cotton goods and provisions.

Siam and the Siamese States sent us goods to the value of $25,524,000 and took from us goods to the value of $12,904,000, an increase of Imports of $1,366,000 and a decrease of Exports to the value of $448,000. In Imports tin is the article which gives the largest amount of increase; of less amount are increases in hides, cattle, bran, fish, &c. The Imports of rice decreased in value by some $400,000. The decrease in Exports is due to lower values of Benares opium, areca-nuts, gunnies, apparel, corrugated iron and coco-nuts.

The Imports from Australia, valued at $1,567,000 show a small increase, mainly in tin ore and sandalwood. Imports of wheat flour, butter and coal show a falling off. The value of Exports is $1,513,000, a decrease of $152,000, due to reduced Exports of preserved fruits, rice, tapioca pearl and rattans; oil cake, gambier and pepper show a small increase.

Imports from Japan fell in value from $7,797,000 in 1901 to $7,353,000 in 1902. The difference is more than accounted for by the smaller quantity of coal imported; Imports of Matches, cabinetware and umbrellas show an increased value. The value of Exports more than doubled, the increase being from $1,537,000 in 1901 to $3,393,000 in 1902, due chiefly to increased quantities of rice, petroleum and coco-nut oil exported.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

Trade generally may be said to have recovered from the absence of expansion visible in connection with the trade of 1901. Produce from surrounding countries, the shipments of which from the Ports of the Colony had shown a tendency to decrease and about which some apprehension was felt, again came to the Colony in increased quantities for exportation to Europe and elsewhere.

The tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared at the various ports shows an increase of 809,508 tons, the increased tonnage in the case of British shipping amounting to 670,969 tons. Shipping of French nationality comes next with an increase of 236,499 tons, followed by Swedish and Norwegian to the extent of 142,264 tons. The tonnage of Russian shipping decreased by 194,633 tons, a decrease nearly equal to the increase in tonnage of this nationality in 1901. Judged by the returns the shipping trade would be said to be in a very prosperous condition.

In connection with the Import trade a feature of the year was the increased, though still comparatively small, quantity of American cotton drills received through the United Kingdom, and a general tendency on the part of the United States of America to meet the requirements of our local markets in an increased degree.

Exchange continued to fall during the year, the minimum being reached in December with a rate of 1*s.* 6⅝*d.* for four months' sight. This naturally led to some dislocation of trade, and during the latter half of the year a policy of extreme caution in trading was visible.

The number of failures among traders in the Bazaar is said to have been abnormally high, the failures being with two exceptions confined to dealers in rough goods and miscellaneous manufactures. This business had proved a very remunerative one during the two preceding years with the result that a glut of stock ensued and a bad year's trading resulted.

Tin ore from Perak, which formerly came to Singapore to be dealt with, is now sent to the smelting works in Province Wellesley of the Straits Trading Company, and the smelted tin is shipped from Penang, in place of from Singapore.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

Tin continued to be worked during the year at Kesang in Malacca. Steam power was installed and a larger number of men were employed in the mine and good results are hoped for. The total output of alluvial tin from Malacca in 1902 was valued at $702. There are no mines in the other Settlements. The deposits of phosphate on Christmas Island continued to be worked with good results, the amount exported during 1902 being 61,178 tons as compared with 42,125 tons in 1901.

In Singapore the pine-apple industry has continued to prosper, the area planted with pines being still further extended. Notwithstanding this the price of the fruit has risen.

A large Chinese biscuit factory exists and appears to be prospering.

The fisheries of the Colony are very rich and give occupation to a large number of people. Most of the fish caught near Singapore and Penang is consumed fresh. That caught near the Dindings is salted for consumption in Penang and Perak In Penang and Malacca large quantities of a species of shrimp are manufactured into "belachan" a favourite native condiment for eating with curry.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

In Singapore there has been little increase in the matter of cultivation as owing to the enhanced price of land for building purposes comparatively little has been done in opening up new land for cultivation. Coco-nuts are grown in suitable localities along the coast and the prices keep up well. Pine-apples cover most of the accessible hills, and supply the large

tinning trade. Indigo for local consumption is still widely cultivated, but pepper and gambier plantations have practically died out. Although the increase in price of the former has recently been considerable, the cultivation does not show any signs of reviving. Fruit and vegetable cultivation is, if anything, on the increase.

In Malacca, an Agricultural Show was held in the summer, and was very successful, especially in the matter of fruit, the season being a particularly good one. Stock, however, owing to the prevalence of disease among the cattle, and rice, on account of the unusually dry season, were but poorly represented. Rinderpest carried off 560 buffaloes and a sum of $25,000 was advanced by the Government as a loan to the padi planters to enable them to buy fresh animals. Seed padi to the value of $1,500 was purchased in Penang and sold to the planters. Tapioca plantations of large extent still exist in Malacca and are very remunerative. Twenty-seven steam tapioca factories now exist in that Settlement. Coco-nuts are largely grown along the coast and in most parts were tolerably free from the attacks of beetles, except near the town. Steps have been taken to prevent the spread of this pest by appointing an inspector authorized to destroy infected trees, under the system which has proved so successful in Singapore, where the red beetle has been nearly exterminated. The tea estate at Durian Tunggal continues to produce a very good and popular class of tea. The rubber plantations of Para (*Hevea braziliensis*) and *Ficus elastica* are increasing in extent, and excellent samples of both rubbers cultivated and prepared by Chinese were exhibited at the Malacca Agricultural Show. The cultivation of Para rubber promises remarkably well. The soil of Malacca is on the whole very suitable for rubber, and the area planted is steadily increasing. In all the adjacent native states including Johore the cultivation of rubber is spreading very rapidly, and samples from many estates have received high commendation from European rubber firms.

The gutta percha plantations in the Colony were maintained during the year under review and the plants generally thrive well. These plantations were handed over to the Forest Department at the end of the year.

It is proposed to inaugurate a system by which agricultural shows will be held annually at suitable centres in the Colony and Federated Malay States. It is hoped that by this method more interest will be taken in cultivation and a higher class of exhibits shown.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 17,098,762 as compared with 16,289,704 in 1901. Light dues amounted to $189,076·62.

Five hundred and sixty-four new vessels aggregating 16,492 tons were built in Singapore during the year.

LEGISLATION.

No fewer than 37 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1902. Of these twenty contained amendments of previous enactments.

Ordinance I introduces an important departure in regard to schools, especially vernacular schools, by making attendance compulsory and throwing the responsibility for such attendance on the parents. The Ordinance, which has a suspensory clause allowing of its introduction at different times in different parts of the Colony, has been experimentally enforced in Malacca.

Ordinance IV contains some useful amendments of "The Acquisition of Land for Public Purposes Ordinance, 1890," designed to facilitate purchase and to frustrate attempts to attach a fictitious value to land about to be acquired by Government.

Ordinance VII confers additional powers of search for stolen goods on Police Officers.

Ordinance VIII increases the jurisdiction of the Court of Requests and supplements the machinery for enforcing its decisions.

Ordinance X authorizes and regulates the construction of tramways within the Settlement of Singapore.

Ordinance XI is designed to improve the position of married women by enabling them to hold property independently of their husbands.

Ordinance XII contains a number of amendments to the Penal Code, some of which have been already adopted in India, while others are intended to meet local conditions. Most of these amendments arise from difficulties which have actually arisen in the Courts of the Colony.

An Ordinance (No. XVIII) was passed to enable the Government to lease the Singapore and Kranji Railway to a Company, but in the end it was found desirable that Government should retain the working of the railway in its own hands so this Ordinance becomes practically inoperative.

Another Ordinance of considerable importance is that which amends the Law for the protection of Chinese Immigrants (XIX). This enactment legalizes what had already become to some extent the practice of the Chinese Protectorate in dealing with Immigrants, and provides for the proper protection of the coolie both in transit and on arrival in the Colony.

Provision is made by Ordinances XXXI and XXXVII respectively for facilitating military manœuvres in the Colony and for the licensing of Surveyors.

The remaining Ordinances are of minor importance.

EDUCATION.

The majority of the schools in the Colony are Vernacular Schools for the Malays and are controlled and financed by the Government. Of the others most are managed by private bodies and receive grants-in-aid from Government.

In 29 schools English only is taught, in five English and Tamil, in three Tamil only, in two Chinese only and in 172 Malay only.

The expenditure on Government English Schools was $34,790, on Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $78,086 and on the Government Malay Schools $67,089·28.

The Malacca Training College for Malay teachers continues to make satisfactory progress. The cost for the year under review was $7,062. The Compulsory Attendance Ordinance passed early in the year was enforced in Malacca and has proved a great success, the enrolment in the schools being increased from 2,857 in 1901 to 4,017 in 1902. It has been decided to introduce it into Province Wellesley.

A Commission was appointed early in the year to enquire into the system of education in the Colony. After a careful and exhaustive enquiry, during the course of which all available evidence was collected, the Committee sent in their Report, most of the recommendations contained in which have been adopted by the Government.

The most important step taken on the advice of this Commission was the taking over by the Government of the Raffles Institution at Singapore. A like recommendation with regard to the Penang Free School was not adopted but Government has promised further assistance and support to that Institution. A training school is to be opened in connection with the Raffles Girls' School. It was also decided to reduce the value of the Queen's Scholarships and to award them on the results of a separate examination and not as heretofore on the Senior Cambridge Local Examination. In special cases the value of the Scholarship may be increased. The extension of technical and commercial education was recommended by the Commission, and steps are being taken to carry out their views in this respect.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Practically all the General Hospitals in the Colony are under Government management, while the Estate Hospitals maintained by the planters are under Government supervision. The principal causes of admission during the year were malaria, beri-beri and venereal disease, all of which, especially the last-named, were even more prevalent than in 1901.

The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the Lunatic Asylum, amounted to 25,624. The number of patients in the Leper Asylum at Pulau Jerejak, near Penang, was greater than in the previous year. A separate ward which has been erected in this Asylum for lepers from Perak has been recently extended to accommodate the increasing numbers sent over from that State.

Beri-beri again appeared during the course of the year in the Singapore Lunatic Asylum. The seaside establishment for female patients organized at Pasir Panjang, continues to give satisfactory results.

Reformatory.

At the end of the year the Reformatory contained 66 boys. Should the numbers continue to increase it will be found necessary to extend the accommodation. The boys were employed in learning carpentry, tailoring and shoe-making, and were

also instructed in Romanised Malay. Three boys were apprenticed as carpenters at Christmas Island and are doing well. The total expenditure on this Institution amounted to $8,089.

Savings Bank.

There was again a large increase in Savings Bank transactions, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $538,111, an increase of $51,012 as compared with 1901. The deposits amounted to $416,336, and withdrawals to $379,723.

The total investments at the end of the year amounted to $549,211, the particulars of which are as follows:—

Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper, $294,316.

Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, $48,000 bearing interest at 5 per cent., and $99,300 at 4 per cent.= $147,300.

Fixed Deposits at the Chartered Bank, bearing interest at 4 per cent., $28,500.

Cape Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., $8,516.

Queensland Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., $16,212.

South Australian Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., $21,044.

Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. guaranteed loan, $15,535.

Cardiff Corporation 3 per cent. Stock $17,788.

POLICE.

One Superintendent of Police retired early in the year and was replaced by an officer of the Burma Police who had been employed in special work in Siam. A new Assistant Superintendent was appointed by the Secretary of State.

Three Inspectors retired on pension; three Sergeants were promoted to be Inspectors, and one to be Inspector of Arms and Explosives.

Thirty-four European constables joined the force, five being locally enlisted.

Two constables were invalided and one resigned: four were dismissed and one was not re-engaged on the expiry of his agreement.

The strength of the Sikh contingent was well maintained. Recruiting for the Malay contingent was good, the Singapore

contingent being brought almost up to the proper strength by the end of the year.

The detective force worked well, especially in Singapore.

Eight cases of murder and thirty-two of gang-robbery were reported during the year.

A Committee was appointed to report on the defective force of the Colony, and, on their recommendation, certain additions to the force were approved for 1903.

Of the murder cases the most remarkable was that of Mr. Rutherford, the newly appointed manager of the Tangong Pagar Dock Company, fatally stabbed in his own house by Chinese burglars who had entered his house at night. Several of the criminals concerned in this daring outrage were brought to justice, and two suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony, which was 572,249 according to the Census of 1901, was estimated at 581,219 in 1902. During the year there were registered 14,521 births, of which 7,512 were of male and 7,009 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 24,970 as against 22,876 in 1901.

The death-rate was high, being 42·96 as compared with 39·98 in 1901. This was in a large measure due to zymotic disease which was very prevalent during the year. In Singapore there were 842 cases of cholera, of which 759 proved fatal, while in Penang and Province Wellesley there were 92 cases with 67 deaths. No cases were reported in Malacca.

In Singapore four cases of plague were reported, all of which proved fatal.

There was a large increase throughout the Colony in the number of cases of small-pox, viz.:—

Settlement.	1901.		1902.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore	62	14	159	67
Penang and Province Wellesley ...	41	15	399	111
Malacca	4	1	57	24

The great increase in Penang and Province Wellesley was due to the disease having found its way over the border from Kedah where it was very prevalent.

In Singapore and Penang the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipalities.

Sanitary Boards with powers under the Municipal Ordinance have been established in the several districts of Province Wellesley.

CLIMATE.

The mean rainfall was, in Singapore 82·28 inches; in Penang 94·56 inches; in the Dindings 89·91 inches; in Province Wellesley 91·27 inches; in Malacca 79·20 inches. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 6·90 inches at Singapore on January 6th.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

During the year under review nearly 11,000,000 articles passed through the Post Office: of these over 450,000 were registered. A fortnightly mail service from Singapore to Europe *viâ* India was established, under a subsidy of $30,000 from Government, and has proved a success.

The Postal Revenue amounted to $308,280 as against $245,516 in 1901. The expenditure was $312,790, an increase of $89,311 over that of the preceding year. The Money Order business experienced the first break in its progress owing to the fall in exchange with sterling and rupee-using countries.

The transactions in sterling amounted to £16,802, in Indian currency to Rs. 1,460,477 and in local currency to $375,893, the total amount thus aggregating $1,707,261 as against $1,789,794 in 1901.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley, and also the inland telegraphs in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system in the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

The telegraph line from Penang to Parit Buntar was duplicated during the year.

Singapore possesses a telephone system worked by the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company which also maintains the

Government telephone lines connecting the Government Offices, Police Stations, &c.

In Penang the length of service telephone lines amounted to 165 miles. The Telephone Exchange which is owned and worked by Government on the metallic circuit system had at the end of the year 153 subscribers' lines and 26 service lines connected.

Malacca possesses 140 miles of service telephones.

MILITARY.

The garrison in Singapore consisted of two battalions of Madras Infantry, two garrison companies of Royal Artillery and other small contingents of His Majesty's regular forces. No militia force exists.

A detachment of the Malay States Guides was quartered in Penang. The military contribution of the Colony in respect of the year 1902 amounted to $1,443,224.

A volunteer Artillery force 118 strong (including reserves) exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it.

A Volunteer Rifle Corps 137 strong (including reserves) also exists, composed of Europeans.

There is one company of Volunteer Engineers composed of Europeans 30 strong. It is proposed to form a second company composed of Eurasians.

There are two companies of Eurasians 56 and 54 strong respectively and two companies of Straits-born Chinese each 62 in strength.

A force consisting of Eurasians and Chinese 60 strong exists in Malacca.

There is in addition in Singapore a bearer and ambulance section composed of nine Europeans and five Chinese (Straits-born) and a Cadet Corps 40 strong. In Malacca there is a Cadet Corps 52 strong.

The Constabulary Force now numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Certain works commenced in previous years were proceeded with and a considerable number of new projects undertaken. The cost of labour and materials has again advanced.

SINGAPORE.

The following works, though entered in the Budget, were deferred:—

Cavenagh Bridge.

Elgin Bridge.

Cross Street School.

The improvements of the One Fathom Bank Light in the Straits of Malacca.

The purchase of a mud shifter.

Quarters for Colonial Surgeon.

New residences for Government Officers.

Telegraphic communication with Horsburgh Light.

Separate room for sick girls at Poh Leung Kuk.

In addition to the usual works of maintenance of roads and buildings, the following projects were completed during the year:—

Repairs to Horsburgh Lighthouse Pier.

Rebuilding permanent wards, Leper Asylum.

Buildings at Tanjong Rhu reconstructed and adaptd for a police station.

Additional accommodation for constables at Telok Blangah Station.

Office for the Port Health Officer.

Workyards improved and gallows reconstructed at the criminal prison.

New barracks for Marine Department lascars erected on Pulau Brani.

Purvis Creek filled up.

New Ranger's quarters built in the Eastern Division.

Rocks at the entrance to Singapore River blown up.

Buildings on Christmas Island completed.

The Engineering Survey for Harbour Improvements completed.

Quarantine accommodation on St. John's Island extended.

Progress was also made on the following works:—

Alterations to Magistrates' Courts.

Reclamation and Mole near Post Office.

Beech Road reclamation.

Telok Ayer reclamation.

Converting old Lunatic Asylum at Kandang Kerbau into quarters for dressers, &c.

Under roads, streets, bridges and canals, progress was made on the Ayer Rajah and the East and West Coast roads, and new roads were constructed on the Goodwood and Nassim Hill Estates.

PENANG.

The following works and buildings were completed during the year:—

Drill hall for Penang Volunteers.

Exchange and club building.

Extension of native ward, General Hospital.

Re-erection of kennels for Veterinary Surgeon's Department.

Houses for public officers.

Reconstruction of Marine Police and Harbour Master's buildings.

Improvement of water supply to Muka Head Lighthouse.

Quarters for two dressers, Pulau Jerejak.

Quarters for servants, Pulau Jerejak.

Weld Quay reclamation.

Railing Residency grounds along York and Ross roads.

New quarters for gardeners at Residency.

Repairs and extension of sea wall, Leith street end.

Sungei Nibong Vernacular Boys' School.

Enlargement of Chowrasta Boys' School.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

Quarters for Assistant Superintendent of Works (one at Bukit Mertajam and the other at Sungei Bakap).

Office for Assistant Superintendents of Works (one at Bukit Mertajam and the other at Sungei Bakap.)

Quarters for Public Works Department clerks (one at Bukit Mertajam and the other at Sungei Bakap.)

Quarters for Veterinary Inspector.

Rest House at Penaga.

Re-erection of Sungei Acheh School.

DINDINGS.

Jetty for boats.
Renewal of Prison and Treasury.
Quarters for additional Forest Staff.
Quarters for three postmen and lighthouse keepers.

Progress was also made on the following works:—

PENANG.

Extension of Government Offices.
New reservoir, quarantine station, Pulau Jerejak.
Goods sheds on new reclamation.
Reclamation north of iron pier.
Reclamation, Sungei Pinang.
New Supreme Court.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

Improving water supply northern division.

MALACCA.

Quarters for a Forester and Forest Guards at Ayer Kroh and Selandar and for married police at Tranquerah were erected. Two new Vernacular Schools and two new rest houses were built. Improvements to the Malacca hospital were carried out at a cost of $4,000.

$5,000 were spent in deepening the channel at the mouth of the Malacca river by dredging. The work of widening was completed.

The masonry dam at Gadek on the Malacca river was completed.

There were no new road extensions.

The scheme for clearing the Kesang river was abandoned.

The proposed new Residency ($26,000) was not commenced and it is now proposed to reconstruct the existing one at a cost of $15,000.

Quarters for an Assistant Superintendent of Works at Jasin were commenced.

Heavy rains and heavy traffic did much damage to the country roads in the early part of the year, necessitating a slight extension of the maintenance vote for roads.

47 Indian coolies were imported for road work by the Public Works Department.

Good progress was made with the work of clearing off the surveys in arrear.

IMMIGRATION.

During the year 1902, the largest number of immigrants on record arrived from China. This was largely due to a bad harvest in that country.

The immigration figures for the three last years were:—

Year	Male.	Female.	Total.
1900	188,965*	11,982	200,947
1901	166,956†	11,822	178,778
1902	194,005‡	13,151	207,156

* Of these 8,488 were children. † Of these 8,147 were children.
‡ Of these 9,807 were children.

The disproportion between the sexes continues.

There was still a further decrease in the number of immigrants from Southern India as may be seen from the figures below:—

Immigrants.	1901.	1902.
1. Statute Immigrants	2,785	2,430
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets)	3,476	1,595
3. Other Immigrants	21,998	16,217*

* Of these 1,567 were children.

17,219 adults and 964 children left the Colony for Southern India.

The agreement with the British India Steam Navigation Company for a fortnightly mail and coolie service between Penang and Southern India was renewed for a further period of three years on modified terms, the Government undertaking to purchase 8,000 tickets annually instead of 10,000 as before. In addition to the fortnightly steamers nine voyages were made by intermediate boats.

The general question of immigration from India received the careful consideration of Government and officers were, in November, sent to India from the Colony and the Federated States to enquire into and report on the matter. Conferences of employers of labour were also held in the Colony and active steps taken to improve the method of recruiting coolies in Southern India and to establish a recognized central agency at Negapatam. A Bill was introduced into Council to amend the existing law for the Protection of Indian Immigrants.

The difficulty in obtaining the requisite amount of labour is largely attributable to the fall in exchange and the increased prosperity and higher wages now ruling in Southern India. The necessity for paying the Indian coolie at a rate equal to that which labourers can obtain in Burma and Ceylon and of taking the rupee and not the dollar as the basis of remuneration has been at length fully recognized by employers of labour, and the proposed legislation embodies these reforms and further provides for the betterment of the condition of the labourer by enforcing the supply of rations where necessary. It is hoped that these reforms will result in a better and more continuous supply of labour and will do away with the abuses which have existed in times past in connection with the importation of Indian labour into the Straits Settlements.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir Frank Swettenham, K.C.M.G., continued to govern the Colony throughout the year.

Mr. W. T. Taylor, C.M.G., arrived in April and assumed the duties of Colonial Secretary.

The Coronation of His Majesty the King, which, delayed by an unfortunate illness, took place in London on August 9th, was celebrated in the Colony with great enthusiasm. A contingent of Volunteers and Malay States Guides from the Colony and the Federated Malay States was sent to England under the charge of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Murray to be present at the ceremony.

The railway from Singapore to Johore was proceeded with, but the difficulty of obtaining suitable labour was greatly felt. The section to Bukit Timah was ready for traffic at the end of the year and was opened on January 1st, 1903. The whole line is now in working order and is proving a great success. Preliminary action was taken to acquire the land necessary for the extension of the railway to the docks, and negotiations were entered into with the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company for

an exchange of land required for this extension for certain foreshore rights.

The proposed arrangements for leasing the railway to a company fell through and Government decided itself to undertake the control and management of the line. The Singapore Tramway Company, although duly formed, had not yet commenced operations at the close of the year. A survey and estimate of cost of the proposed Malacca and Tampin Railway was completed. Negotiations were carried on with the Government of Johore for the continuation of the main line from the Malacca frontier to the town of Johore Bharu. This line, if constructed, will form the last link in the trunk line through the Peninsula, uniting Singapore with Penang.

In Province Wellesley the Prai-Thaiping Railway carried an increasing number of passengers.

It has been decided to extend in a northerly direction the iron pier in course of construction in Penang. The work progressed satisfactorily during the year.

The preliminary survey recommended in connection with the proposed harbour improvements at Singapore was almost finished at the end of the year and plans have now been sent home to Messrs. Coode, Son and Matthews for completion.

The prolonged drought in Singapore in August and September resulted in a great scarcity of water. The Municipal supply had to be carefully husbanded and for a time was cut off daily except at stated hours. Steps are being taken to improve the present reservoir and to develop the resources of the Kallang basin.

A scheme for the payment of Government servants at sterling rates of pay was approved by the Secretary of State, officers already in the service being allowed the option of joining the scheme from the 1st January, 1903. Owing to the great depreciation in the value of the dollar, the question of introducing a fixed standard of currency into the Colony was again discussed. The Secretary of State for the Colonies was addressed on the subject and a Committee with Sir David Barbour as Chairman, was specially appointed by him to enquire into and report on the subject.

The consensus of opinion in the Colony was strongly in favour of fixity of exchange, but nothing had been decided at the close of the year.

The re-survey of the Town and Island of Singapore was commenced but little progress was made owing to the difficulty experienced in engaging competent surveyors.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The general prosperity of the Colony continued to increase and appeared to be in no way checked by the fall in the value of silver. This fall, however, had the effect of still further enhancing the already high cost of living. The prices of land and house property, as well as the cost of labour, continued to be very high.

The population of the Colony, augmented by a great number of Chinese immigrants, has steadily increased.

Owing to the high prices of tin, Chinese capitalists have had a very prosperous year while local trade generally was very flourishing.

Agriculture has also prospered and the fruit season has been an unusually good one.

In Penang, the Municipality have entered into an agreement with Messrs. Preece and Cardew for the installation of electric energy in the town for lighting and other purposes.

The lighting of Singapore by Welsbach incandescent burners has been extended and greatly adds to the appearance of the town at night.

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1903.

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No. 435.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 406.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1904.

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No. 435.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1902 *see* No. 406.)

GOVERNOR SIR JOHN ANDERSON to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Singapore,
16th September, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1903.

I have, &c.,
JOHN ANDERSON.

---

875 Wt 22378 11/04 D & S 5 19534

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for 1903 amounted to $7,958,496, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

Singapore	$4,983,719
Penang	2,451,645
Malacca	523,132

There was an increase of $203,763, as compared with 1902, and $916,813, as compared with 1901. The principal increases were under Railway Receipts, $134,926; Post Office, $124,113 (including Telegraphs); Land Revenue, $51,114; Interest, $36,287; Port and Harbour Dues, $28,947; Fees of Office, $27,762; and District Collections, $12,614.

The principal decreases were under Stamps, $109,611 (but the increase under Stamps sold at the Post Offices was $121,795, due to the introduction of unified stamps, and the use of the latter for revenue as well as for postage purposes); Reimbursements, $42,421; Land Sales, $40,224; and Licences, $17,508.

The Expenditure for the year was $8,185,952, as compared with $7,600,734 in 1902, and $7,315,001 in 1901. The principal increases were:—

Lands and Houses purchased... ...	$532,505
Other Charges	202,582
Personal Emoluments	167,033
Military Expenditure	118,786
Miscellaneous Services	67,220
Works and Buildings, Recurrent ...	14,136

The increase under Lands and Houses purchased is principally due to the acquisition of land for the railway extension. The increased expenditure under Other Charges is due to the cost of coining the new Straits dollars, considerable quantities of which were minted in Bombay, during the year, from old Mexican and British trade dollars. The increase of the staff of the police and the transfer of Raffles Institution to Government control, account for the greater portion of the increase shown under Personal Emoluments. Military Expenditure increases automatically with the revenue of the Colony, while under Miscellaneous Services the payment on account of the Queen Victoria Memorial was the reason for the excess shown. A larger sum than usual was spent under the heading of Works and Buildings, Annually Recurrent, on the improvement and maintenance of the Singapore River.

The principal decreases are found under Works and Buildings, $341,886, owing to diminished expenditure on construction of the Singapore-Johore Railway; Special Expenses, $102,467, mainly due to the expense, incurred in 1902, of sending the contingent of auxiliary forces to represent the Colony at the Coronation of His Majesty the King. Roads, Streets, and Bridges, $50,604; Interest, $45,470, due to the fact that many officers on leave in England were on sterling salaries, and thus did not draw compensation for loss on exchange; expenses under the Volunteer Ordinance, $27,587; and Roads, Streets, and Bridges, Annually Recurrent, $17,540.

Exchange.

The exchange demand value of the dollar during the year exhibited a fairly uniform appreciation. The lowest value, 1*s.* 6$\frac{15}{16}$*d.*, was in January, but it gradually recovered and reached 1*s.* 11$\frac{13}{16}$*d.* in August. During the remainder of the year, however, a slight depreciation was experienced, and the average exchange for the year was 1*s.* 9$\frac{1}{8}$*d.*, an advance of almost 1*d.* on the corresponding figure for 1902.

Currency.

The currency of the Colony consists of Straits, Mexican, and British dollars, circulating at par, and of Government currency notes. British dollars, to the value of $12,990,010 were imported by the banks, as compared with $32,547,677 imported in 1902. Other dollars, to the value of $9,609,096, were also imported by the banks. The annual importation of British dollars, since this piece was first coined in 1895, has been:—

Year.	Amount.
	$
1895	2,201,890
1896	3,623,000
1897	25,704,908
1898	19,492,168
1899	29,349,725
1900	21,571,488
1901	17,281,263
1902	32,547,677
1903	12,990,010

The average banknote circulation of the Colony for the year was $4,176,913, as against $4,966,518 in 1902, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation having continued the reduction of their note issue in pursuance of their agreement with Government.

The average amount of Government currency notes in circulation during each month was:—

Month.	Amount.
	$
February	14,453,117
March	14,732,036
April	15,134,290
May	15,292,490
June	15,291,857
July	15,290,509
August...	15,290,490
September	15,290,490
October	15,313,135
November	15,464,323
December	15,750,200

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $2,580,560 and their expenditure, including sums spent on Loan Works, to $2,823,671.

TRADE.

The import and export trade of the Colony can only be regarded as moderately satisfactory. Expressed in dollars, there was an increase in the value of imports of 8½ per cent., expressed in sterling, of 12½ per cent.; while in the case of exports, there was a decrease, expressed in dollars, of ½ per cent., but expressed in sterling, an increase of 2 per cent.

Expressed in dollars and excluding bullion and specie, the actual figures are:—

—	1902.	1903.
	$	$
Imports ...	311,110,515	337,796,435
Exports ...	273,622,055	272,209,513
Total ...	584,732,570	610,005,948

Bullion and specie were:—

—	1902.	1903.
	$	$
Imports ...	40,372,999	52,364,110
Exports ...	27,851,772	52,637,628
Total ...	68,224,771	105,001,738

The largeness of the transactions in specie is due to fluctuations in exchange and to the coinage of the new Straits Settlement dollars, a large number of British and Mexican dollars having been sent to Bombay to be re-minted and returned in the form of Straits Settlements dollars.

Upwards of 74 per cent. of the Colony's trade was with Singapore, a decrease of 1½ per cent., as compared with the trade of 1902.

The trade was divided among the three Settlements as follows:—

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
	$	$	$
Imports	292,096,941	97,752,847	310,757
Exports	249,833,269	74,002,778	1,011,094
Total	541,930,210	171,755,625	1,321,851

These figures are inclusive of specie.

The value of the trade with the United Kingdom amounted to $107,251,422, as compared with $96,254,845 in 1902; the value of the trade with the British Possessions was $175,098,692, as compared with $148,802,625 in 1902; and the value of the trade with foreign countries was $432,657,672, against $407,899,881 in 1902.

The inter-Settlement trade reached a total of $24,728,572 (as compared with $24,012,413 in 1902) distributed as under:—

—	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	$	$	$
Singapore	7,168,653	7,875,224	15,043,877
Penang	2,645,960	1,621,348	4,267,308
Malacca	3,062,395	2,354,992	5,417,387
Total	12,877,008	11,851,564	24,728,572

The value of imports from countries having a gold currency shows an increase of upwards of 8½ per cent.; and the percentage of increase from countries having a silver currency is but slightly less. But in the matter of export, there is a decrease in value of 2¼ per cent. to gold countries, as compared with an increase of nearly 4½ per cent. to countries having a silver currency.

Imports from the United Kingdom reached a total value of $34,405,431, an increase as compared with 1902 of nearly 17 per

cent.; the value of imports from the Continent of Europe was $18,721,000, an increase of 21 per cent.; while the imports from the United States of America amounted to $2,169,000, an increase of nearly 40 per cent.

From Hong Kong came wheat flour of the value of $3,385,000 an increase of $608,000, for the most part, if not altogether, of American origin.

Exports to the United Kingdom were valued at $55,305,000, a decrease in value as compared with 1902 of $6,230,000, rather more than 10 per cent.; the value of exports to the Continent of Europe was $36,484,000, an increase of $1,654,000, nearly 5 per cent.; and the United States of America are shown as having taken exports to the value of $42,308,000, an increase of $3,781,000, equal to close on 10 per cent., thus maintaining the condition to which allusion was made in the Report for 1902.

Low freights to America, as compared with the Shipping Conference rates to the United Kingdom, are alleged to be responsible for this transfer of trade from the United Kingdom to the United States of America.

From the point of view of the classification of goods, all classes of imports show an increase, whether measured in dollars or in sterling, while exports show a tendency to decline.

Import Quantities and Values.

The imports into the port of Singapore from places outside the Colony, excluding bullion and specie, increased in value by $8,664,000, while imports into Penang increased by $18,000,000 in 1903, as compared with 1902. The large increase in the case of Penang is due to larger imports of tin and tin ore from the States of the Malay Peninsula and Siam, to the extent of some $14,600,000. In 1902 the increase in the value of Penang's imports, as compared with 1901, amounted to $15,000,000, due to the same cause.

Including the inter-Settlement trade, the value of "live animals, food, drink, and narcotics" imported, aggregated $134,472,000 (£11,830,000), as compared with $127,915,000 (£11,000,000) in 1902. Opium, sugar, padi and bran, live animals, tobacco and cigars, spirits, coffee, provisions, wheat flour and sago, all show an increase, while decreased values are shown by fish, rice, tapioca, cocoa, bêche-de-mer, and onions.

The imports of fish amounted to 36,325 tons, a decrease in quantity of nearly 9,000 tons, but an increase in value of nearly 10 per cent.; 28,822 tons of wheat flour were imported, an increase of 1,700 tons. The quantity of rice brought in was

404,540 tons, of which upwards of 90 per cent. was re-exported as in previous years. The imports of opium were 16,699 chests —against which is recorded an export of 13,044 chests and 52,540 lbs. of prepared opium.

Fifty-two thousand five hundred and nine tons of sugar were imported, chiefly from Java and the Malay Peninsula. The imports of beet sugar from the Continent of Europe, which in 1902 showed a decrease of 1,000 tons, showed a further decrease in 1903 of 2,750 tons, the whole quantity of this sugar imported having been only 3,452 tons.

Spirits imported reached a total of 926,000 gallons, an increase of 81,000 gallons; wines also show an increase, principally in ports and clarets; while malt liquors remained more or less stationary at about 830,000 gallons, of which nearly 121,000 gallons were of porter and stout from the United Kingdom; the imports of German beer decreased somewhat, while those of Scotch ale, in bulk, increased.

Tobacco, in its various forms, is responsible for an increase in value of over half a million dollars. Large quantities of cigarettes were brought in from America for consumption by coolies, and for export to Burma, for the most part, the value of these cigarettes and of tobacco in other forms imported from America amounting to nearly $300,000, against $65,000 in 1902. Imports from the United Kingdom were valued at $550,000, much the same as in 1902.

The imports of "raw materials" amounted in value to $140,918,000 (£12,433,000) as compared with $127,776,000 (£10,873,000) in 1902.

Five hundred and seventy-five thousand seven hundred and ninety-six tons of coal were imported, a net decrease as compared with 1902 of some 8,000 tons. The receipts from Calcutta were only 76,000 tons, a decrease of 18,000 tons. Japan supplied 389,000 tons, much the same quantity as in 1902, the United Kingdom, 53,000 tons, an increase of 3,000 tons, Australia, 44,000 tons, an increase of 2,000 tons, and Tonquin, 11,000 tons, an increase of 7,000 tons; of Borneo coal, only 2,000 tons were received.

The imports of petroleum nearly doubled in quantity, the equivalent of 2,435,505 cases, of 65 lbs. each, having been received in 1903, as compared with 1,359,424 cases in 1902. Russian oil, the import of which in 1902 had fallen to 9,000 cases, rose to 722,000. The supply from Sumatra decreased, but from Dutch Borneo, from which no oil had been received in 1902, there came 339,000 cases. American oil imported, increased by 71,000 cases, and Burma oil by 90,000 cases.

Forty-two thousand tons of liquid fuel were imported from Dutch Borneo, an increase of 15,500 tons.

Fifty-three thousand one hundred and thirty-five tons of tin ore were brought to the Colony to be smelted, as against 41,009 tons in 1902. Perak sent 12,000 tons and Negri Sembilan 240 tons more than in 1902, while Selangor sent 900 tons less.

"Manufactured articles" imported were valued at $74,739,000 (£6,619,000), as compared with $66,706,000 (£5,729,000) in 1902. An increase is apparent under all three sub-heads—textiles, metals, and other manufactures.

Cotton piece goods imported reached the large total of 5,265,704 pieces, against 4,552,622 in 1902. 76 per cent. of the total quantity, representing 79 per cent. of the total value, came from the United Kingdom. From the Continent of Europe were received 638,000 pieces of the estimated value of $1,732,000, an increase of 313,000 pieces in number and of $732,000 in value, due principally to increased importations from Italy, Holland, and Germany.

Sarongs, slendangs, and kains show an increase of 34,540 corges, the total importation being 274,596 corges of 20 pieces each.

Imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of 59 per cent., and from the Continent of Europe, a decrease of 12½ per cent., the quantities imported having been 80,000 and 64,000 corges, respectively.

Dyed yarns show a decrease of nearly 5,200 bales, of which 1,890 bales in respect of imports from the United Kingdom, and 3,324 from other European Countries.

Imports of grey yarn were 14,070 bales, an increase of 1,863 —only 1,323 came from the United Kingdom, the rest being of Indian manufacture.

Sewing threads imported were valued at $634,000, of which $574,000 was for goods from the United Kingdom, and $50,500 was the value of imports from the Continental countries of Europe.

Silk piece goods were imported to the value of $5,088,000, an increase of $788,000 as compared with 1902.

Apparel, hosiery, &c., imported reached the very large total of $4,100,000, about one-half of which sum represents the value of imports from Continental Europe, chiefly goods of German manufacture.

Umbrellas were imported to the value of $680,000, towards which Hong Kong and Japan contributed $414,000, France, $108,000, and the United Kingdom, $113,000.

Thirty-two thousand eight hundred pieces of woollen cloths were imported of the value of $752,000, an increase of 7,000 pieces and of $170,000 in value.

Jute gunny bags and cloth from Calcutta were valued at $3,500,000, a decrease of some $2,100,000; the imports of these goods in 1902 showed an increase of $1,743,000.

Manufactures of metal represent a value of $11,033,000 (£977,000), as compared with $8,210,000 (£705,000) in 1902. The increase is distributed among all articles coming under this head with the exception of yellow metal sheathing and copperware. Imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of nearly two million dollars, of which some three-quarters of a million was in respect of telegraph materials, the balance being in respect of increased imports of ironware and hardware machinery, corrugated iron, and brassware.

In respect of goods from Continental Europe, enhanced values appear for ironware and hardware, steel and tramway materials, almost all the rails used for the Singapore tramway being of German manufacture, and shipped from Antwerp. The telephone materials, imported by the company doing business here, have been for some years now brought from Belgium. Bar iron from Belgium is used locally in an increasing degree in consequence of its cheapness.

"Other" manufactures show an increase in value of upwards of two million dollars, the figures being $19,970,000 (£1,767,000) against $17,691,000 (£1,521,000) in 1902. Increases are shown in cement, paints, paper and stationery, carriages, clocks and watches, musical instruments, boots and shoes, and fancy goods generally; while decreases appear in the imports of earthenware and crockery.

In this class, cement was imported to the extent of nearly 132,600 casks, of which 71,175 came from the United Kingdom, 30,000 from Continental Europe, and 32,000 from Hong Kong.

Imports under this head from Japan are of such a character as to offer little opportunity for competition with European countries, but a noticeable feature of the trade is that more attention than hitherto is being given to quality.

Export Quantities and Values.

The value of exports from Singapore to places outside the Colony increased by two million dollars, about one per cent., as compared with 1902, while exports from Penang decreased in value some three and a half millions, upwards of 5 per cent., as compared with 1902.

Class A—"Animals, food, drink, and narcotics"—gives a total of $117,168,000 (£10,313,000), as compared with $119,216,000 (£10,254,000) in 1902. Coffee, tapioca, sago, flour, and black pepper show an increase, while pearl sago, white pepper, and nutmegs show a decrease.

Exports of coffee amounted to 7,011 tons, an increase of 825 tons, as compared with 1902, but the average price shows a decrease of 8½ per cent.

Exports of tapioca increased by 4,252 tons to a total of 60,014 tons, the increase being in flour tapioca.

Exports of sago were 47,372 tons, an increase of 2,044 tons as compared with 1902. Exports of sago flour increased by 66,000 pikuls, while exports of pearl sago decreased by 32,000 pikuls.

Black pepper exported shows an increase of 8,000 pikuls, but white pepper decreased by 23,000 pikuls.

The quantity of nutmegs exported was only 11,600 pikuls, a decrease of nearly 50 per cent. as compared with 1902.

Class B—"Raw materials"—shows a small increase, the value being $132,631,000 (£11,666,000), as compared with $131,831,000 (£11,344,000) in 1902.

Exports of block tin amounted to 53,995 tons, only 503 tons less than the quantity exported in 1902, the largest exportation recorded. Though prices fell during the year till November, when there was a slight reaction, the average export price as declared is somewhat higher than the average of 1902. The total declared value of tin exported was $78,068,497.

Export of copra increased by 2,008 tons—the value, however, shows a reduction, as compared with 1902, of $981,000.

Rattans show an increase in the quantity exported of nearly 5,000 tons; in respect of this article also, prices were lower.

Hides, gum copal and India and Borneo rubbers were exported in increased quantities.

The gutta-percha trade was seriously affected by the low prices prevailing, only 36,000 pikuls having been exported, against 64,000 in 1902. Large stocks are said to be held by Singapore merchants in the Colony and elsewhere.

The exports of gambier fell from 41,289 tons in 1902 to 38,570 tons, a decrease of 2,719 tons; and gums from 25,157 tons in 1902 to 23,688 tons, a decrease of 1,469.

In *Class C*—"Manufactured articles"—the value of the exports in 1903 was $33,819,000 (£2,980,000), as compared with $34,907,000 (£3,003,000) in 1902.

Under the heading of "Textiles" there is a decrease of $1,309,000; "Metals" remained almost stationary; and "Other" manufactures show a small increase of $220,000.

Trade with other Countries.

The direction of trade is shewn in the following table, the value of bullion and specie being included:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Percentage.	Value.	Percentage.
	$		$	
United Kingdom	40,148,761	10·3	67,102,661	20·6
British Possessions	124,434,805	31·9	50,663,787	15·6
Foreign countries	225,576,979	57·8	207,080,693	63·8
Total ...	390,160,545	100·	324,847,141	100·

Included under the head of "Foreign countries" are the imports from, and exports to, the Protected States of the Malay Peninsula. The figures for 1903 for these States are, imports, $96,892,706; exports, $40,072,331.

Imports of bullion and specie from the United Kingdom were of the value of $5,743,330. The exports of bullion to the United Kingdom were of the value of $11,798,233.

Of articles imported from the United Kingdom, other than bullion and specie, increases are shown under almost all heads except dyed yarn, apparel, earthenware, woollen blankets, and tobacco. The increases were of considerable amount in respect of cotton piece goods ($1,700,000), telegraph materials ($770,000), hardware and ironware ($356,000), machinery ($306,000), and sarongs ($190,000).

The value of articles, other than bullion and specie, exported to the United Kingdom shows the somewhat marked decrease of $6,231,870. The falling off in the value of gutta-percha alone exceeded $7,000,000, and in respect of gambier, there was a decrease of $305,000. On the other hand, india-rubber accounted for an increase of $576,000, gum copal, $384,000, preserved pineapples, $286,000, hides, $274,000, and sugar, $250,000.

Imports of merchandise from Continental Europe reached a value of nearly $18,750,000, an increase, as compared with 1902, of 21½ per cent.

Of the total imports from Continental countries, some 36 per cent. came from Germany, 13 per cent. from Italy, and 12 per cent. from Belgium. The most marked increase in the matter of imports was in respect of Russia, from which country oil to the value of $1,546,000 was received, as compared with

$17,000 in 1902. The imports from Germany show an increase of $754,000, from Italy, $421,000, from Belgium, $382,000, from France, $129,000, and Denmark, $5,000. Imports from Austria show a falling-off of $64,000, from Spain, $48,000, and Sweden, $2,000.

Exports to Continental Europe were valued at some $36,500,000, an increase of 4¾ per cent., as compared with 1902. France took goods to the value of over $10,000,000, Germany took close on $8,000,000, Italy, $6,000,000, and Russia nearly $5,400,000.

Germany took increased quantities of rattans, inferior gutta and sticlac, but less of gutta-percha, copra, and pepper; France took increased quantities of gambier, Borneo rubber, tapioca, coffee, and sago flour, but much less tin and copra, and less white pepper, gutta-percha, and rattans; Italy took tin to the value of $4,574,000; and Russia took increased quantities of coal (consigned to Vladivostock), copra, tin, and gambier.

The United States of America sent to the Colony goods to the value of $2,160,000, an increase, as compared with 1902, of $611,000, and received from the Colony goods representing a value of $42,308,000, an increase of nearly $4,000,000 as compared with 1902, most of the increase being due to increased shipments of tin.

Of the imports, petroleum accounted for $215,000 of the increase, and cigars, $228,000. Tin exported to the United States of America was valued at $27,968,816. Shipments of black pepper, rattans, Borneo rubber, tapioca flour, and sago flour also show an increase.

The shipments of American flour received from Hong Kong were, as has already been mentioned, of the value of $3,385,000.

The value of goods imported from the Netherlands India amounts to nearly $51,000,000. Exports were valued at $40,253,000. In addition, the Colony received from the countries in question, specie of the value of $615,000, and sent them specie of the value of close on $5,800,000.

The import trade shows an increase in the case of Java, Sumatra, Dutch Borneo, the Dutch Islands, Celebes, and Rhio, and a decrease in the case of the Achinese ports, Bali, the Natunas, and the Anambas group.

Java sugar to the value of nearly $5,000,000 was imported; the imports of rice from Java show an increase of nearly $490,000; petroleum and liquid fuel from Dutch Borneo increased by $1,044,000; petroleum from Sumatra, $500,000, and from the Dutch Islands and Celebes by $194,000; gutta-percha from Java decreased in value by nearly $1,200,000, and from Sumatra by upwards of $1,250,000; copra from Java shows a decrease of $728,000, and from Bali of nearly $500,000.

Exports to almost all places in the Netherlands India show a decrease except to Rhio, the Natunas, and the Anambas group. To Java the exports were less than in 1902 by $2,500,000, to Sumatra less by $1,200,000, to the Dutch Islands and Celebes less by $738,000, to Achinese ports by $423,000, and to Bali by $129,000.

Imports from British India were valued at close on $50,000,000, of which Calcutta contributed $21,700,000, and Burma nearly $21,500,000. As compared with 1902, imports show an increase in value of $1,200,000; export values reached a total of $12,583,000, a decrease of nearly $600,000.

The exports to Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras all show decreases, but in the case of Burma, there was an increase of $400,000. A feature of the export trade of the year was the shipment to Calcutta of petroleum of the value of $316,000.

Silver coin to the amount of $12,850,790 was sent from the Colony to Bombay, and was received from Bombay to the amount of $14,436,894.

The value of imports received from French Indo-China was $4,644,000, a decrease of $350,000, due to decreased imports of fish and beans and peas. Exports were valued at $2,142,000, a decrease of $1,227,000, which is more than accounted for by the reduced value of gunny bags sent to Saigon.

The trade with Hong Kong and China reached a total value of $37,629,000 for imports of merchandise, and of $20,801,000 for exports. In imports, increases are shown in silk piece goods, opium, wheat flour, tobacco, dry and salted fish, lard, provisions, samsu, tea, and other articles. In exports there were increases in the value of jute gunny bags by $867,000, petroleum, $625,000, black pepper, $482,000, tin, $330,000, birds' nests, $208,000, and precious stones, $206,000; rice, sugar, sugar candy, bêche-de-mer, sandal wood, and tobacco show a decrease.

The Colony imported from Hong Kong in 1902 gold and silver bullion and specie to the value of $23,805,000, and exported to Hong Kong gold and silver bullion and specie to the value of $2,858,000.

The imports of merchandise from the Malay Peninsula, in which designation are included the Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Tringganu, Kelantan, Patani, and Singora, aggregated $99,000,000, and the exports thereto reached a total of $32,000,000. Under imports, the principal articles showing increased values are, tin and tin ore, black pepper, and tapioca; sugar decreased in value by $348,000, and firewood by $122,000. Under exports there were increases in cotton goods, rice, opium, and wheat flour, and decreases in ironware and cement.

From Siam and the Siamese States the Colony imported goods to the value of nearly $24,000,000, a decrease of $1,500,000, as compared with 1902. Rice imported shows a decrease of $2,750,000, and fish, $640,000, while tin and tin ore account for an increase of $1,300,000. Exports show a total value of nearly $14,400,000, an increase of close on $1,500,000, due mainly to increased exports of opium, cottons, sugar, and curry stuffs.

The value of imports from Sarawak reached the sum of $2,507,000, and exports thereto a sum of $1,743,000. In addition to the imports recorded, there is a very large transhipment trade at Singapore of Sarawak produce for the United Kingdom.

The imports from British North Borneo were valued at $465,000, an increase of $13,000; and the exports at $1,095,000, an increase of $205,000.

Imports from Australia were of the value of $1,425,000, a decrease of $142,000; while the exports thereto were of the value of $1,958,000, an increase of $445,000, due for the most part to increased exports of petroleum, rice, and white pepper.

The value of the import trade with Japan was $8,329,000, an increase of close on $1,000,000, as compared with 1902, the increase being in Japanware, matches, apparel, jinrikishas, and coal; the exports to Japan were of a total value of $5,197,000, an increase of $1,800,000. The exports of rice alone accounted for an increase of $1,000,000, petroleum accounted for $711,000, and tin, $129,000.

General Observations on Trade.

The import trade generally showed fair expansion, but the export trade was not satisfactory.

The position of the Colony as a distributor of produce appears to be weakening somewhat, as a consequence of high freights, absence of competition in shipping, the natural tendency towards trade direct with the various countries, and it may be the growing enterprise of Dutch merchants.

Nevertheless, the tonnage of merchant vessels entered and cleared at Singapore and Penang during the year, shows an increase of 1,249,000 tons. Of this increase, British shipping accounted for 1,040,731 tons, German shipping, 27,522 tons, and American, 9,771 tons.

The important features in the trade of the year were the persistent fall in the market prices of produce, more especially of gutta-percha, the fluctuations of exchange, which increased from a minimum of 1*s.* $7\frac{1}{8}$*d.* for four months' sight in January, to a maximum of 2*s.* $0\frac{1}{16}$*d.* in September, followed by a decline

to 1*s.* 9¼*d.* in December, and the declared intention of Government to attain fixity of exchange with a specially coined local and restricted currency.

The turnover in European goods may not have been so large as in other years. It is, however, claimed that the constant advance in Europe of the prices of textiles was favourable to the holders of low-priced stock, who had a wider margin to work upon, with satisfactory results to themselves.

The demand for rough goods was well maintained on the whole, and merchants are said to have had no reason to be dissatisfied, the market throughout the year being in a sound condition.

The market for Bangkok was poor during a great part of the year owing to the drought and shortness of the Siamese rice crop. Later a speculative demand arose for all classes of goods, following on heavy rains having fallen, which released large stocks of wood in the upper part of the river and allowed them to be floated to the coast, while the extensive areas of submerged padi land gave promise of a large rice crop.

The east coast trade was only moderately satisfactory during the year.

Business to Java ports was confined within narrower limits than usual; and the trade with Dutch Borneo shows evidence of passing more and more into the hands of Java merchants.

The low prices ruling for produce tended to restrict business relations with the natives of the Dutch Archipelago.

The action of the United States Government in placing a high duty on refined coconut oil, is reported to have resulted in a cessation of what appeared to be a promising local industry, the local company being obliged to sell its plant to a firm on the American seaboard.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

In Singapore, the demand for building land and its consequent high price has, to a certain extent, prevented an increase in the cultivation area, but owing to the development of the island by rail and road, some of the more outlying districts are being opened up for rubber, coconuts, &c. The coconut plantations are still remunerative; and the damage caused by beetles is now insignificant. The pineapple preserving industry shows no signs of decrease. The fruit crops of the last two seasons have been very poor, owing, doubtless, to the excessive heat and absence of rain at the usual rainy season. The indigo cultivation still continues to increase a little, and there have

been signs of an increase in pepper cultivation. Vegetables for local consumption show on the whole an increase in cultivation.

No Agricultural Shows were held last year, but in the present year, 1904, a large one, to combine the Federated Malay States with the Colony, is arranged for at Kuala Lumpur. The cultivation of rubber (Para and *Ficus elastica*) increases very fast, chiefly in the Native States, but also in Province Wellesley and the Dindings, and small plantations are springing up about Singapore. It has not increased to any great extent in Malacca, though there is plenty of suitable soil. Not only European planters but Malays are now beginning to take up the cultivation. The growth of the Para trees especially leaves nothing to be desired; no disease has yet appeared. The return of rubber from the trees is quite satisfactory, and the highest prices have been given for parcels of the product sent from the Archipelago; nor is the *Ficus elastica* behind in these respects. *Castilloa*, on the other hand, as well as *Funtumia elastica* are both too liable to injury from insect pests, and quite unsuited for this country.

The demand for the cultivation of cotton in the Empire has induced further attempts to grow this plant remuneratively, and a good quantity of seed has been obtained and is being planted in Province Wellesley and elsewhere. Soil, and especially climate, here are against this plant, but it is hoped to utilise it as a catch-crop while Para rubber and other slower growing cultivations are coming to maturity. It is improbable that it will be remunerative if tried on a large scale.

The gutta-percha plantations in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca are thriving, the plants growing, in most places, well and steadily, but the heavy adulterations of the product on its importation to Singapore, have interfered very considerably with the trade. Patchouli rose very much in price lately, but there was but little cultivation of this plant at the time in the Colony.

The rice crops have been good this year, but there have been complaints of serious damage by the rice-sapper bug in some places. Sugar in Province Wellesley has been doing well, and the cultivation has extended into Perak with good success, though a plague of rats destroyed a great quantity of the canes in one estate.

Attention has been called to the small amount of native cultivation throughout the Peninsula, and it is hoped to be able to take steps to encourage and foster agriculture among the Malays.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels, arriving and departing, was 18,404,383, as compared with 17,098,762 in 1902. The amount realised by light dues was $209,649.35.

Six hundred and fifty-four vessels, aggregating 18,252 tons, were built in Singapore in 1903, the figures for the previous year being 564 and 16,492, respectively.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-nine Ordinances passed the Legislative Council during the year, fourteen of which were to amend previous enactments.

Of the more important Ordinances, No. XV. regulates the importation and sale of morphine; No. XVII. provides machinery for the issue and redemption of Inscribed Stock, should it be at any time expedient to raise loans by debentures or otherwise; No. XIX. amends the "Opium Ordinance" of 1894; No. XXII. enables the Governor to appoint Commissions of Inquiry where necessary; No. XXIV. regulates the import and export of coin; and No. XXIX. provides for the construction of a railway between Malacca and Pulau Sebang, on the Negri Sembilan frontier.

EDUCATION.

Nearly all the schools of the Colony are vernacular schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools are defrayed by Government, and they provide free tuition in Malay to some 10,000 pupils. The remaining schools are, with the exception of two or three which are controlled and financed by Government, aided schools, managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Government.

In 29 schools English only is taught; in five, English and Tamil; in three, Tamil only; in one, Chinese only; and in 171, Malay only.

The net expenditure on Government schools was $51,868, on aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese), $53,087, and on Government vernacular schools, $75,128.

The cost of the Malacca Training College for Malay teachers, during the year under review, was $12,376. The value of

this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the vernacular schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before these schools are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The Compulsory Attendance Ordinance was to be introduced into Province Wellesley on the 1st January, 1904, and it is hoped that it will have the effect of improving the attendance at the schools as it has in Malacca.

It was found impossible to open the Training School for English teachers, which it was intended to establish in Singapore during the year. The idea is not, however, to be abandoned, and it is hoped that the aided schools will see their way to supporting this establishment, by sending junior teachers to attend its classes, as systematic instruction in the science of teaching is one of the deficiencies most noticeable in local teachers.

Several of the principal English schools now have a class for commercial subjects.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, while the estate hospitals, maintained by the planters, are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, was 23,371, as against 25,624 in 1902. Beri-beri again appeared in the prison at Singapore, and for a time the transfer of long-sentence prisoners from Penang prison was suspended. Some of the Singapore prisoners attacked by this disease were sent to Malacca prison, with good effects. In the lunatic asylum at Singapore, 221 patients were admitted. The seaside establishment for beri-beri patients from the lunatic asylum continues to give good results.

Reformatory.

The number of boys in the reformatory at the end of the year was 72. This institution was crowded for some time, and is to be rebuilt on a larger scale in 1904 and 1905. The usual trades were taught, and instruction in Romanised Malay was continued. The expenditure amounted to $8,718, as against $8,089 in 1902.

Savings Bank.

The transactions in this branch amounted to $432,040 (deposits), and $402,061 (withdrawals), as compared with $416,336 and $379,723 in 1902. The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was $583,843 (in 1902, $538,111).

The investments at the close of the year stood at $584,178, as compared with $549,211 at the corresponding period of the previous year; the details are as follows:—

India 3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	$333,183
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 5 per cent.	58,000
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 4 per cent.	97,900
Fixed deposits at the Chartered Bank, at 4 per cent.	16,000
Cape Stock, at 3 per cent.	8,516
Queensland Stock, at 3 per cent.	16,212
South Australian Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	21,044
Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan	15,535
Cardiff Corporation Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	17,788

POLICE.

One new assistant superintendent was appointed by the Secretary of State; 11 European constables were enlisted.

Thirteen cases of murder and 42 of gang-robbery were reported during the year. Of the latter, 17 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 588,544, that given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. 15,509 births were registered, as against 24,970 in 1902.

The death-rate was 39·49 per mille of the population, and would be lower if deaths which occurred at the quarantine station at Singapore and Penang were eliminated. The rate in 1902 was 42·96.

The following table shows the cases of zymotic diseases and deaths therefrom for 1903 and 1902, not, of course, including the imported cases:—

—	Plague.				Cholera.				Small-pox.			
	1902.		1903.		1902.		1903.		1902.		1903.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore	4	4	3	3	842	759	226	190	159	67	109	29
Penang...	—	—	--	—	9	7	—	—	304	91	227	57
Province Wellesley	—	—	—	—	41	33	—	—	85	19	258	49
Malacca	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	57	22	226	40

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipality, and in the several districts of Province Wellesley by Sanitary Boards, with power under the Municipal Ordinance.

Climate.

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 103·95 inches; in Penang, 103·91 inches; in Province Wellesley, 73·51 inches; in the Dindings, 91·18 inches; and in Malacca, 69·04 inches.

The greatest fall in 24 hours was 8·20 inches at Penang on September 8th.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Over 13,000,000 articles passed through the Post Office, of which nearly 500,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to $427,259,* as against $308,280 in 1902. The expenditure was $326,929, an increase of $14,139 over that of the preceding year. The money order business recovered, owing to the more favourable rate of exchange with sterling, and showed a gross increase of $359,380. The transactions in sterling amounted to £17,736, and those in Indian currency to Rs.1,873,810, while in local currency business was done to the extent of $428,913, the aggregate being thus $2,066,641, as against $1,707,261 in 1902, and $1,789,794 in 1901.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the

* Increase largely due to sale of unified stamps for revenue purposes.

Government system of the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company. This Company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government offices and police stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The service telephone lines in Penang, 167 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the "metallic" one. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was 204, and there were in addition 37 service lines.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 186 miles of service lines.

MILITARY.

The garrison in Singapore consisted of two companies of Royal Garrison Artillery, half a company of Royal Engineers, one battalion of British Infantry, and one battalion of Native Infantry, besides Asiatic Artillery (Sikhs), and Malay Submarine Miners, with details of other corps. No Militia Force exists.

A detachment of the Malay States Guides was quartered in Penang. The military contribution of the Colony in respect of the year 1903 amounted to $1,494,611.34.

A Volunteer Artillery Force, 151 strong (including reserves), exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it. Its principal armament consists of a complete battery of 10-pr. B.L. screw guns, utilised with 7-pr. limbers as a field battery with pony draught. It also possesses four Maxim guns (·303), in the use of which it is proficient. This corps is armed with Martini-Metford carbines, and sword-bayonets.

A European Volunteer Rifle Corps also existed, numbering 104 (including reserves), but very little interest was shown in it, and it has been discontinued since the beginning of this year. This corps had in addition to Lee-Enfield rifles and sword-bayonets, two ·303 Maxim machine guns, mounted on infantry field carriages. A Maxim section has been formed to work these guns.

There is one company of Volunteer Engineers, composed of Europeans, 40 strong.

There is one company of Eurasians, 112 strong, and one company of Straits-born Chinese, 116 strong.

A Volunteer Infantry Force, some 150 strong, is also in existence in Penang, and is reported to be efficient.

A Force consisting of Eurasians, Chinese, and Malays, 61 strong, exists in Malacca. This corps is armed with Lee-Enfield rifles and sword-bayonets.

There is in addition in Singapore, a bearer and ambulance section, composed of 9 Europeans and 7 Chinese (Straits-born), and a Cadet Corps, 31 strong, armed with Martini-Metford carbines. In Malacca there is a Cadet Corps, 48 strong.

The Constabulary Force now numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year a considerable number of new projects were undertaken, in addition to carrying on works previously commenced.

SINGAPORE.

There were several large items in the Budget which it was found advisable to postpone or abandon, viz.:—

Cavanagh bridge—abandoned—new bridge to be erected by Municipality with the assistance of Government.

New Marine police station—abandoned—present station to be enlarged.

Raising of Elgin bridge—postponed.

In addition to the usual works of maintenance of roads and buildings, the following projects were completed during the year:—

Whitewashing and repairing Alexandra Road police station.

Painting and whitewashing Government Analyst's office.

Repairing and painting teachers' quarters, Arab Street school.

Raising and maintenance of Beach Road reclamation.

New building for garden office, library, and herbarium building, Botanic Gardens.

General repairs, painting and whitewashing Bukit Timah bungalow.

Improving ventilation of lock-ups, Central police station.

Repairs to roof, Chinese protectorate.

Additional bath-room, Colonial Secretary's bungalow.

Providing ant-proof cupboards for storing records, Colonial Secretary's Office.

Quarters at Bukit Timah for forest rangers.

Internal and external whitewashing main building, Government House.

General repairs to guardian's and orderly's quarters, Government House.

Renewing decayed timbers in flat roofs of main building, Government House.

Special services, Government House.

Draining and levelling ground at back of European block, General hospital.

Erection of unclimbable wire fence between the servants' quarters and the Hindoo Temple General hospital.

Alterations to bedrooms of the nurses' quarters, General hospital.

Providing fire extinguishing apparatus at the General hospital.

Special repairs to wards and limewashing Tan Tock Seng's hospital.

Converting the old lunatic asylum, Kandang Kerbau, into quarters for dressers.

Renewing bathing "pagar," Labrador Villa.

Special services, Pulau Pisang lighthouse.

Special services, Raffles lighthouse.

Erecting a new ward for male patients at lunatic asylum buildings, Pasir Panjang.

Alteration to workshed latrine, at the lunatic asylum.

Painting and whitewashing, &c., all buildings, lunatic asylum.

Erection of quarters at Pulau Brani for the engineer of the Marine Department.

Additional accommodation, signal sergeant's quarters at Fort Canning.

General repairs, painting and whitewashing, Nassim Hill bungalow.

Accommodation for forms and records, Official Assignee's office.

Construction of covered way between cook-house and ward No. 1, Po Leung Kuk buildings.

Erection of shelves to hold official records, General Post Office.

Special services, criminal prison.

Erection of five additional wards for sub-warders, criminal prison.

General repairs to quarters of the Inspector of Prisons, criminal prison.

Special repairs to cell locks and purchase of new master keys, criminal prison.

Overhauling and repairing European warders' quarters, criminal prison.

Replacing open brickwork at the ends of the halls with iron gratings, criminal prison.

Adding verandahs to warders' quarters, new civil prison.

Converting partitions to brickwork, prison cells.

Sanitary improvements to public buildings.

Renewing the floor of the married quarters, Rochore police station.

External painting, St. Andrew's Cathedral.

Replacing punkah ropes with wire in St. Andrew's Cathedral.

Renewing bathing "pagar," Seletar bungalow.

Quarters for the sergeant-major, Singapore Volunteer Corps.

Renewing the fencing on northern boundary, Public Works Department store.

Additional accommodation, Public Works Department store.

Construction of Pierre Perdu wall and fence on Crown land at Tanjong Rhu.

New lighthouse at Fort Canning.

Alterations to Magistrates' Courts.

Completion of Telok Ayer reclamation.

Quarters at Christmas Island for the District Officer, interpreter, and police.

Magazine for detonators at Tanah Merah.

Erection of quarters for the crew of the new Fort Canning light.

Trestle beds for the quarantine station, St. John's Island.

Replacing a concrete or cement floor for the observation ward, St. John's Island.

Progress was made on the following works and buildings:—

New administration block, Central police station and Court of Requests.

Residences for Government Officers.

Reclamation and mole near the General Post Office.

Filling up Tampenis Creek.

Construction of teachers' training school, &c., at New Bridge Road.

Improvement of quarantine station, St. John's Island.

Under Roads, Streets, and Bridges, the following works were completed:—

Metalling Ayr Rajah Road.

Re-metalling approach roads to Fort Canning.

Special repairs to Government House roads, and roads through Government House domain.

Re-metalling Holland Road, one mile.

Extension of Pasir Panjang road (west coast).

Re-metalling roads in Raffles school compound.

Re-metalling Reformatory Road, 1½ miles.

Re-metalling Sepoy Lines roads.

Re-metalling Tampenis Road, 3¼ miles.

Tanjong Katong to Bedoh road (east coast).

Part re-metalling Yeo Chu Kang Road, 3½ miles.

PENANG.

The following new works and buildings were completed during the year:—

Quarters for three subordinate officers at Balik Pulau.

Construction of Chowrasta vernacular girls' school.

Removal of female leper ward from General hospital compound to quarantine camp.

Perak Road (including purchase of site).

Extension of Government Offices.

Receiving room for casualties, General hospital.

Erection of six new servants' quarters, General hospital.

Incinerator, pauper hospital.

Quarters for two dressers, pauper hospital.

New reservoir, quarantine station, Pulau Jerejak.

Grading and turfing the ground round the leper asylum wards, Pulau Jerejak.

New servants' quarters, surface drains and latrines at the leper asylum, Pulau Jerejak.

Erection of goods sheds on the new reclamation.

New Supreme Court.

Mortuary for *post mortem* examination of cattle.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY, NORTH.

Two married quarters, Aur Gading police station.
Quarters for P.W.D. fitters.
Reclaiming Crown land, Butterworth.
New female ward, Butterworth hospital.
New latrines for Bukit Mertajam hospital.
Improving water supply, Bukit Mertajam.
Post and telegraph office, Jalan Bahru.
Renewing coolie lines, Muda Bund.
Re-construction of coolie lines, Sungei Kreh.
Improvement of land at Sungei Ma'Mandin.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY, SOUTH.

Quarters for forest guard, Bukit Panchor.

DINDINGS.

Forest ranger's quarters.

And the following works were in progress:—

PENANG.

Reclamation north of Iron Pier.
Sungei Penang reclamation.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY, SOUTH.

Raising dam and improving water supply, Bukit Panchor reservoir.

IMMIGRATION.

(a.) CHINESE.

The number of immigrants from China ports during 1903 exceeded that of 1902 by 13,165, having reached the unprecedented total of 220,321. An increase is also noticeable in the case of female immigrants, although the disproportion between the sexes, so often mentioned in previous reports, is still very great. The figures for the last four years are:—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1900	(a) 188,965	11,982	200,947
1901	(b) 166,956	11,822	178,778
1902	(c) 194,005	13,151	207,156
1903	(d) 205,782	14,539	220,321

(a) 8,488 children. (b) 8,147 children. (c) 9,807 children. (d) 8,775 children.

(*b.*) Indian.

The figures for the last three years speak for themselves:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.
1. Statute immigrants	2,785	2,430	572 (*e*)
2. Free coolies (with aided tickets)	3,476	1,595	1,982
3. Other immigrants	21,998	16,217 (*f*)	19,479 (*g*)

(*e*) 91 came with ordinary tickets and signed contracts on arrival. (*f*) 1,567 children. (*g*) 1,474 children.

Sixteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight adults and 964 children left the Colony for Southern India.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir Frank Swettenham continued to govern the Colony until October, when he went on leave to England. Mr. W. T. Taylor, C.M.G., administered the Government for the remainder of the year.

The railway from Singapore to Kranji was opened for traffic at the beginning of the year, and has been managed by Government, proving even a greater success than was anticipated. The extension to the docks could not be undertaken during the year, but matters have now been arranged for the completion of the acquisition of the land, and it is hoped that progress will be made in 1905, if not in 1904.

The Singapore Tramways, Limited, have laid a considerable length of line, and erected standards for the wires in some of the streets of the town. Land for a power station was acquired at Mackenzie Road, and work on the building has been begun.

Preliminary work was done on the Malacca-Tampin Railway.

The Report of the Commission which considered the question of the means by which a fixity of exchange might be brought about was presented to Government, and was printed for the information of the public. The new Straits dollar was first coined, and the importation of the Mexican and British trade dollars was prohibited. The Straits dollar has risen considerably in value, maintaining itself fairly consistently at a premium of about 5 per cent. over the value of the dollar in Hong Kong.

The Municipality of Penang made progress with the scheme for lighting George Town by electricity, but it was found impossible to complete the system by the end of the year, although hopes had been entertained that this would be done.

The new Supreme Court buildings at Penang were completed and declared open, on the 17th December, by the Chief Justice.

A piece of land next to the Free school was purchased by Government, for $30,000, to provide a playground for the school.

The Iron Pier extension continued to make satisfactory progress, and is expected to be completed by August, 1904.

The Prai-Taiping Railway was extended to Seremban in Negri Sembilan, and carried an increasing number of passengers.

The re-survey of the Island of Singapore was continued, and further additions to the staff employed on the work were made in the beginning of the current year. The territory of the Dindings was partly surveyed by the survey staff of the Federated Malay States, and this most desirable work is likely to be completed in 1904.

General condition of the Colony.

The general prosperity of the Colony was good. The prices of land and house property continued high, but there are indications that the prices ruling in 1903 are not likely to be exceeded for some time, if, indeed, they can remain at their then figure.

The population of the Colony, chiefly owing to the largeness of immigration from China, is still increasing.

The prolonged drought in Province Wellesley, followed by an extremely rainy wet season, prevented the padi crop from being a good one, but agriculture generally was very successful. There are now some very promising rubber and gutta-percha plantations in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and it is expected that this industry will still further make for the prosperity of the Colony.

W. T. Taylor,

Colonial Secretary

Straits Settlements.

20th August, 1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
416	Leeward Islands...	1902–1903
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda	"
419	Weihaiwei	"
420	St. Helena	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar	"
423	Sierra Leone	"
424	Gambia	"
425	Ceylon	"
426	Gold Coast	"
427	Lagos	"
428	Bahamas	1903–1904
429	Gold Coast ; Northern Territories	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica...	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

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1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 458.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 435.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1905.

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1905.

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No. 458.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 435.)

THE GOVERNOR to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Singapore,
July 19, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1904.

I have, &c.,

E. L. BROCKMAN,
Governor's Deputy.

1000 Wt 23792 9/05 D & S 5 22594

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1904.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for 1904 amounted $10,629,329,* the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

	$
Singapore	6,748,751
Penang	3,210,748
Malacca	669,830

There was thus an increase over the revenue collected in 1903 of $2,670,833, while that of 1902 was exceeded by $2,874,596. The principal increases were under the following headings:—

		$
Licences	by	2,964,030
Railway receipts	"	59,231
Post Office receipts (including telegraphs)	"	52,714
Miscellaneous receipts	"	16,196
Port and harbour dues	"	14,673
District collections	"	13,179
Land revenue	"	11,254

The large increase under "Licences" was due to the re-letting of the excise farm at greatly enhanced rents. It would have been still more marked had it not been found necessary during the year to remit a considerable portion of the monthly sum payable by the farmers.

The chief decreases appear under the headings:—

		$
Land sales	by	285,952
Interest	"	64,451
Reimbursements	"	59,432
Stamps	"	56,318

The first of these decreases is due to the fact that during the year no special sales of Crown land took place, while the last is to a great extent accounted for by the sale of unified stamps at the Post Offices for revenue purposes as well as for postage.

The expenditure for the year was $11,134,865, as compared with $8,185,952 in 1903 and $7,600,734 in 1902. The following table exhibits the items in respect of which increased expenditure was incurred:—

* The figures of Revenue and Expenditure are in some cases subject to audit.

		$
(1.) Works and buildings, special services	by	1,606,375
(2.) Military contribution ...	„	864,738
(3.) Other charges	„	538,310
(4.) Roads, streets, &c., annually recurrent	„	198,698
(5.) Personal emoluments ...	„	88,739
(6.) Miscellaneous services ...	„	78,660

The increase under (1) was chiefly due to the construction of the Malacca-Pulau Sebang Railway and the Singapore railway extension; that under (2) is automatic; to (3) was charged the cost of remitting old dollars for the new coinage of the Colony; while to (4) was transferred in a lump sum the amount for upkeep of Government roads which had hitherto been annually provided under "Roads, Streets, &c., Special Services." It was principally owing to the staff of the Singapore-Kranji Railway having been brought on the establishment in 1904 that item (5) shows the increase noted. A further contribution to the memorial to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria and increased expenditure on the re-survey of Singapore account for the increase in item (6).

The principal decreases are to be found under the headings "Land and Houses Purchased" (by $387,822, less land having been acquired for public purposes), "Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Canals, Special Services" (by $32,616), and "Interest" (by $12,300).

Exchange.

The exchange value of the dollar during the year showed a considerable appreciation, which, however, was not uniform. It went quite suddenly from its lowest value for the year, 1/9$\frac{5}{8}$ in January, to its highest, 1/11$\frac{5}{8}$ in February, and then gradualy diminished in value till it reached 1/10 in April. After the first four months of the year the appreciation was fairly uniform. The average exchange for the year was 1/10$\frac{15}{16}$, an advance of over 1$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* on the corresponding value for 1903.

Currency.

During the year under review the work of re-minting British and Mexican dollars into Straits dollars was continued, until in August it was considered that the time had come for the demonetization of the old coins. This was accordingly effected throughout the Colony and the Federated Malay States on the 31st of that month, since which date the Straits dollar, of which 35,400,576 had been minted, has been the only legal tender.

In all, 35,372,541 British and Mexican dollars had been sent to the mint to be converted, some 3$\frac{1}{2}$ millions of which were sent by the Federated Malay States Government. The

result of the conversion, therefore, is a profit of 28,035 coins, which must be deducted from the total expenses of reminting, viz., $788,180. Government undertook the reminting, delivering to the banks an equivalent number of Straits dollars for other dollars provided by them.

From the beginning of the operations undertaken for the reform of the currency, the import of British and Mexican dollars and the export of the Straits dollar had been prohibited.

On the 5th September the restrictions as to the export of the latter were removed, but the prohibition had to be again brought into force in January of the current year (the whole of the Malay Peninsula, the Netherlands Indies, and Borneo being, however, excepted) owing to the anticipated export of large quantities to China and Hongkong.

In October the Chamber of Commerce represented that the prohibition to import the old trade dollars was having a prejudicial effect on the trade between the Colony and Borneo. It was decided, therefore, to afford temporary relief by suspending the prohibition for three months from the 4th November in respect of the Colony of Labuan, the Territories of the British North Borneo Company, and those of the Raja of Sarawak.

It may be claimed that the change from the old dollars to the new has been effected with a minimum of inconvenience to the public and its commercial interests. Some inconvenience was inevitable, but the ease with which the change of currency has been effected is a matter for congratulation.

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $2,918,136 as against $4,176,913 in 1904, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation having continued the reduction of their note issue in pursuance of their agreement with Government.

The average amount of Government currency notes in circulation during each month was:—

Month.	Amount.
	$
January	16,503,167
February	16,826,076
March	17,002,490
April	17,002,490
May	17,002,490
June	17,052,490
July	17,163,671
August...	17,297,430
September	17,299,365
October	17,229,204
November	17,262,198
December	17,195,365

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $2,863,273 and their expenditure, including sums spent on loan works, to $2,703,915. The usual comparative statements will be found in Appendix B.

The debts of these Boards and the provision made for repayment are shown in Appendix C.

TRADE.

The trade of the year has been far from satisfactory.

Imports of merchandise, measured in dollars, decreased by over 3½ per cent. and exports by over 6 per cent., but when the total amounts are converted into sterling, there are increases of about 4¾ per cent. and 2¼ per cent., respectively, the average exchange having advanced by more than 8½ per cent.

The value of the trade, excluding movements between the Settlements, as expressed in dollars is as follows:—

—	1903.	1904.
	$	$
Merchandise—		
Imports	337,796,435	325,868,032
Exports	272,209,513	255,438,661
Total ...	610,005,948	581,306,693
Bullion and Specie—		
Imports	52,364,110	42,960,031
Exports	52,637,628	57,070,257
Total ...	105,001,738	100,030,288
Grand Total ...	715,007,686	681,236,981

The gross trade, including bullion and specie and the Inter-Settlement or coasting portion, according to Settlements is:—

—	Import.	Export.	Total.
	$	$	$
Singapore	274,674,803	243,556,190	518,230,993
Penang	105,180,266	79,280,187	184,460,453
Malacca	4,087,019	3,357,474	7,444,493
Total	383,942,088	326,193,351	710,135,939

Singapore thus held nearly 73 per cent. of the total trade compared with 75¼ in the previous year.

The value of the trade in merchandise with the United Kingdom amounted to $86,782,309, a decrease of over $2,927,000; with British Colonies and Protectorates, &c., including Sarawak and the Federated Malay States, to $211,042,009, a decrease of over $15,703,000; and with foreign countries $283,482,375, a decrease of $10,068,000.

The Inter-Settlement movements of goods were more than $20,915,000, a decrease of $2,826,000.

The value of imports from countries having a gold currency was nearly 167½ million dollars, and from silver currency countries about 158½ million dollars, there being decreases of one per cent. and 6 per cent., respectively.

Exports to gold countries amounted to over 184⅓ million dollars and to silver countries over 71 million dollars, or decreases of 7 per cent. and 3 per cent., respectively.

The value of imports of goods from the United Kingdom was over 32½ million dollars, a decrease of over 5¼ per cent.; from the continent of Europe over 20 million dollars, an increase of 6¾ per cent.; and from the United States of America about 2⅓ million dollars, an increase of more than 7 per cent.

In these figures are such raw materials as coal and patent fuel from the United Kingdom to the value of close on a million dollars—much the same as in 1903; from Russia, petroleum valued at nearly 2¾ million dollars, an increase of 1⅕ million, while from the United States the value of this article was less than $430,000, or slightly under the previous year's imports.

Of United States productions included under the Hongkong statement, wheat flour was received to the value of close on 2¾ million dollars, a decrease of $657,000.

Exports of merchandise to the United Kingdom were valued at under 54¼ million dollars, a decrease of less than 2 per cent.; to the continent of Europe close on 34 million dollars, a decrease of 7 per cent.; and to the United States of America nearly 35 million dollars, a decrease of over 17¼ per cent.

Import Quantities and Values.

Imports into Singapore from all places, including bullion and specie, amounted to nearly 274 $\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars (£26,212,000), a decrease of 24⅗ million dollars, but in sterling of £185,000 only.

Of the decline, bullion and specie accounted for 14 $\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars, and foodstuffs, animals, drinks, and narcotics, and Straits produce, &c., for the balance.

Unmanufactured metals, including tin and tin ore, showed a small increase, as well as raw textiles; and all manufactured articles fell off by $232,000 only.

Penang imports from all other ports were valued at about 105½ million dollars (£10,081,000), an increase of nearly 4⅘ million dollars, and in sterling an increase of £1,193,000.

Bullion and specie accounted for an increase of 8¼ millions, however, merchandise declining by under 3½ millions, due chiefly to lower values of unmanufactured metals, including tin and tin ore, and of manufactured articles imported, especially textiles.

A rise in import value to Malacca of $715,000 (£94,000) is accounted for by materials brought in for the Malacca-Pulau Sebang Railway.

Under animals, foods, drinks, and narcotics, including the Inter-Settlement trade, the value imported amounted to nearly 128¾ million dollars (£12,336,000), a decrease of nearly 5¾ millions, but in sterling an increase of £506,000.

Decreases are observable in the values imported of rice, opium, coffee, wheat flour, tapioca, medicines, spirits, padi, and lard.

Increases are seen in the values of spices, sugar, fish, and bran imported.

Of imports into the Colony apart from the Inter-Settlement movements, rice rose by 73,500 tons, or over 18 per cent., but the value decreased—the average price having fallen by over 20 per cent.

Opium imports declined by 3,725 chests and exports by 2,006 chests, the total received being 12,974 chests, while 11,038 were sent out, as well as 27,333 lbs. of prepared opium.

The average price of the Benares description of opium rose by 11 per cent.

Imported sugar reached over 60,300 tons, an increase of nearly 7,800 tons, Java sending about 44,760 tons (an increase of 6,400 tons), and Perak, in the Federated Malay States, about 12,260 tons (an increase of over 2,675 tons), while European beet fell to 2,500 tons, a decrease of 893 tons.

Sugar candy manufactured in Singapore sent to Hongkong amounted to nearly 8,400 tons, an increase of 2,740 tons.

Dry and salted fish imported into the Colony rose to nearly 41,000 tons, an increase of 4,500 tons, and showed a value of nearly 7$\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of over half a million, the average price slightly increasing.

Wheat flour imports reached about 25,100 tons, a decrease of 3,700, and the average price slightly fell. Nearly the whole is of American production and from Hongkong.

Dry and salted provisions, including biscuits, butter, cheese, oilmen's stores, and other provisions, amounted to over 5⅔ million dollars, a decrease of $145,000.

From Australia, butter to the value of $104,000 was imported, a decrease of about $40,000; and from the continent of Europe to the value of $225,000, an increase of $13,000.

Biscuits were valued at $338,000, a decrease of $62,000; of which value the United Kingdom sent $310,000, a trifling decrease, while from Germany alone $17,000 value was received compared with $76,000 in 1903 and $170,000 in 1902, large over-trading having taken place.

Wines imported fell off by nearly 15,000 gallons, or 15 per cent.

The imports of tobacco reached 7,747 tons, an increase of 1,340 tons. Supplies are principally from China and the Dutch Indies.

There has been a fair demand from the United Kingdom for this article at good prices.

Spirits received were much the same as in 1903, about 926,000 gallons, but the dollar value fell owing to the higher average exchange.

The United Kingdom sent nearly 45 per cent. of the malt liquors imported amounting to 851,000 gallons, an increase of 20,000, and Germany 50 per cent., but included in the former percentage are porter and stout, almost entirely of British production.

Nearly 19,600 tons of raw sago to be manufactured were brought in, an increase in quantity of 356 tons.

Live stock imported fell off by 18,500 head of cattle, and the numbers of imported sheep, goats, horses, and pigs also declined.

Other imported foodstuffs showing increases are beans and peas, onions and garlic, vegetables and salt; while the value of curry stuffs and fruits slightly fell off as well as that of lard and medicines.

The imports of raw materials into the three Settlements were nearly 135$\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars (£13,005,000), a decrease of over 5¼ million dollars, but an increase in sterling of £572,000.

Tin and tin ore accounted for a decrease of nearly 2½ million dollars, and other raw materials and Straits produce for

close on 3 millions, chiefly seen in smaller values of gambier, gutta percha, copra, rattans, coconut oil, illipi nuts, timber, and sandalwood, but there was a very large increase in petroleum and, to a smaller extent, in rubbers (including jelutong), ground-nuts, patent fuel, gum, sticklac, and hides. As the prices of all these articles fell off heavily, the reduction in value is easily explained.

Tin ore imported into the Colony, apart from the Inter-Settlement movements, reached 58,125 tons, an increase of about 9½ per cent. Increased supplies were received from the Federated Malay States and Australia, but fell off from the Dutch Islands.

Coal received amounted to nearly 620,000 tons, an increase of 44,000, Indian descriptions increasing by 50,000, and Japanese by 12,000. From the United Kingdom, 43,000 tons show a decrease of 10,000, covered, however, by a new import of patent fuel. Australian supplies fell by 6,000 tons.

The quantity of petroleum received, much of which is, however, on order for further instructions, reached an equivalent of 3,880,000 cases, an increase of 1,445,000, of which total 2,816,000 were re-exported.

There were increases from all sources, especially Russia and Sumatra, the United States of America showing little fluctuation in the quantity sent.

Liquid fuel was brought in to the extent of 36,416 tons.

Manufactured articles imported into the Settlements were valued at about 72 $\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars (£6,964,000), a decrease of over two million dollars, but in sterling, an increase of £346,000.

Textiles fell off by over 1¾ million dollars, but increased in sterling by £148,000. Manufactured metals gave practically the same dollar value, but an increase of £82,000, and miscellaneous manufactures a decrease of $330,000 and an increase of £115,000.

Under textiles, cotton and silk piece goods had immense declines, and yarn and apparel also fell in value, but sarongs and jute gunnies had large increases.

Cotton piece goods brought into the Colony reached over 4¼ million pieces, a decrease of nearly one million, and in value of nearly 1¾ million dollars.

From the United Kingdom nearly 3⅔ million pieces, valued at 12¼ million dollars, were received, a decrease of 636,000 pieces and over 1⅓ million dollars, representing 80 per cent. of the total value imported, an increase of 1 per cent.

From the continent of Europe 444,000 pieces, valued at over 1½ million dollars, were received, being decreases of 194,000

pieces and over $206,000. Consignments from India and the Far East also fell off.

Yarn imports fell off, grey twist being more and more an Indian production, and dyed yarn met with a dull market.

Of the total value of $661,000 of sewing thread received, the United Kingdom sent, to the value of $573,000, exactly the same as in 1903, while the Continental imports increased by $30,000.

Cotton blankets from the United Kingdom increased by 70,000 pieces, and from the Continent by 83,000.

Handkerchiefs fell off from both sources.

Apparel, hosiery, and millinery from Germany, valued over $1\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of $317,000, but other Continental countries sent increased supplies. The United Kingdom trade decreased by $24,000.

Sarongs, slendangs, and kains imported reached nearly 347,000 corges (bales, usually of 20 pieces), an increase of 72,000 in quantity, and of nearly $1\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars in value, the quantity from the United Kingdom rising by over $45\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and from the Continent by over 42 per cent.

Jute gunnies from Calcutta, valued over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of over one million.

Hats and caps and umbrellas decreased in value, but the former showed increased values from Italy, and the latter from the United Kingdom, which has now entered vigorously into this business.

About 30,000 pieces of woollen cloth, valued at $694,000, were imported, a slight decrease compared with 1903.

Manufactured metals imported into the Settlements show little fluctuation, with the exception of tramway and railway materials, which rose by nearly a million dollars, but telegraph and telephone materials fell by three-quarters of a million dollars.

Of European metals, the United Kingdom sent to the value of over $6\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, a decrease of $132,000, the Continent of Europe over $2\frac{7}{10}$ millions, an increase of $48,000; and the United States of America a value of $255,000, a decrease of $40,000.

Imports fell in machinery, nails, corrugated iron, copper, and brass, bar and nail rod, steel tools, and zinc sheeting; but enhanced values are observable in gas and electric lighting materials, tin plates, tinware, yellow metal sheeting, and zinc-ware.

There was a fair increase in sales of Belgium bar iron as well as nail rod.

The fall in corrugated iron is accounted for by less demand from Bangkok, that market having been largely overstocked in the previous year, and the sales of wire nails suffered from a like cause, resulting in a scarcity towards the close, when fair prices were obtainable.

Improved packing in this article is observable on the part of American manufacturers.

Increased quantities of tin plates were brought in to meet Japan and Hong Kong demands.

Taking the twenty principal miscellaneous manufactures, exclusive of textiles and metals, it is seen that the United Kingdom sent to the value of over 3⅕ million dollars, and the Continent over 3¾ million dollars, a decrease from the mother country of $62,000, or 2 per cent., and an increase from the Continent of $577,000, or 18 per cent.

Imports from the United Kingdom fell in the following articles:—Cabinetware, clocks and watches, earthenware, fancy goods, glass, leatherware and saddlery, paper and stationery, musical instruments, perfumery and soap and soda, and increased in gunpowder and dynamite, cement, lamps, boots and shoes, paints, detonators and fuzes, and carriages and carriage materials.

Continental supplies increased largely in cement, clocks and watches, earthenware and lamps, and to a smaller extent in nearly all other articles except cabinetware, paper and stationery, and perfumery.

Other manufactured articles of the same description obtained from European countries are chiefly beads, books, bricks and tiles, candles, photographic materials, playing cards, jewellery, the imports of which from the United Kingdom valued $233,000 and from the Continent $330,000.

Noteworthy points are the business now done in French tiles for roofing and flooring purposes, the increase of candles from Burma, and of cement of Belgian and Austrian origin, the qualities of which have considerably improved.

Export Quantities and Values.

Exports from Singapore to all places, including bullion and specie, valued over 243½ million dollars (£23,331,000), a decrease of nearly 14⅕ million dollars, but an increase in sterling of £572,000.

Of the decline, bullion and specie accounted for nearly 2⅗ million dollars, foodstuffs, &c., for 5⅘ million dollars, and

Straits produce and other raw materials for over 6½ million dollars.

Manufactured articles, tin, and tin ore had increased values.

Penang exports to all other places valued 79 $\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars (£7,599,000), an increase of nearly 3 $\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars and in sterling of £928,000, bullion and specie having accounted for an increase of nearly 10½ million dollars, while merchandise fell off by 6 $\frac{4}{5}$ millions.

Foodstuffs decreased by over 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ millions and tin and tin ore by nearly two millions.

Malacca exports declined in tapioca by $240,000, but there was a large increase in the value of pigs sent off.

In foods, drinks, and narcotics the value of the trade, including the Inter-Settlement portion, was over 106½ million dollars (£10,211,000), a decrease of 10 $\frac{3}{5}$ millions and in sterling £103,000.

The decreased values were principally rice by over 7½ million dollars and opium by over one million, and largely in tapioca, spices, sago, and coffee as well as to a less extent in live animals, medicines, spirits, malt liquors, and curry stuffs.

Increases are observable in tobacco and fish, and to a much smaller extent in tea.

The trade in coffee fell off by 23 per cent. or 1,600 tons although prices were distinctly better.

Spices sent out amounted to over 52,500 tons, a decrease of 2,200 tons.

Black pepper showed an export of 13,700 tons, a decrease of 375 tons, but white pepper exports rose by nearly 1,850 tons.

Arecanuts and cloves fell off but nutmegs, cubebs, and mace showed increase volume.

Exports of sago reached 47,800 tons, an increase of less than 500 tons, and tapioca of all kinds nearly 55,000 tons, a decrease of over 5,000 tons.

Of preserved pineapples 448,000 cases were sent off valued at close on 2½ million dollars, more being sent to all European markets.

Raw materials were exported (including Inter-Settlement shipments) to the value of 124 $\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars (£11,909,000), a decrease of over 8 million dollars but an increase in sterling of £243,000.

Of this decline in dollar value the class including Straits produce fell off by nearly 6 $\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, chiefly apparent

in lower values of the following sent off:—Gutta percha, gambier, rattans, copra, raw hides, precious stones, planks, and gum copal.

Increased values are apparent in petroleum, and in Borneo, India, and low-class rubbers and ground-nuts exported.

Tin and other unmanufactured metals accounted for a fall of $1\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars.

Tin exports rose to nearly 56,600 tons, an increase of 2,500, the United Kingdom receiving 52 per cent. of the total compared with 46½ per cent. in the previous year, and the United States of America 30 per cent. compared with 34¾ per cent.

The average price locally declined by nearly 7½ per cent.

Copra exports with a total of 40,500 tons fell by 23½ per cent., Macassar having in recent years become a collecting centre for the article and having facilities for direct shipments, excessive freights having to a great extent driven this trade away from Singapore.

Gambier exports fell to 37,900 tons, a decrease of 660 tons, a lower export than has ever been recorded.

In the principal gums exported altogether there was an increase of nearly 2,000 tons, Jelutong rubber, low-class gutta, with Borneo and India rubber alone showing increased volume.

Gutta percha, gum damar, sticklac, vegetable tallow, and gum copal all show declining quantities.

The demand from Germany for gutta percha of fair quality for cable purposes has been the only factor evidencing some life in the trade.

The average price of gutta exported fell by 40½ per cent.

For the first time Para rubber finds a place in the trade returns and, judging from the high prices obtained, rubber planting, which has now attracted the attention of many planters in the Colony and in the Federated Malay States, shows promise of being, for some years at least, a profitable undertaking.

Imports of raw hides rose but exports fell off.

Rattans with an export of 25,400 tons showed a decline of 9½ per cent.

Exports and manufactured articles, including Inter-Settlement trade, valued $34\frac{2}{10}$ million dollars (£3,300,000), an increase of $580,000 and in sterling of £321,000.

The three sub-divisions, textiles, metals, and miscellaneous goods, all show small increases in dollar values.

Trade with other Countries.

The trend of trade is seen in the following statement, the value of bullion and specie and Inter-Settlement trade being excluded ('000 omitted).

Country.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Percentage.	Value.	Percentage.
	$		$	
United Kingdom ...	32,580	10·	54,202	21·2
British Possessions and Protectorates.	156,439	48·	54,603	21·4
Foreign Countries	136,949	42·	146,633	57·4
Total ...	325,868	100·	255,438	100·

Sarawak and the Federated Malay States are included under British Possessions and Protectorates.

Imports from the United Kingdom as previously stated showed a decrease of over 5¼ per cent. compared with an increase of 16¾ per cent. in 1903 over 1902.

The principal decreases are apparent in cotton piece goods by over 1⅕ million dollars, telegraph materials by close on three-quarters of a million, dyed yarn by over one-third of a million, coal by nearly one-quarter of a million, machinery by over $200,000, hardware and ironware by over $150,000, provisions of all kinds by nearly $130,000, and brandy by over $105,000, followed by whisky, perfumery, drugs and chemicals, corrugated iron with smaller declines.

Increased values were received of tramway and railway materials by nearly $880,000, of sarongs by $370,000, patent fuel by $205,000, tobacco and cigars with gas and electric lighting materials by $145,000 each, and tin plates by $111,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom showed a decrease of less than two per cent.

The heaviest falls were gutta percha by nearly 3 3/10 million dollars, sago flour by $580,000, gambier by over half-a-million, gum copal by over $370,000, tapioca by $310,000 and hides by $275,000, followed by rattans and sugar.

Increases were seen in the value of the following articles:—Tin by nearly 3⅔ million dollars, India rubber by nearly three-quarters of a million, Borneo rubber by $132,000, and nutmegs by $116,000, followed by benzine and pepper with smaller increases.

Imports of merchandise from Continental Europe as previously stated exhibited an increase of more than 6¾ per cent.

Of the total imports Germany held 31¾ per cent., a decrease of 4¼ per cent., Italy 13¾ per cent., an increase of ½ per cent., Belgium 11½ per cent., a slight decrease compared with their proportions in the previous year.

The largest increase was from Russia, seen in petroleum brought in and accounting for an increase of nearly 1½ million dollars, which about covers the entire Continental increase.

German and Austrian values declined but Italian and French values rose as well as those from the other European countries.

The decreases in German goods were chiefly in apparel, hosiery, &c., by $317,000, tramway materials by $132,000, and nails by $120,000, followed by provisions and biscuits.

Cement, however, increased by nearly $180,000 in value, crockery by $112,000, and lamps, clocks, and watches, and sugar by smaller sums.

Italian imports rank next in importance, the increases of which are shown in sarongs by nearly $200,000 as well as apparel and clocks and watches by smaller rises.

There were no important decreases.

French imports improved in value in various small items such as brandy, and bricks and tiles, but silk piece goods fell off by $80,000.

Imports from Holland rose in sarongs and cotton blankets but there was a large decrease in cotton piece goods imported and also declines in cigars and gin.

Increased imports from Belgium were, in milk by over $100,000 and in tramway materials by $72,000, but perfumery fell of by $77,000. From Spain and Denmark the only noticeable features are increases in apparel from the former country and cement from the latter.

Exports from the continent of Europe exhibited a decrease of 7 per cent.

The most marked declines were to Russia, Italy, Spain, Austria, Belgium, and Germany. Export declines in value to Russia were copra by $1,450,000, tin by $449,000, coal to Vladivostock by $322,000, followed by gambier, black pepper, and rice with decreases of over $100,000 each. To Italy, tin fell by nearly 1⅓ million dollars and copra by $110,000 while black pepper rose by $87,000. Exports to Spain fell in copra by over $720,000 and in gambier by $55,000. To Austria exports fell in tin by $145,000 and in pepper and copra to a smaller extent. Copra and gambier to Belgium showed decreased values of $277,000 and $106,000 respectively.

Exports to Germany fell in rattans by $677,000, in gutta percha by $572,000, in gambier by $139,000 and in copra by $127,000, but increases were seen in tin by $405,000 and in white pepper by $326,000 followed by oil cakes and Borneo rubber with smaller advances. To France, Holland, Denmark, and Sweden were sent increased values. Copra to France advanced by $1,166,000, tin by $1,068,000, Borneo rubber by $291,000, and gutta percha and white pepper by $184,000 each, but declines were seen in coffee by $396,000, illipi nuts by $182,000, and gambier by $173,000. Holland took increased quantities of tobacco and cigars, from Penang the increases in these articles being valued at $838,000 in the case of the former and $193,000 in cigars. Raw hides, however, fell off by $176,000 and rattans by $88,000. To Denmark, black pepper rose by $147,000 and copra by $108,000.

The United States of America sent to the Colony as already noted an increase of more than 7 per cent. chiefly in increased values of tallow and lard, lubricating oil, and preserved fruits. Exports to the United States of America show a decrease of over 17¼ per cent. observable in the values of the following articles:—Tin by nearly five million dollars, gambier by over a million and-a-half, pepper by nearly $800,000, rattans by $460,000, and tapioca by $163,000, followed by nutmegs, sago flour, prepared opium, pineapples, and coconut oil. The following articles, however, increased in values sent:—Borneo rubber by $428,000, Jelutong and other low-class rubbers by $226,000, gutta percha by $113,000, and gum copal by nearly $100,000.

British Indian and Burmese imports were valued at over 48 million dollars, a decrease of less than 3¾ per cent., declines being seen from Burma with a trade of over 19¼ millions by nearly 2½ millions, and from Madras with a trade of about 3 7/10 millions, a decrease of $620,000. Imports from Culcutta valued nearly 22⅔ million dollars, an increase of $660,000 and from Bombay nearly 2¾ millions, an increase of $277,000. Rice from Burma ports fell off by over 2⅓ million dollars, precious stones by $368,000, followed by birds' nests, fishmaws, and curry stuffs, with decreases between $60,000 and $80,000 each. Advances, however, were seen in bran by $257,000, petroleum by $191,000, and beans and peas by $178,000. From Madras declines are apparent in rice by $445,000 and cattle by $230,000 followed by cotton piece goods, oil cakes, and goats' skins with decreases of about $60,000 to $70,000 each, but sarongs, slendangs, and kains increased by $374,000.

The advance in imports from Calcutta is accounted for chiefly by gunnies with an increase of nearly $1,010,000, Benares opium with $570,000 increase and coal with $416,000 increase, but against these was a decline in Patna opium of more than 1⅓ million dollars followed by precious stones with over

$100,000 and grey yarn with $89,000. From Bombay, Persian opium rose by $117,000, grey yarn by $112,000, preserved fruit by $78,000, and onions and garlic by $56,000, while jewellery and curry stuffs showed small declines.

Exports to British India and Burma valued $11,450,000, a decrease of less than 9 per cent., Burma, Madras, and Bombay showing declines and Calcutta alone a trifling increase.

To Burma ports decreases are fairly numerous, the largest being sugar by $270,000, cigars and earthenware by $143,000 each, and provisions by $110,000, followed by matches, curry stuffs, and raw silk with much smaller declines. There was an increase of $347,000, however, in dry and salted fish sent out. Madras fluctuations are unimportant. To Bombay, exports fell in tin by $196,000, followed by coffee with $73,000. The increase to Calcutta of $668,000 value in petroleum leaves numerous decreases in most other articles, the largest being nearly $400,000 in the value of areca-nuts sent, followed by tin with a decline of $95,000, gambier with a decline of $55,000, and other smaller decreases.

Imports from Hong Kong and China approached 32 million dollars, a decrease of $5\frac{7}{10}$ millions, of which from Hong Kong, silk piece goods fell by a value of $1,570,000, Persian opium by $1,012,000, wheat flour by $657,000, fireworks by $380,000, cotton piece goods by $296,000, medicines by $285,000, tea by $251,000, lard by $240,000, paper by $237,000, beans and peas by $220,000, provisions, tobacco, and earthenware by close on $200,000 each, dried fruits and fish by nearly $160,000 each and lamps by $121,000.

The only increases from Hong Kong were cabinetware by $137,000, onions and garlic by about $110,000, and apparel, hides, and preserved vegetables by about $100,000 each. From China imports nearly all show increases, most marked in tea by an advance of $187,000, joss sticks and joss paper by $170,000, provisions by $118,000, preserved vegetables by $115,000, and twine by $92,000.

Exports to Hong Kong valued nearly $18\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of nearly $2,630,000, seen in decreased exports to Hong Kong of rice by $1,170,000, Benares and Patna opium by $714,000, bêche-de-mer by $444,000, black pepper by $302,000, precious stones by $293,000, medicines by $240,000, areca-nuts by $162,000, tin by $120,000, and rattans by $100,000. Increases were, however marked in sugar candy by $450,000, petroleum by $436,000, ground-nuts by $289,000, raw cotton by $207,000, and birds' nests and gunnies by about $100,000 each.

To China, petroleum alone showed an increased value of over $1\frac{2}{10}$ million dollars, but the only other increase of importance

was birds' nests by $140,000 declines being seen in gunnies by $1,110,000, rice by $317,000, tin by $260,000, Benares opium by $247,000, and Patna opium and planks by $137,000 each.

Imports from the Federated Malay States reached the value of 74$\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars, being a decrease of over four millions, imports from the Negri Sembilan and Pahang alone showing increases. Perak with a trade of 40$\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars fell off by over 2$\frac{4}{5}$ millions, which may be partly accounted for by railway consignments from Penang not included in the Colonial figures, and Selangor with a trade of 25$\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars showed a falling off of nearly two millions. Decreases are seen in the value of tin and tin ore received by over 3$\frac{4}{5}$ million dollars, coffee by $182,000, and rattans and gambier by over $100,000 each. The only increases worthy of remark were in sugar by $136,000, and padi by $125,000.

Exports to the Federated Malay States valued over 24 million dollars, a decrease of $1,640,000, the decreases being to Perak and Selangor, especially the latter. The fall in rice was over 1$\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, no doubt for the reason that shipments have been made direct from Rangoon to Port Swettenham, the other decreases were all under $100,000 except Kachang oil, which fell by $102,000. Increased exports, however, were seen in Benares opium by $194,000 and in cotton piece goods by $121,000, the other movements being considerably less than $100,000 value each.

Imports from the Dutch Indies valued 51$\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of more than one per cent. The increases were from Sumatra, Java, and Acheen and the decreases from Rhio, Bali, Dutch Borneo, the Netherlands Archipelago, the Celebes, and the Natunas Islands. Imports from Sumatra valued nearly 14$\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of $1,825,000 seen by advances in the following articles:—Tobacco by $725,000, petroleum by $575,000, Borneo rubber by $535,000, India rubber by $393,000, areca-nuts by $233,000, black pepper by $157,000, fish by $143,000, and rattans by $109,000, followed by swine, curry stuffs, liquid fuel, and horses. Declines were, however, seen in gutta percha by $870,000, sago flour by $200,000, and white pepper by about the same amount, followed by timber and benjamin with much smaller decreases.

Java with an import value of nearly 11$\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars had an increase of over $750,000. The principal advances were sugar by $565,000, ground-nuts by $452,000, and tapioca flour by $106,000, followed by areca-nuts, Kachang oil, birds' nests, and raw cotton with increases ranging from $70,000 to $90,000 each.

Decreases were observable in rice by $470,000 and tobacco by $112,000, followed by sarongs, mats, and rattans with declines ranging from $75,000 to $95,000 each.

Achinese ports with a value of over 1½ million dollars give an increase of $450,000 seen chiefly in black pepper with an increase of $242,000 and areca-nuts with an increase of $166,000.

Dutch Borneo with a trade of nearly 10⅕ million dollars gave a decrease of $370,000, gutta percha alone accounting for a decrease of $1,184,000, rattans for $243,000, coconut oil for $209,000, illipi nuts for $175,000, and liquid fuel with crude oil and beeswax about $90,000 each. Increases were, however, seen in inferior and low-class rubbers by $531,000, Borneo rubber by $485,000, and copra and fish by about $270,000 each.

The Dutch Islands and the Celebes had an import trade of somewhat over 9⅓ million dollars, a decrease of more than $400,000 The larger declines were tin ore by $792,000 from the Dutch Indies, copra by $355,000, rattans by $257,000, and bêche-de-mer by $120,000 from the Celebes. Increases are seen from the Archipelago of $372,000 in petroleum, of $179,000 in provisions, largely live fish, and $115,000 in nutmegs and from the Celebes in nutmegs by $216,000, followed by raw hides and gum damar with increases of under $100,000.

Bali had a trade of over two million dollars, a decrease of nearly half-a-million and Rhio of 1 3/10 million dollars, a decrease of $940,000, while the Natunas Islands with a trade of $950,000 decreased by $283,000. Imports from Bali decreased in coffee by $503,000 and in copra by $246,000, from Rhio by $610,000 in gambier and $268,000 in white pepper, and from the Natunas Islands in copra by $284,000. The only increase was in live stock from Bali,—cattle by $140,000 and swine by $95,000.

Exports to Netherlands India reached nearly 41 million dollars, an increase of $720,000. Java with an export value of 14⅕ million dollars rose by over a million and three-quarters, seen in rice by over half-a-million dollars, sarongs by $257,000, fish by $215,000, grey yarn by $189,000, tea by $138,000, cotton piece goods by $112,000, clocks by $105,000, and gunnies by close on $100,000.

The declines were in gambier by $208,000, japanware by $115,000, and fireworks and wheat flour by $85,000 each.

The value of exports to Sumatra was 10⅗ million dollars, a decrease of $425,000, apparent in rice by $340,000, cotton piece goods by $150,000, coconut oil by $145,000, and cattle by $112,000. The increases are seen in opium by $162,000 and crude oil by $130,000.

The Netherlands-Indian Archipelago and the Celebes received to the value of close on 6¾ million dollars, an increase of

$800,000, the increases to these places being chiefly in chandu, petroleum, and rice. Exports to Dutch Borneo valued nearly five million dollars, an increase of $320,000, found chiefly in the enchanced values of cotton piece goods, ironware, and sarongs sent out; but rice showed a decline of $111,000.

Achinese ports with a trade of nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars had a decrease of $1,075,000, seen in decreases to Penang in nearly every article of export, especially rice, Benares opium, and cattle.

To the Natunas Islands a value of $540,000 was sent, a slight increase compared with the previous year, to Bali a value of $1,380,000, a decrease of $380,000 seen in low values of Benares opium and cotton piece goods sent, and to Rhio a value of $780,000, a decrease of $290,000, of which rice accounted for $190,000.

Imports from French Indo-China, valued over 4 million dollars, a decrease of $600,000, to which the decline in the value of salt fish contributed $449,000, salt $127,000, and coal $45,000, but raw silk imported increased by $131,000, and sticklac by over $50,000. Exports valued close on 2 million dollars, an increase of $247,000, but jute gunny bags sent increased by $292,000, and coal by $53,000, the principal decrease being seen in petroleum exported by over $150,000.

From the Malay Peninsula, other than the Federated Malay States and Kedah, the imports valued $14\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, compared with over $19\frac{2}{5}$ millions in 1903. The great decline is chiefly attributable to Johore, which, with a trade of $10\frac{3}{4}$ millions, has a decrease of $4\frac{3}{4}$ millions, the large decrease in the price of gambier and pepper, as well as in the volume, accounting for this; in the former the decrease is nearly $3\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars, and in the latter, $1\frac{3}{10}$ million; but besides these, areca-nuts fell off by $136,000, and tapioca pearl by $102,000, followed by tin ore and copra with smaller declines.

Tringganu with an import trade of nearly $1\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, shows a decrease of about $110,000, padi and rice giving less values, but tin ore, black pepper and dried fish increased. Kelantan, with a trade of over one million dollars, increased by $150,000, seen chiefly in the larger values of cattle and areca-nuts received, but Padi had a large decline. The remaining States, Patani and Singgora, both showed fallings off, smaller values of padi from Patani and rice and swine from Singgora being, however, to some extent met by increases of tin from Patani, and raw hides from Singgora.

Exports to the Malay Peninsula, valued $5\frac{6}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of nearly $400,000, but Johore alone decreased by $452,000, Patani, Tringganu and Singgora showing small

declines, and Kelantan alone an increase. The important fluctuation to Johore was a decline in rice by $410,000, to Tringganu of raw silk to the value of $47,000, followed by piece goods and petroleum, to Patani by decreases in petroleum and cotton piece goods, to Singgora by a decrease in dyed yarn, and to Kelantan by an increase in cotton piece goods, dyed yarn, sarongs, and tobacco.

From Siam and the Siamese West Coast and Kedah, the value of over 28 million dollars was received, an increase of over $2\frac{4}{5}$ millions.

Tin from the Siamese West Coast increased by nearly $1\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars, and tin ore by $375,000, while from Siam proper, rice increased by over 2 million dollars, and fish by $360,000, followed by sticklac, padi, and white pepper by enhanced amounts approaching $100,000 each.

There were decreases, however, in cattle from the Siamese West Coast by $850,000, and from Siam by $165,000, followed by rice and swine from the Siamese West Coast with declines of $152,000 and $135,000, respectively, and (from Bangkok) hides by $130,000.

Exports to these places valued nearly $16\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of $1\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars. These are found chiefly in advances in the value of the following articles sent to Bangkok:—Benares opium by $745,000, gunnies by $254,000, sarongs by $135,000, cotton piece goods by $113,000, and sugar by $100,000, there being a decrease of $85,000 in dyed yarn.

To the Siamese West Coast, Benares opium and chandu fell off by $160,000, but cotton piece goods, sugar, and coconut oil increased.

Sarawak and British North Borneo, with an import trade of $5,117,000, of which Sarawak contributed $4,615,000, displays an increase of $2,145,000, chiefly to Sarawak. This increase is accounted for by more white pepper having been sent to the local market instead of being transhipped, the value in this article rising by $1\frac{3}{10}$ milion dollars, but other increases were sago flour by $255,000, low-class rubbers by $190,000, Borneo rubber by $101,000, and black pepper by $81,000, followed by fish and India rubber with increases of $73,000 each.

Exports to these countries increased by over half-a-million dollars, which is almost entirely contributed by Sarawak, the increases being marked in rice, fish, and tobacco, and declines of much smaller extent in Persian opium and cotton piece goods.

From Australia, imports valued nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, an increase of $318,000, tin ore received advancing by $457,000, and railway sleepers to Malacca by $109,000, followed by wheat flour and timber with small advances.

Decreases are found in coal, sandalwood, and horses received by amounts ranging from $106,000 to $140,000.

Exports to Australia, valued $1\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars, a decrease of $625,000, rice, petroleum, chandu, and pearl tapioca giving declines ranging from $100,000 to $150,000 each.

From Japan the value of imports was $7\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of $425,000 observable in such articles as japanware, jinrikishas, apparel, coal, and tea, matches alone having a small increase.

Exports to Japan, valued about $3\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of over $1\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars.

This large decrease is more than covered by a fall in the exports of rice, valued at over $2\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, but petroleum also fell by $560,000, and indigo by $65,000.

Increases were marked in tin by $895,000, Borneo rubber by $236,000, and tanned hides by $192,000.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

General depression marked both imports and exports, and the state of trade was far from satisfactory. There can be little doubt but that our range of markets is being gradually curtailed, that Java on the one side and Macassar on the other are extending their influence in Dutch Borneo, Sumatra, and the Moluccas.

Exports have experienced a distinct check. Taking the twelve principal articles, viz.:—Tin, gambier, pepper, copra, coffee, hides, sago, rattans, tapioca, gutta percha, Borneo and India rubber, and gum copal, the volume exported decreased by about 21,250 tons, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The marked feature of the year in imports has been the peculiar position of the piece goods trade on account of the enormous fluctuation in the value of raw cotton combined with the firmness of prices owing to the demands on the Manchester manufactures upsetting calculations and considerably restricting sales. During the first six months it may be said that piece goods' merchants have done well on the whole, as they were indenting on stocks much of which had been put in at lower rates.

Japan gave large orders locally for woollens, chiefly blankets, and also coloured cottons, especially khaki, and there was also a fair demand for grey and white cottons at remunerative rates.

The overturn has been distinctly less than in 1903, and imports are lower in quantity than they have been for many years, while Chinese dealers have had a very unsatisfactory time.

In hard goods, business was far from good, sales being reduced on account of the inability of natives to buy from dealers, as prices of produce remained low, and in some cases were worse than in the previous year; this resulted in greater economy and more dependence on native makes, the high duties in Saigon and the Philippines not improving matters.

It may, however, be said that for the first three months of the year business was fairly satisfactory, but for the next three months was stagnant. Credits were then contracted as much as possible, and it was not till the middle of October that any marked improvement came in.

Competition has been keen, but Chinese importers have not been doing so much of a direct business as they did in the last half of 1903 and the first half of 1904.

The profits on staples have been so small that more attention is being given to special small lines, and some firms have refrained as much as possible from importing on their own account, preferring the security of the commission which indent business offers.

Dulness of trade has led to more Singapore firms establishing branches of their business in Penang.

Dutch mercantile houses have extended their ramifications in different directions, and Singapore has seen an increase in the number of foreign firms.

The depression in the local markets was to some extent evidenced by the considerable number of native firms who found themselves unable to meet their liabilities.

A new combination was formed by ship agents and owners trading to the United States of America, with the effect of raising rates of general cargo to 25*s*. per ton, which is, however, a moderate tariff compared with that ruling for cargo to the United Kingdom and Continental ports.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

In Singapore, the area under cultivation of pineapples continues to increase, and a good deal of old land, abandoned since the days of gambier cultivation, has now been put under pineapples.

A few Para rubber estates were started recently in the island, but it is hardly likely that these will increase to any great extent, as there is not much land suited for this cultivation. In Province Wellesley and Malacca, however, there is a marked increase in rubber cultivation, and still more so in the Federated Malay States. The area under cultivation now in the Peninsula is very large, and the prepared rubber is in great demand by the home manufacturers, the best samples having taken the highest price ever paid in 1904, viz., 6*s*. 1½*d*. per lb. An extensive series of experiments was carried out last year in the Botanic Gardens to discover improved methods of tapping and preparing rubber.

The indigo cultivation in Singapore has dwindled away considerably. In fact, only a few fields are left. Very few of the dyeing houses now remain.

Coconut plantations continue to flourish in Penang and Province Wellesley, where some additional hundreds of acres were put under cultivation during 1904. In Singapore also a small increase was observable, but several of the older small plantations have been abandoned, chiefly because of the demand for building land.

The cultivation of pepper in Singapore has remained practically stationary. Citronella grass has increased a little. The cultivation of nutmegs and cloves in Penang was normal, but prices were adversely affected by large West Indian supplies. There has been a large increase in vegetable cultivation. The rice and fruit crops in Malacca were both good. Further attempts were made to grow cotton in the Colony, but it does not seem to have been really successful anywhere, and is never likely to be an important product of this country. Reports as to the failure of the beet crops had a stimulating effect on the sugar industry of Province Wellesley and Perak, very remunerative prices being received towards the end of the year.

The Agricultural Show, held at Kuala Lumpur, last year proved a most successful one. The produce shown was mostly very good, and many prizes were taken by exhibitors in the Colony—coconuts, rubber, rice, and arrowroot were exceptionally well represented.

A collection of tropical fruits was sent from Penang to the exhibition held in London this year and obtained a silver medal.

LAND GRANTS.

Appendix E shows the number of land grants issued, the area alienated, and the amount of praemia paid in the three Settlements during the past three years. The decline of the tapioca industry accounts for the falling off of receipts under these heads in the Settlement of Malacca.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 18,267,499, as compared with 18,404,383 in 1903. The amount realised by light dues was $209,640.

Particulars of the shipping are given in Appendices F and G. One thousand and seventy-seven vessels, aggregating 19,205 tons, were built in Singapore in 1904, the figures for the previous year being 654 and 18,252, respectively.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Ordinances were added to the Statute Book during the year. Of these, 13 contain amendments of previous enactments.

Of the more important Ordinances, No. IV. amends "The Currency Note Ordinance, 1899," and makes provision for the recovery of the cost of re-minting dollars for the new currency from the general revenue of the Colony, and for the issue of notes in exchange for gold; No. V. amends and consolidates the Postal Law of the Colony; No. VI. amends the law for the protection of Indian immigrants; No. VII. makes some amendments in "The Conveyancing and Law of Property Ordinance, 1886"; No. XIII. makes provision for the better administration of the Estate of the late Sultan Hussein Mohamed Shah in the interests of his descendants, who represent the original ruling family of Singapore; No. XIV. makes amendments to the law regulating the importation, sale, and use of morphine; No. XVIII. lays down what proportion of the revenue derived from productive undertakings constructed out of revenue is liable to the Military Contribution; and No. XIX. provides for the transfer to Government of the assets and liabilities of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

EDUCATION.

Nearly all the schools in the Colony are Vernacular Schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools, which are 173 in number, are defrayed by Government and they provide free tuition in Malay to some 10,000 pupils. The remaining schools, are, with the exception of three which are controlled and financed by Government, Aided-Schools managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Government.

In 29 schools, English only is taught, in four, English and Tamil, in three Tamil only, and in one Chinese only; the numbers of pupils enrolled in these four classes of schools are 8,095, 263, 112, and 32, respectively. There are, in addition to the Government and Aided-Schools, a few private schools, which are not inspected by Government. These are chiefly Chinese Vernacular Schools.

The net expenditure on Government Schools was $85,653, on Aided-Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese), $54,807, and on Government Vernacular Schools, $90,269.

The cost of the Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers during the year under review was $11,190. The value of this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the Vernacular Schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before these schools are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The Compulsory Attendance Ordinance was introduced into Province Wellesley on the 1st January, 1904, with the result that the average attendance in the Malay Schools of that Settlement has been nearly doubled (2,153, as against 1,193).

A scheme for the establishment in Singapore of a training class for English teachers will shortly be introduced.

The Commercial and Science Classes at the Raffles Institution have made satisfactory progress during the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, while the Estate hospitals, maintained by the planters, are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, was 23,462, as against 23,374 in 1903. In Singapore, 254 patients were admitted into the lunatic asylum. The seaside establishment for beri-beri patients from the lunatic asylum continues to give good results.

Reformatory.

The number of boys in the reformatory at the end of the year was 75; the highest number during the year was 83, and the lowest, 51. The new permanent buildings, to accommodate 120, will be finished by July, 1905. The diet was found unsatisfactory, and a more liberal diet has been allowed; the health of inmates was much better than last year. Instruction was given at the school in English and Romanised Malay, and at the workshops, in tailoring, carpentering, and shoemaking. The expenditure amounted to $9,111, as against $8,718 in 1903.

Savings Bank.

The transactions in this branch amounted to $376,482 (deposits), and $411,796 (withdrawals), as compared with $432,040 and $402,061 in 1903. The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was $564,119 (in 1903, $583,843).

The investments at the close of the year stood at $576,782, as compared with $584,182 at the corresponding period of the previous year; the details are as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	333,187
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 5 per cent....	58,000
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 4 per cent.	96,500
Fixed Deposits at the Chartered Bank, at 4 per cent.	10,000
Cape Stock, at 3 per cent.	8,516
Queensland Stock, at 3 per cent.	16,212
South Australian Stock, at 3 per cent.... ...	21,044
Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan	15,535
Cardiff Corporation Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	17,788

POLICE.

Three police probationers were appointed and joined the force.

Twenty-five European constables were enlisted.

Twenty-four murders and 58 gang-robberies were reported during the year; of the latter, 24 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

The police force now numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 595,782, the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Fifteen thousand two hundred and forty-four births were registered, as against 15,509 in 1903.

The death-rate was 39 per mille of the population. The rate in 1903 was 39·49.

The following table shows the cases of zymotic diseases and deaths therefrom for 1904 and 1903, not, of course, including the imported cases:—

—	Plague.				Cholera.				Small-pox.			
	1903.		1904.		1903.		1904.		1903.		1904.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore	3	3	20	20	226	190	3	3	109	29	33	11
Penang	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	227	57	3	2
Province Wellesley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	258	49	6	2
Malacca	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	266	40	100	7

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipality, and in the several districts of Province Wellesley by Sanitary Boards with powers under the Municipal Ordinance.

Climate.

The mean temperature of the Colony is shown in Appendix P.

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 101·54 inches; in Penang, 119·47 inches; in Province Wellesley, 98·90 inches; in the Dindings, 92·83 inches; and in Malacca, 72·23 inches.

The greatest fall in 24 hours was 8·50 inches at the Dindings on 13th December. (Appendix Q.)

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Over 14,700,000 articles passed through the Post Office, of which nearly 586,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to $466,403, as against $427,259 in 1903. The expenditure was $335,760, an increase of $8,831 over that of the preceding year. The money order business showed a gross increase of $398,128. The transactions in sterling amounted to £21,417 and those in Indian currency to Rs. 2,468,875, while in local currency business was done to the extent of $496,740, the aggregate being thus $2,464,545, as against $2,066,641 in 1903, and $1,707,261 in 1902.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government System of the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company. This Company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government Offices and Police Stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The telephone lines in Penang, 328 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the metallic circuit. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was 241, and there were in addition 41 service lines. It was decided during the year to extend the telephone system in 1905 to Province Wellesley.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 145 miles of service lines.

MILITARY.

The garrison in Singapore consisted of two companies of Royal Garrison Artillery, half a company of Royal Engineers, one battalion of British Infantry, and one battalion of Native Infantry, besides Asiatic Artillery (Sikhs), and Malay Submarine Miners, with details of other corps. No Militia Force exists. The strength of the garrison was 2,585, all ranks.

A detachment of the Malay States Guides was quartered in Penang. The military contribution of the Colony in respect of the year 1904 amounted to $2,299,854.

A Volunteer Artillery Force, 123 strong (including reserves), exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it. Its

principal armament consists of a complete battery of 10-pr. B. L. screw guns, utilised with 7-pr. limbers as a field battery with pony draught. It also possesses four Maxim guns (·303), in the use of which it is proficient. This corps is armed with Martini-Metford carbines and sword-bayonets.

A Maxim company, 43 strong, has been formed to work the four guns belonging to the Singapore Volunteer Artillery, which latter unit is not at present sufficiently strong in numbers to man both the 10-pr. B. L. battery and the four Maxims.

There is one company of Volunteer Engineers composed of Europeans, 39 strong (including reserves).

There is one company of Eurasians and one company of Straits-born Chinese, each 91 strong, including reserves.

A Volunteer Infantry Force, 107 strong, is also in existence in Penang, and is reported to be efficient.

A force, consisting of Europeans, Eurasians, Chinese, and Malays, 50 strong, exists in Malacca. This corps is armed with Lee-Enfield rifles and sword-bayonets.

There is in addition in Singapore a bearer and ambulance section, composed of 9 Europeans, 7 Eurasians, and 9 Chinese (Straits-born); and a Cadet Corps, 51 strong, armed with Martini-Metford carbines. In Malacca there is a Cadet Corps, 53 strong, also armed with Martini-Metford carbines.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year a considerable number of new projects were undertaken, in addition to carrying on works previously commenced.

IMMIGRATION.

(*a.*) Chinese.

The number of immigrants from China ports shows a reduction of 7 per cent. upon the number for last year, which was exceptionally large. It is satisfactory that the immigration of women has fallen 1 per cent. only. The number of "unpaid passengers," *i.e.*, of coolies who obtain free passages from China in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony, has fallen to 16,930. In the last ten years, only two years—1897 and 1898—have shown a lower figure.

The returns for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1900	180,477	11,982	8,488	200,947
1901	158,809	11,822	8,147	178,778
1902	184,198	13,151	9,807	207,156
1903	193,339	14,539	12,443	220,321
1904	179,650	14,395	10,751	204,796

(*b*.) INDIAN.

The figures for the last three years speak for themselves:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.
1. Statute immigrants	2,430	572 (*a*)	2,721
2. Free coolies (with aided tickets)	1,595	1,980	3,556
3. Other immigrants	16,217 (*b*)	19,478 (*c*)	24,475 (*d*)

(*a*) 91 came with ordinary tickets and signed contracts on arrival.
(*b*) 1,567 children. (*c*) 1,474 children. (*d*) 1,810 children.

Eighteen thousand six hundred and forty-nine adults and 901 children left the Colony for Southern India.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Mr. W. T. Taylor, C.M.G., continued to administer the Government until the arrival on April 16th of Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G.

On the 13th September Mr. Taylor left the Colony to take up the acting appointment of Resident-General, Federated Malay States, in which post he was confirmed as from the 1st January, 1905, Mr. F. G. Penney, Resident-Councillor, Malacca, being appointed Colonial Secretary from the same date.

Some progress was made with the extension of the railway to the Singapore Docks, and possession was taken of all the land required. The Singapore Tramways, Limited, laid nearly the whole of the tram lines and erected most of the overhead gear. The power station at MacKenzie Road was nearly finished during the year and the cars are expected to begin running shortly.

The present site of the Tan Tock Seng Hospital having been found unsuitable, the Government acquired a new site on rising

ground near Balestier Road for $84,410. A sum of $100,000 (on an estimate of $250,000) for the new buildings was voted among the budget services for the year 1905.

Progress was made in the erection of the Memorial Hall to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and the Government made during the year a further contribution of $80,000 towards the extension of the scheme by the conversion of the Old Town Hall into a theatre.

In December the Government gave notice of its intention to expropriate the business of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, Limited, and a Bill was shortly afterwards introduced into Legislative Council to give effect to the scheme.

The final report of the Consulting Engineers on the construction of moles for the protection of the harbour was received, and tenders for the works are being invited.

In Penang the new iron pier in its extended form was completed, and regular use is now made of it. It is lighted at night by electricity supplied from the Municipal Power Station. In July the Municipal Electrical Department began to supply power for the lighting of the principal streets. Many private houses are also supplied, and it was decided to electrify the tramway system, which was transferred by Government to the Municipal Commissioners.

In Malacca rapid progress was made in the construction of the railway which is to connect Malacca Town with the Federated Malay States system, and the line is expected to be in working order during the current year.

The news of the death of Mr. C. W. S. Kynnersley, C.M.G., who had on several occasions acted as Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, and once as Officer Administering the Government, and whose service of 32 years had all been spent in this Colony, was received with universal regret. He had survived the date of his retirement by only seven days.

The Honourable J. M. B. Vermont, C.M.G., for many years a member of the Legislative Council, died in Penang on the eve of his departure for England.

The depression in trade had a bad effect on the revenue of the Colony.

The Singapore Opium and Spirit Farms had been relet for a term of three years from the 1st January, 1904, at a rental of $465,000 a month, as compared with $236,000 a month for the previous term, the Penang Farms being let for the same period for $217,000 a month, as compared with $125,000 a month for the preceding period of three years.

The farmers at once found themselves in difficulties. The sales of chandu suddenly fell at the commencement of the new farms, the reduction being due partly to the general depression in trade and partly to the enhanced price at which the drug was sold under the new contracts, the effect of which had been miscalculated.

The Government after full investigation decided that the rents must be reduced and allowed the Singapore farmers a remission of rent to the amount of $135,000 for the month of August, $150,000 a month for the last four months of 1904, and $100,000 a month for the remainder of the term of the contract, the Penang farmers also being granted a remission of $50,000 a month for the latter half of 1904, and $27,000 a month for the years 1905 and 1906. This unfortunate reduction in the estimated revenue of the Colony has necessitated postponement of many public works which were in contemplation. At the close of the year the commercial outlook was still very unsatisfactory.

During the year a new contract for a fortnightly mail service between Singapore (and Penang) and Europe *viâ* India was entered into with the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, the service to begin at the expiration of the old contract in February, 1905.

The Colony now enjoys a regular mail service every week, and it is anticipated that the contract will be a considerable convenience to the public.

The clerical service was re-organised, and a new and liberal scale of salaries sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

E. L. Brockman,

Acting Colonial Secretary,

Straits Settlements.

APPENDIX A.

Abstract of Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.	1st January 1904.	1st January 1905.
	$	$
Treasury and Banks	1,206,886	810,488
Cash in reserve on account of Currency Commissioners.	5,371,364	11,323,204
Investments	8,299,313	8,047,280
Advances, &c.	39,480	106,421
Advances, Currency Commissioners ...	—	400,000
Other Governments	6,254	9,121
Federated Malay States	866	2,424
Coin Account, Silver	276,826	65,001
Coin Account, Copper	—	46,633
Suspense Account, Penang Pier	433,883	540,829
Suspense Account, Coin for Reminting ..	4,649,965	—
	20,284,837	21,351,401
Dependencies	22,000	16,500

Liabilities	1st January 1904.	1st January 1905.
	$	$
Deposits	1,798,314	1,334,049
Deposits, Currency Commissioners ...	16,293,723	17,661,850
Drafts	42,315	32,396
Suspense Account	62,489	176,787
Suspense Account, Copper	7,830	—
Advances from Crown Agents ...	28,323	—
Loans from Federated Malay States ...	300,000	600,000
	18,533,000	19,805,082
Credit Balance	1,751,837	1,546,319
	20,284,837	21,351,401

APPENDIX A 1.

Total Revenue and Expenditure for the last Five Years.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	$	$	$	$	$
Revenue	5,386,926	7,041,686	7,754,736	7,958,486	10,632,220*
Expenditure...	6,037,084	7,315,001	7,601,354	8,185,952	10,843,239*

* Subject to audit.

APPENDIX B.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore	1,003,706	1,203,560	1,578,083	1,532,816	1,977,064	2,074,526†
Penang	387,541*	451,029	458,934	509,095	568,695	751,288†
Malacca	29,040	29,560	30,594	32,496	34,801	37,459
Total	1,420,287	1,684,149	2,067,611	2,074,407	2,580,560	2,863,273

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURE.

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	957,125	1,071,809‡	1,581,604	1,756,758	1,923,466§	1,960,065†‡
Penang	402,730	499,891	544,721§	615,879§	867,613§	709,501†
Malacca	29,154	28,002	34,806	31,023	32,592	34,349
Total ...	1,389,009	1,737,962	2,161,131	2,403,660	2,823,671	2,703,915

* Exclusive of a loan of $250,000 and a Government contribution of $10,000 towards cost of stamping out a small outbreak of plague.
† Subject to audit.
‡ Exclusive of sums expended on Loan Works.
§ Includes expenditure on Loan Works.

APPENDIX C.

DEBTS of MUNICIPALITIES and PROVISIONS for REPAYMENT.

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 at 5 per cent. ...	—	400,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1890 " 6 " ...	—	400,000	
" " 1893 " 5 "			
originally	280,000		
less (redeemed)	202,000		
		78,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1897 at 4 per cent. $500,000 Bonds issued	—	424,500	Annual drawings 2½ per cent. of loan. (Redeemed $63,600.)
" " 1898 at 4 per cent. $500,000 Bonds issued	—	28,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1899 at 4 per cent. ...	—	400,000	(Redeemed $144,000.)
" " 1901 " 5 " ...	—	1,000,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1902 " 5 " ...	—	400,000	" " " 2 "
		3,140,500	
Penang—			
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1889.	—	250,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent. per annum on amount of loan.
Loan at 6 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1891.	—	100,000	
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1901.	—	500,000	
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1904.	—	600,000	
Loan at 4 per cent. Tramway Loan, 1904.	—	100,000	Part of loan of $400,000.
		1,550,000	
Malacca—			
1885 Loan by Government $25,000 at 3 per cent.	—	16,500	Annual repayments of $500.

APPENDIX D 1.

IMPORTS.

('000 omitted.)

Merchandise	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	29,399	30,595	29,482	34,405	32,580
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	125,283	128,969	151,830	166,458	156,439
Foreign Countries ...	125,180	123,929	129,799	136,933	136,849
Inter-Settlement ...	10,533	9,717	11,286	12,333	11,195
Total	290,395	292,810	322,397	350,129	337,063
Treasure ...	34,857	27,710	40,538	52,908	46,879
Grand Total ...	325,252	320,520	362,935	403,037	383,942

EXPORTS.

('000 omitted.)

Merchandise.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	59,662	53,156	61,536	55,304	54,202
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	54,613	56,980	58,925	60,287	54,603
Foreign Countries ...	125,345	134,934	153,161	156,618	146,633
Inter-Settlement ...	11,296	11,704	12,332	11,408	9,720
Total	250,916	256,774	285,954	283,617	265,158
Treasure ...	23,539	21,980	28,081	53,081	61,035
Grand Total ...	274,455	278,754	314,035	336,698	326,193

IMPORTS.

(*Merchandise.*)

('000 omitted. Inter-Settlement trade included.)

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Class A.— Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	$109,917	114,200	127,915	134,472	128,746
	£ 11,127	11,165	11,000	11,830	12,336
Class B.— Raw Materials :—					
(*a*) Textile ...	$ 2,656	2,240	1,525	2,075	2,265
	£ 269	218	131	187	217
(*b*) Metal ...	$ 53,467	57,248	68,811	82,572	80,086
	£ 5,404	5,597	5,896	7,291	7,682
(*c*) Other ...	$ 56,692	53,060	57,440	56,271	53,301
	£ 5,730	5,178	4,846	4,955	5,106
Total	$112,815	112,548	127,776	140,918	135,652
	£11,403	10,993	10,873	12,433	13,005

APPENDIX D 2.

Comparative Statement of Principal Imports and Exports.

Imports.

—	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.
Cotton Piece Goods ...	5,265,704	4,290,130	—	975,574
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Coal	575,796	619,709	43,913	—
Rice	404,540	478,062	73,522	—
	Chests.	Chests.		Chests.
Opium	16,699	12,974	—	3,725
	Pieces.	Pieces.		Pieces.
Silk Piece Goods	520,829	304,845	—	215,984
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	
Petroleum	2,435,505	3,879,709	1,444,204	—
	Corges.	Corges.	Corges.	
Sarongs	274,596	346,890	72,294	—
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Fish, Dry and Salted ...	36,325	40,778	4,453	—
Tobacco	6,408	7,747	1,339	—
Tin Ore	53,135	58,125	4,990	—
				Tons.
Wheat Flour	28,822	25,100	—	3,722
Sugar...	52,509	60,307	7,798	—
	Gallons.	Gallons.		
Spirits	926,714	924,255	—	2,459

Exports.

—	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Sago	47,372	47,842	470	—
Coffee	7,011	5,407	—	1,604
Gambier	38,570	37,907	—	663
Gums...	23,688	25,589	1,901	—
Hides...	5,741	4,890	—	851
Spices...	54,716	52,524	—	2,192
Tapioca	60,014	54,923	—	5,091
Copra...	52,837	40,484	—	12,353
Rattans	31,056	25,403	—	5,653

APPENDIX E.

1902.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
No. of Statutory Grants issued.	97	623	167	887
Area granted ...	a. r. p. 92 3 34 + 91,884 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 3,063 0 21	a r. p. 7,359 0 10	a. r. p. 10,515 0 25+ 91,884 sq. ft.
Praemia paid ...	$102,017·51	$5,305·12	$30,825·03	$138,147·66

1903.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
No. of Statutory Grants issued.	197	165	163	835
Area granted ...	a. r. p. 844 1 22 + 502,717 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 2,593 0 09 + 36,522 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 6,104 2 34	a. r. p. 9,542 0 25 + 539,239 sq. ft.
Praemia paid ...	$189,640·60	$115,351·99	$21,409·06	$326,401·65

1904.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
No. of Statutory Grants issued.	77	295	156	528
Area granted ...	a. r. p. 469 0 37 + 284,768 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 2,293 3 36 + 5,450 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 3,230 1 24 + 2,433 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 5,993 2 17 + 292,651 sq. ft.
Praemia paid ...	$35,035·50	$1,654·26	$13,200	$49,889·76

APPENDIX F.

SHIPPING.

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

—		Total.	
		No.	Tons.
Arrivals	1903	9,519	9,213,846
	1904	9,767	9,138,455
Departures	1903	9,580	9,190,537
	1904	9,804	9,129,044
Total	1903	19,099	18,404,383
	1904	19,571	18,267,499

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

—		Total.	
		No.	Tons.
Arrivals	1903	17,335	815,385
	1904	16,677	783,650
Departures	1903	16,968	804,980
	1904	16,292	783,326
Total	1903	34,303	1,620,365
	1904	32,969	1,566,976

Comparative Statement of Shipping Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	14,469,405	16,289,704	17,098,762	18,404,383	18,267,499

NATIVE CRAFT.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft Entered and Cleared for last Five Years.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	1,445,548	1,470,606	1,520,136	1,620,365	1,566,976

APPENDIX G.

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

Total Tonnage Entered and Cleared at each Port in the Colony during 1903 *and* 1904.

Flag.	1903.				1904.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.
American	22,689	—	—	22,689	7,129	—	—	7,129
Austrian	271,911	189,490	—	461,401	227,860	161,182	—	389,042
British	6,686,380	3,831,284	629,518	11,147,182	7,535,350	3,607,674	699,720	11,842,744
Danish	69,689	7,034	—	76,723	76,678	7,034	—	83,712
Dutch	957,721	249,122	40,460	1,247,303	1,242,751	281,562	26,982	1,551,295
French	591,195	16,456	—	607,651	591,528	7,286	—	598,814
German	1,856,805	979,136	20,476	2,856,417	1,827,135	1,032,626	—	2,859,761
Italian	162,548	70,174	19,682	252,404	163,982	22,008	23,814	209,804
Japanese	631,822	199,218	—	831,040	80,769	7,742	—	88,511
Malay	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	60
Norwegian and Swedish ...	326,477	105,270	—	431,747	288,826	49,718	4,596	343,140
Russian	190,110	42,144	—	232,254	18,817	3,742	—	22,559
Sarawak	45,250	—	—	45,250	66,626	—	—	66,626
Siamese	34,021	—	—	34,021	57,741	—	—	57,741
Spanish	158,301	—	—	158,301	146,561	—	—	146,561
Total	12,004,919	5,689,328	710,136	18,404,383	12,331,753	5,180,574	755,172	18,267,499

APPENDIX H.

Prisons Returns.

Settlement.	Daily average in prison.°	Daily average sick.	Deaths.	Total number treated.	Percentage of natural deaths to total treated.	Ratio of deaths per mille of daily average number.
Singapore...	979·95	72·47	52 in hospital	1,083	4·8	53·1
Penang ...	400·88	6·97	12*	155	7·09	29·9
Malacca ...	52·11	1·60	6†	30	20·00	115·14

* Including Civil Prison. † One by hanging.

APPENDIX I.

Judicial Return—Criminal.

Supreme Court, Criminal Side.	1903. No. of Prisoners.				1904. No. of Prisoners.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
1. Culpable homicide—								
Convicted	1	5	1	7	3	3	—	6
Acquitted	—	—	—	—	8	1	1	10
2. Culpable homicide not amounting to murder.								
Convicted	12	—	—	12	3	1	—	4
Acquitted	2	—	—	2	1	—	1	2
3. Attempt to murder—								
Convicted	6	1	—	7	4	2	—	6
Acquitted	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
4. Voluntarily causing grievous hurt—								
Convicted	6	6	4	16	9	3	1	13
Acquitted	2	11	2	15	3	2	—	5
5. Unnatural offences—								
Convicted	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acquitted	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	3
6. Other offences against person—								
Convicted	11	10	2	23	16	—	2	18
Acquitted	6	5	—	11	9	4	2	15
7. Gang robbery—								
Convicted	10	—	—	10	4	22	11	37
Acquitted	6	—	—	6	2	2	8	12
8. Theft, housebreaking, &c.—								
Convicted	54	24	—	78	32	—	3	35
Acquitted	12	12	2	26	10	—	—	10
9. Other offences against property								
Convicted	39	28	2	69	16	21	—	37
Acquitted	19	12	2	33	2	6	1	9

APPENDIX I.—*continued.*

Supreme Court, Criminal Side.	1903. No. of Prisoners.				1904. No. of Prisoners.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
10. Miscellaneous Offences—								
Convicted	15	10	—	25	10	2	1	13
Acquitted	9	6	1	16	5	8	—	13
Total ... convicted	154	84	9	247	98	54	18	170
Total ... acquitted	58	46	7	111	43	23	13	79
Grand Total	212	130	16	358	141	77	31	249

APPENDIX J.

Judicial Return—Civil.

Supreme Court. Civil Side.	Civil Actions, 1903.						Civil Actions, 1904.					
	Pending 31st December, 1902.	Commenced.	Debt or damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending 31st December, 1903.*	Pending 31st December, 1903.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending 31st December, 1904.*
			$						$			
Singapore	733	2,350	1,902,181	149	1,250	788	788	2,853	3,047,330	141	1,454	1,209
Penang ..	312	872	938,666	69	364	428	428	1,287	929,247	23	435	558
Malacca ..	34	161	85,971	26	103	35	35	244	168,395	42	139	48
Total..	1,079	3,383	2,927,118	244	1,717	1,251	1,251	4,384	4,144,972	206	2,028	1,815

* The figures in these columns do not include cases not proceeded with and liable to be struck out.

APPENDIX K.

Probate and Administration.

—	1903.		1904.	
	No. of Petitions Granted.	Value of Estates.	No. of Petitions Granted.	Value of Estates.
		$		$
Singapore	369	2,069,957	359	4,485,949
Penang	870	3,484,640	511	5,580,714
Malacca	59	116,968	60	111,850
Total	1,298	5,671,565	930	10,178,513

APPENDIX L.

Courts of Two Magistrates.

Return of Persons Tried.	1903.			1904.		
	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.
Singapore... ...	69	170	239	275	108	3-3
Penang	317	221	538	303	291	594
Malacca	30	39	69	41	7	48
Total ...	416	430	846	619	406	1,025

APPENDIX M.

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.

Return of Persons Charged.

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.	1903.					1904.				
	Convicted and sentenced.*	Acquitted or cautioned and discharged.	Committed to the Superior Courts.	Awaiting trial on 31st Dec., 1903.	Total.	Convicted and sentenced.*	Acquitted or cautioned and discharged.	Committed to the Superior Courts.	Awaiting trial on 31st Dec., 1904.	Total.
Singapore ..	30,887	7,695	357	34	38,973	24,828	4,726	538	37	30,129
Penang	13,116	8,763	623	152	22,654	3,803	8,205	515	149	12,672
Malacca	1,753	467	85	15	2,320	1,942	480	23	22	2,467
Total ..	45,756	16,925	1,065	201	63,947	30,573	13,411	1,076	208	45,268

* Including Magistrates' Orders.

APPENDIX N.

Courts of Requests.

Courts of Requests (Jurisdiction up to $100.)	1903.		1904.	
	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages Claimed.	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages Claimed.
		$		$
Singapore	4,751	180,020	5,941	222,378
Penang	5,666	132,000	6,820	175,112
Malacca	1,016	22,220	1,181	27,112
Total	11,433	334,240	13,942	424,602

APPENDIX O.

Inquests.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
Homicide, culpable	25	14	1	40
,, justifiable...	—	2	1	3
,, by misadventure... ...	6	1	2	9
Suicide...	42	58	3	103
Death in pursuance of judicial sentence	2	1	—	3
Natural causes, accidental, &c. ...	611	110	43	764
Found dead, causes unknown, &c. ...	9	23	2	34
Found drowned	26	1	13	40
Still-born	16	—	—	16
Total	737	210	65	1,012

APPENDIX P.

Mean Temperature of the Air.

—	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	° F.	° F.	° F.
Singapore	86·7	72·8	79·2
Penang	89·3	73·9	80·0
Province Wellesley	91·6	73·2	80·5
Malacca	89·5	70·5	79·2

APPENDIX Q.

Rainfall.

Settlement.	Maximum Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
Singapore	130·50	23·60 Jan.	1·19 May	8·17 26th Jan.
Penang	134·25	26·48 Aug.	1·81 Feb.	6·83 12th Jan.
Province Wellesley	114·17	26·44 Aug.	1·80 Mar.	5·30 15th Aug.
Dindings	96·36	21·39 Oct.	0·80 Feb.	8·50 13th Dec.
Malacca	100·32	19·08 Oct.	0·10 Mar.	7·20 31st Mar.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
430	Mauritius	1903
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 & 1903–1904.
441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia...	1903
444	Basutoland	1903–1904
445	Leeward Islands...	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena	"
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar	"
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
455	British Honduras	"
456	Seychelles	"
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica...	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

Return to Doc. Div.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 502.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 458.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1906.

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No. 502.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 458.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Singapore,
August 25, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1905.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ANDERSON.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 23907 10/06 D & S 5 26047

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1905.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for 1905 amounted to $11,656,153,* the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

	$
Singapore	6,629,723
Penang	2,947,482
Malacca	2,078,948

There was thus an increase over the revenue collected in 1904 of $909,635, while that of 1903 was exceeded by $3,697,657. This increase is entirely due to the sale of the Malacca-Pulau Sebang Railway to the Federated Malay States, the proceeds of which amounting to $1,414,218 were brought to credit of the Malacca Revenue. The revenue proper shews a decrease of $504,583, as compared with the revenue collected in 1904 and an increase of $2,283,438 as compared with 1903. The principal increases were under the following headings:—

	$
Land Sales	1,430,129
Reimbursements	510,668
Post Office Receipts (including Telegraphs)	46,024
Fees of Office	19,166
District Collections	12,509

The large increase in land sales is due to the sale of the Malacca-Pulau Sebang Railway. Reimbursements comprise a sum of $470,140.56 transferred from the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund to the general revenue of the Colony.

The chief decreases appear under the headings:—

	$
Licences	954,795
Stamps	146,481
Interest	19,374

The decrease under licences is due to further reductions being made in the opium farmer's rents and to their being allowed to defer payment of a portion of their rents till 1st January, 1907.

* The figures of Revenue and Expenditure are in some cases subject to audit.

That under stamps is largely due to a falling off in the duty on probate.

The expenditure for the year was $11,005,137, as compared with $10,848,989 in 1904 and $8,185,952 in 1903. The following table exhibits the items in respect of which increased expenditure was incurred:—

	$
(1) Special Expenses	745,625
(2) Lands and Houses purchased ...	144,248
(3) Roads, Streets, &c., Special Services	55,664
(4) Personal Emoluments	45,480
(5) Interest	38,892

The advances made out of revenue, amounting to $747,580.83, to make good the difference between the market value and cost price of the securities belonging to the investment portion of the Note Guarantee Fund were written off as irrecoverable and debited to the special expenses. The increase under (2) is due to the Government taking over the Excise Farm Buildings and under (3) to construction of new roads. The increase under interest is caused by the loss on sale of the bullion purchased by the Crown Agents for subsidiary coin.

Exchange.

The exchange value of the Straits dollar was maintained at a fairly uniform rate during the first half of the year, the lowest decreased rate being 1*s.* 11½*d.* in January and April and the highest 1*s.* 11⅞*d.* in May. In July the dollar rose to 2*s.* 0¼*d.* and in August to 2*s.* 1½*d.*, and continued to appreciate till in December it reached 2*s.* 2$\frac{11}{16}$*d.* The average exchange for the year was 2*s.* 0$\frac{9}{16}$*d.*, an advance of 1⅝*d.* on the average for 1905 and nearly 3½*d.* on that of 1904.

A speculative market and the difficulty of getting cover for banking operations owing to the closing of the mints to the free coinage of dollars were amongst causes which accelerated the rise in the value of the Straits dollar, but the main cause was the rise in the price of tin.

Currency.

No dollars were minted during the year under review. At the beginning of the year the dollars and notes in circulation, including the stocks held by the Banks and in the Native States Treasuries, amounted to $43,550,099, of which $17,195,365 were in Government notes, $2,277,361 in bank notes, and the rest in

dollars. At the end of the year the notes and dollars in circulation amounted to $43,387,487, of which $17,353,710 were in Government notes, $1,454,456 in bank notes, and the rest in dollars. From the returns of imports and exports furnished to the Treasury, it appears that the excess of exports over imports of dollars amounted to $3,055,101 for Singapore and $502,801 for Penang, making a total excess of $3,557,902. These returns do not take into account the Straits dollars taken away or brought into the Colony by passengers. Most of the Straits dollars exported were absorbed by Sumatra. In Singapore $553,491 worth of subsidiary coin was withdrawn from circulation during the year, and in Penang $179,000.

Quarter-cent pieces to the value of $5,019 were received from Bombay, and of these coin to the value of $2,500 was issued to the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board.

The exportation of Straits dollars to any place outside the Malay Peninsula, the Netherlands East Indies, and Borneo was prohibited from the 16th of January.

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $1,866,215, as against $2,918,136 in 1904, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation having continued the reduction of their note issue.

The average amount of Government currency notes in circulation during each month was:—

Month.	Amount.
	$
January	17,307,333
February	17,525,365
March	17,524,397
April	17,522,461
May	17,511,040
June	17,372,438
July	17,208,460
August...	17,205,105
September	17,204,505
October	17,050,460
November	16,981,105
December	17,154,903

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $3,009,199, and their expenditure, including sums spent on loan works, to $3,391,467. The usual comparative statements will be found in Appendix C.

The debts of these Boards and the provision made for repayment are shewn in Appendix D.

TRADE.

The trade of the year, though profitable to merchants, was not altogether satisfactory.

The speculative element of exchange so dominated transactions that while remunerative to some it was injurious to others, and the volume turned over in manufactured goods was, with the exception of the textile class, not quite so large.

Dollar imports of merchandise decreased by 2 per cent., but owing to the rise of 6½ per cent. in exchange increased by £1,400,000, or 4½ per cent.

The export value of merchandise measured in dollars increased in value by over 3¾ per cent. and in sterling by 10½ per cent.

The trade of Singapore itself to places outside the Colony, excluding treasure, fell in both imports and exports, shewing decreases of nearly 3 per cent. and about 1¾ per cent. respectively in dollar values.

The value of the Colony's trade with other countries is as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.
	$	$
Merchandise—		
Imports	325,868,032	319,776,549
Exports	255,438,661	265,184,613
Total ...	581,306,693	584,961,162
Treasure—		
Imports	42,960,031	12,457,367
Exports	57,070,257	17,776,172
Total ...	100,030,288	30,233,539
Grand Total ...	681,336,981	615,194,701

The United Kingdom in imports of merchandise received 10·5 per cent. of the Colony's foreign trade, an increase of 5 per cent.; British Possessions and Protectorates, including the Federated Malay States, 47·4 per cent., a fall of 6 per cent., and foreign countries 42·1 per cent., an advance of 1 per cent.

In export values of the same class the proportion belonging to the United Kingdom was 21·4 per cent., an increase of 2 per cent., to British Possessions and Protectorates 24·6 per cent., a rise of 3·2 per cent., and to foreign countries 54 per cent., a decline of 3·4 per cent.

A view of the trade values thus distributed will be seen in Appendix E. 1.

From countries having a gold currency, among which Siam is now reckoned, goods brought into the Colony reached a total value of nearly 191 million dollars, an increase of about 14 per cent., and from silver currency countries nearly 129 million dollars, a decrease of over 18½ per cent.

To gold countries there were exports to the value of 204½ million dollars, an increase of nearly 11 per cent., and to silver countries about 60¾ million dollars, a decrease of over 14½ per cent.

In the twelve principal articles of produce, viz., tin, gambier, pepper, copra, coffee, hides, sago, rattans, tapioca, gutta, Borneo and India rubber, and gum copal, the value exported increased by 13,570 tons, copra alone, however, rising by 18,150 tons.

Import Quantities and Values.

Imports into Singapore from all places including the trade from other Settlements as well as bullion and specie amounted to nearly 249 million dollars (£25,425,000), a decrease of nearly $25\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars and in sterling of £787,000.

Of this decline, bullion and specie accounted for nearly 19 million dollars, and merchandise for the balance, the falling off in the former being due to the fact that no Straits dollars were coined for importation.

The movements of specie in the interests of a change of currency account for the great difference of treasure values in the two years.

Foodstuffs, including opium and spirits, fell by $643,000, raw textiles by $780,000, tin and other unmanufactured metals by $1,243,000, Straits produce and other raw materials by $3,955,000, and manufactured articles by $111,000.

The only increase under the last-named class was in textiles, which advanced by $1,804,000 but metals and miscellaneous manufactures declined.

Penang imports from all places amounted to $91\frac{8}{10}$ million dollars (£9,365,000), a decrease of nearly $13\frac{4}{10}$ million dollars and in sterling of £716,000.

Bullion and specie, however, accounted for a fall of $14\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, leaving an increase in merchandise of $1,320,000.

Foods, drinks, and narcotics declined by $839,000, tin and other raw materials advanced by over 2¼ million dollars, and

Straits produce and other raw materials by $610,000, but manufactured articles fell by $718,000, there being a decrease under every class in this latter head.

Malacca imports were valued at over 4¼ million dollars, an increase of $167,000, treasure alone increasing by $198,000.

The value of all foods, drinks and narcotics imported, including the inter-Settlement trade, amounted to over 127½ million dollars £13,011,000), a decrease of less than 1¼ million dollars but an increase in sterling of £675,000.

The principal decreases are in opium and rice, and to a much less degree in live animals, sago, tapioca, coffee, tobacco and cigars, birds' nests, and wheat flour.

Increases are seen in dry and salted fish and sugar, followed by spices, milk, oilman's stores, spirits, drugs and chemicals, salt, coriander seeds, and onions and garlic with much smaller advances.

Imports into the Colony apart from the inter-Settlement movements shew rice with a total trade of 451,000 tons, a decrease of 5½ per cent., the average price slightly advancing.

Over 80·7 per cent. of this article was re-exported.

Opium imports amounted to 12,960½ chests, a decrease of 13½, but the average price of Benares opium declined by over 12 per cent.

Of this import 10,711 chests were re-exported, a decrease of 327, with about 25,300 lbs. of the manufactured article, a decrease of 2,000 lbs.

Dry and salted fish imported into the Colony reached 55,000 tons, an increase of nearly 25½ per cent., with a value of over 9 million dollars, an increase of $1\frac{7}{10}$ million.

Imports of sugar amounted to close on 63,000 tons, an increase of about 4 per cent. and in value of $875,000.

From Java 48,214 tons were brought in, or nearly 3,400 more, from Perak about 12,390 tons, a slight increase, and of European beet 1,070 tons, a further decrease of 1,430 tons.

Sugar candy manufactured in Singapore was sent to Hong Kong to the amount of nearly 9,050 tons, valued at $1\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of 650 tons and $294,000.

Sales of American wheat flour were less, only 6,700 tons being imported from Hong Kong, a decrease of 72 per cent., while Australian imports rose to 4,800 tons, an increase of over 700 per cent., and Calcutta imports to 2,390 tons, an increase of over 200 per cent.

There was a fall in the total trade of 24,000 tons, or over 5 per cent.

Dry and salted provisions, including butter, biscuits, cheese, tinned goods, and other provisions amounted to 5$\frac{4}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of $217,000.

A new import included in the above figures was frozen meat from Australia to the value of $241,000.

Spirits to the amount of over 1,133,000 gallons were imported, valued at over 2$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of 209,000 gallons at $148,000.

Malt liquors imported reached 885,000 gallons valued at less than 1$\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars, an increase of 34,000 gallons and $39,000.

Of this amount 735,000 gallons represented beer and ale, and the remainder porter and stout.

Imports of tobacco amounted to 107,745 pikuls, valued at over 4$\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, a decrease of about 22,000 pikuls and $749,000.

Cigars and cigarettes imported valued nearly 1$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of $384,000.

The foodstuffs of importance shewing increased values received were lard, onions and garlic, tea, salt and curry stuffs, and decreases are found in raw sago, beans and peas, and vegetables.

The value of raw materials imported into the three Settlements from all places valued over 132$\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars (£13,519,000), a decrease of over 3$\frac{1}{10}$ million, but an increase in sterling of £514,000.

Tin and tin ore accounted for an increase of over one million dollars, raw textiles for a decrease of over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million, and produce and raw materials other than foodstuffs for a decrease of over 3$\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars.

The great decline was in petroleum of 6$\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, and is explained by the fact that in previous years large quantities were treated as import and export which merely used the port for storage purposes, while in 1905 only the oil actually sold from Singapore was recorded.

Other declines were gambier, timber and planks, raw hides, liquid fuel, India rubber and coal, but there were large increases in copra and Borneo rubber, Para rubber and gutta percha, particulars of which are given under export quantities and values.

Coal imports amounted to 641,000 tons, an increase of 21,000 tons.

Tin ore brought into the Colony amounted to 56,329 tons, a decrease of 3 per cent. The Federated Malay States, except

Pahang, all sent less, the total from all these States shewing over 51,300 tons, a decrease of 2,440 tons.

Australia and the Dutch Islands sent less, but from the Siamese Dependencies over 2,202 tons were received, or more than double the quantity sent in 1904.

Manufactured articles imported into the three Settlements amounted to nearly 71$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars (£7,316,000) in value, a decrease of over one million dollars, but an advance in sterling of £352,000.

In the textile division, however, there was an advance of nearly 1½ million dollars, increases being seen in cotton piece goods, yarn, sarongs and apparel, though declines are noted in jute, gunnies, silk piece goods, umbrellas, and woollen cloth.

Over 4$\frac{3}{4}$ million pieces of cotton goods were imported into the Colony, being an increase of more than half a million pieces and of more than 1$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars in value, compared with the imports of 1904.

From the United Kingdom over 4 million pieces were received, valued at nearly 14$\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of 18½ per cent. in quantity and 15½ per cent. in value. The Continent of Europe sent 441,000 pieces, valued at over 1$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of 3,000 pieces but an increase in value.

Over 83 per cent. of the total quantity, an increase of 4 per cent., and 83½ per cent. of the value, an increase of 3½ per cent., represented imports of this class from the United Kingdom. A fall of 25 per cent. in the heavy class of such goods, the production of Indian mills, follows a previous decline.

Yarn was a good market, an enormous increase being noted in the dyed, much of which, however, was short reeled from Glasgow and the Continent.

Grey yarn, with a total import of 14,376 bales, increased by 1,017 bales, and dyed yarn, with an import quantity of 11,498 bales, increased by 3,955, but the imports of grey yarn the previous year were the poorest since 1900, and the figures were only slightly over those of 1903.

Imports of sarongs, slendangs, and kains amounted to 347,654 corges of 20 pieces each, valued at over 7 million dollars, a trifling increase in quantity but in value nearly three-quarters of a million dollars.

In quantity the United Kingdom sent an increase of 2½ per cent., and the Continent a decrease of 4 per cent.

Indian and Java imports shew little variation.

Jute gunnies from Calcutta valued over 4 million dollars, a decrease of $472,000, China, French-Indo China, and Siam having reduced demands.

Manufactured metals imported into the Settlements valued nearly $9\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars (£990,000), a decrease of over $1\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars and in sterling of £69,000.

The United Kingdom sent to the value of $5\frac{4}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of 14 per cent.; the Continent of Europe to the value of $2\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of about the same percentage, and the United States to the value of $360,000, an increase of 41 per cent.

Out of 25 metals enumerated, increased quantities from the United Kingdom are seen in eight only, from the Continent in ten, and from the United States of America in eight.

Decreases were seen in the values of brassware, copperware, tinware, yellow metal sheathing and zincware imported, and increased values in tools and zinc sheathing.

Miscellaneous manufactures not included under textiles and metals show an import into the Settlements of close on $18\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, a decrease of nearly $1\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars.

The largest declines were seen in fireworks, cement, clocks and watches, carriages and carriage materials, lamps and lampware, crockery, dynamite, cabinetware, perfumery, candles, musical instruments, bricks and tiles, and japanware.

Increased import values were observable in jewellery, tanned hides, soap and soda, and woodenware.

A heavy fall is recorded in the quantity of British cement imported, about 41,200 casks, valued at $196,000, giving less than half the quantity and about 56 per cent. less value than in 1904.

Continental brands rose from 89,000 casks in that year to more than 118,000, and Hong Kong cement, with a total of 34,370 casks, gives an increase of about 1,500.

Prices of English cement have been slightly lowered, and it is believed the prospects for 1906 are most favourable.

Of paints and dyes, the United Kingdom sent to the value of $542,000, a decrease of 7 per cent., the Continent to the value of $279,000, an increase of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the United States to the value of $40,000, an increase of 21 per cent.

Export Quantities and Values.

The total value of exports from Singapore to all places, including bullion and specie, was nearly $211\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars

(£21,590,000), a decrease of nearly $31\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars (£1,741,000).

Bullion and specie, however, accounted for a decrease of $29\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars.

Foodstuffs and manufactured articles shew increased values, the decline being noted under raw materials in petroleum. which if eliminated in both years would shew an increase in the total exports of $2\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars from outside places.

Penang exports to all other ports amounted to close on 81 million dollars (£8,277,000), an increase of over $1\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars or £678,000.

Bullion and specie shew a decrease of nearly $12\frac{8}{10}$ million dollars, leaving an increase in merchandise of $14\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars.

Foodstuffs advanced by nearly $3\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, tin by $7\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, produce by nearly $600,000, and manufactured goods by $2\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars.

Malacca exports amounted to over $3\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars (£372,000), an increase of $274,000 and in sterling of £50,000, but after excluding bullion and specie the increase was $56,000 and £5,000.

An increase in all classes is recorded and especially in copra, tramway materials, swine, tin ore, and gunnies.

The value of foods, drinks, and narcotics exported from the three Settlements was over 112 million dollars (£11,426,000), an increase of over $5\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars and in sterling of £1,216,000.

These are more or less reflected in the imports which have been already treated of except spices, sago, tapioca, and a few other local products.

The value of raw materials exported to all places in the Straits Settlements was nearly $127\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars (£13,017,000), an increase of over $3\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars.

Raw textiles decreased by $646,000, produce and other raw materials by nearly one million dollars, but tin and other unmanufactured metals advanced by nearly $4\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars.

Advanced output marked the trade in Areca-nuts, preserved pineapples, sago pearl and black pepper, and decreases in pearl tapioca, coffee, white pepper, sago flour and nutmegs.

All spices exported shew 70,423 tons, an increase of about 17,900 tons.

Over 48,000 tons of tapioca were exported, a decrease of over $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., prices making a sharp advance towards the end

of the year in pearl and flake, so that rates on 31st December were 43 per cent. higher than on 1st July.

From Singapore over 548,000 cases of preserved pineapples were sent out, valued at over 2¾ million dollars, an increase of 100,000 cases and $318,000.

In the class produce and raw materials other than textiles or metal, Singapore exports fell by 1¾ million dollars, which, however, is more than covered by the decline in the value of petroleum exported.

Small consignments of produce were on several occasions shipped back to the country of origin, failing to find a sufficiently remunerated market in Singapore.

The phenomenal rise in copra production has been noted and an extension of the industry for extracting oil and vegetable tallow absorbs more of the product—the imports considerably exceeding the exports.

The output of all gums was nearly 29,500 tons, an increase of 3,840 tons.

Jelutong and inferior rubbers and guttas were exported to the amount of nearly 12,300 tons, an increase of 1,340 tons.

Some of this low quality other than jelutong is re-boiled, mixed, and then sent out at a higher value as gutta percha.

Gutta percha was exported to the amount of nearly 42,100 cwts., an increase of 8,825 cwts., but the bulk sent was of poor quality averaging less than $67½ per cwt. compared with $92½ in 1904, while the market quotations for the best quality (fine red) was $300 to $500 per pikul of 133⅓ lbs., $150 to $300 for first quality mixed, and $90 to $150 for medium; the lowest class ranging from $12 to $80.

Borneo and India rubber exports reached 54,051 cwts., an increase of 16,666 cwts., the price of Borneo rubber averaging over $101½ per pikul, a decrease of more than 5 per cent.

Para rubber exported records 1,973 cwts., but most of this was transhipped from the Federated Malay States.

Rattans exported totalled 25,367 tons, much the same as in 1904, and the average price of the principal kinds slightly advanced.

Gambier exports shew a continuous fall from year to year, the total recorded being 36,803 tons, a decline of nearly 3 per cent.

Exports of refined tin amounted to 58,878 tons, an increase of 2,320 tons.

The highest price locally was $88¾ per pikul, with exchange at 2*s.* 2½*d.*, and the lowest $76½ with exchange at 2*s.*; the average market price, however, worked out at $80.57 per pikul, an increase of nearly 3 per cent.

Exports to the United Kingdom, India and the Continent, generally, increased, but fell to the United States and Japan.

Trade with other Countries in Merchandise.

Imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 33¾ million dollars, an increase of over 3½ per cent., and exports thereto over 56¾ million dollars, an increase of over 4¾ per cent.

Imports increased largely in cotton piece goods, yarn, blankets, paper and stationery, followed by smaller increases in soap and soda, biscuits, cigars and cigarettes, and sewing thread.

The following articles shew declines:—Ironware and hardware, brandy, cement, machinery, tramway and railway materials, woollen cloth, lamps, steel, and canvas.

Exports increased in tin, gutta percha, Para rubber, sugar, and Borneo rubber, followed by smaller advances in gum, copal, rattans, copra, and wax.

Decreases were seen in the values sent out of Gambier, black pepper, tapioca, pineapples and India rubber, and to a less extent in nutmegs, benzine, fishmaws, and hides.

Imports from the Continent of Europe amounted to 16¾ million dollars, a decrease of 16¼ per cent., and exports over 33 million dollars, a decrease of 2¾ per cent.

German imports fell by 11½ per cent., Belgian and French by about one-half per cent. each, Austrian by 15 per cent., Spanish by 21 per cent., and Russian by 2 $\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, shewing a trade of $16,000 only.

Increased percentages are seen from Italy by 10, Holland 9¼, Denmark 29½, and Sweden 6 per cent.

As previously mentioned, if Russia, which sends oil only, were excluded, the imports from the Continent would shew a decrease of 3¼ per cent.

Declines are seen in the values of hardware and ironware, cotton piece goods, watches and clocks, lamps, tramway materials, and perfumery from Germany, increases being noted in apparel, hosiery, &c., cement and telephone materials.

From Italy imports increased in milk, cotton piece goods and apparel, but fell off in sarongs.

Dutch imports rose in sarongs, cotton piece goods, gin and yarn, and Belgian goods brought in shew an increase in milk, but a decline in metals.

From France greater values of brandy and machinery are recorded, but silk piece goods and perfumery declined.

Austrian goods declined in sugar and hardware, but rose in apparel and cement.

Denmark sent increased values of cement, butter, and cheese.

Swedish supplies are principally bar iron and matches.

Exports to France declined by 12 per cent., to Germany by 8 per cent., to Italy by 8½ per cent., to Holland by 19 per cent., to Denmark by 6½ per cent., and to Sweden by $93,000, having a total trade of $16,000 only.

Exports to other countries shew the following increased percentages:—Russia, nearly 38½ per cent.; Austria, 19 per cent.; Belgium, over 57 per cent.; and Spain, 3½ per cent.

To France the declines were in copra, gutta percha, sago flour and to a less extent gambier, coffee, jelutong and tapioca, but tin and Borneo rubber shew advanced values.

To Germany gutta percha, white pepper, jelutong, gum copal and gambier values declined, but copra, Borneo rubber, tin, preserved pines and oil cakes shew increases.

Tin to Italy decreased, followed by pepper and gambier, but copra gave a small advance.

Copra rose to Russia as well as tin, but sticklac values fell.

To Austria tin and copra increased, but pepper shewed a heavy fall.

To Holland cigars and tobacco fell off in values, followed by hides and gutta percha, but tin values increased.

Copra sent to Belgium, Spain, and Denmark increased in value, as well as tin, and gambier to the first-named country.

To Denmark, gambier increased, but black pepper declined, sago flour to Spain also declining and pearl tapioca to Sweden.

Imports from the United States of America valued $3,280,000, an increase of 41 per cent., and exports thereto over 36¼ million dollars, an increase of 3¾ per cent.

Imports of wheat flour not included in these totals being purchased from Hong Kong valued $1,928,000, a decrease of no less than $801,000.

Import values increased in petroleum, cigars and cigarettes, tallow and lard, and lubricating oil.

Export values increased in black pepper, Borneo rubber, coconut oil, inferior guttas, and gum copal, followed by gutta percha and raw hides.

Declines, however, were exhibited in the values of coffee, gambier, and tin, and to a less extent in nutmegs, white pepper and rattans.

Imports from British India, including Burma, shew slightly under 44 million dollars, a decrease of over 8⅓ per cent., and export values thereto nearly 13 million dollars, an increase of over 13 per cent.

Opium and gunny bags from Calcutta, rice, bran, petroleum, and beans and peas from Burma, and opium, cotton piece goods, and yarn from Bombay, all declined; while coal, wheat flour, and ghee from Calcutta, hides, cigars, fishmaws, fish, dry and salted, and gunny bags from Burma, sarongs, goat skins, salt, onions and garlic, and cattle from Madras all exhibit advances.

Exports increased in values of areca-nuts, sticklac and tin to Calcutta, coconuts, dry and salted fish, tin, areca-nuts and curry stuffs to Burma ports, areca-nuts and tin to Bombay, and sugar and goat skins to Madras.

Declines were seen in the values sent of petroleum to Calcutta, of raw silk and by much less amounts of matches and apparel to Burma, gum benjamin to Bombay, and areca-nuts and cotton piece goods to Madras.

From Netherlands India imports valued over 49½ million dollars, a decrease of 4 per cent., and exports thereto close on 41 million dollars, a decrease of $31,000 only.

Imports from Java increased by 5½ per cent., sugar, sarongs lubricating oil, copra and coffee all advancing, while tapioca flour, black pepper, indigo, poultry and birds' nests fell off by smaller values.

From Sumatra imports decreased by 16 per cent., petroleum and liquid fuel, tobacco, raw cotton, black pepper, india rubber and raw sago all declining, but Borneo rubber, beeswax, copra and gutta percha increased.

Imports from Dutch Borneo decreased by nearly 4 per cent., petroleum and liquid fuel, dried fish, gum copal and damar shewing less values; while increases are noted in Borneo rubber, coal, gutta percha, copra, white pepper and coconut oil.

From the Celebes nutmegs, rattans, raw hides and mace all fell off, as well as petroleum from the storage tanks at Pulau Sambu, opposite Singapore, and gambier, timber, nutmegs and tin ore from the Dutch Islands, but tin, copra, dried fish and gum copal gave increased values received.

Copra from Bali rose enormously in value, and coffee also advanced, but values of cattle and swine fell off.

White pepper values decreased from Achinese ports, but areca-nuts shew an advance.

Copra from the Natunas Islands increased in value and white pepper from Rhio also gave an advance, gambier, however, declining.

A decrease of nearly 9 per cent. in values marked the export trade to Java—rice, coconut oil, coffee, sarongs, grey yarn, and tea all declining.

Dried and salted fish increased, however, and by much smaller advances curry stuffs, earthenware, and paints.

Exports to Sumatra increased by over 22¼ per cent., for which enhanced values of rice, cotton piece goods, cattle, dried and salted fish are chiefly responsible; opium, crude oil, and earthenware fell off.

Exports to Dutch Borneo decreased by 13¼ per cent., seen chiefly in less values of rice, ironware, machinery, coconut oil, and petroleum sent.

To the Celebes, grey yarn, rice and gunnies increased, but to the Dutch Islands there was a fall in the value of petroleum sent.

Values of rice and Benares opium to Bali increased in value; to Achinese ports the declines were numerous, sugar alone slightly rising in values sent, and both rice and opium values declined to Rhio.

Imports from the Federated Malay States amounted to close on 76 million dollars, an increase of over 2 per cent., and exports thereto to 31 million dollars, an increase of nearly 29 per cent.

It is probable, however, that more accurate returns are now given by native traders in consequence of a new law in operation regulating imports and exports in these States.

The trade by land is not included in these figures, nor the large transhipments at Straits ports from Europe and elsewhere.

Values of tin and tin ore, Para rubber, gutta percha, and sugar all advanced, coffee alone shewing a fall.

There were no decreases of note in the exports, numerous advances marking the trade in most articles especially seen in higher values of rice, cotton piece goods, sugar, dried and salted fish, bran, paper and paperware, beans and peas, tobacco, Kachang oil, tea, medicines, milk, ground-nuts, and cigars and cigarettes.

Imports from Hong Kong and China amounted to over 28¼ million dollars, a decrease of 11½ per cent, and exports under 16 million dollars, a decrease of over 12 per cent.

Silk piece goods and wheat flour fell heavily in values, followed by cotton piece goods, lard, fireworks, paper and paperware, apparel, fish, dried and salted, raw silk, provisions, medicines, opium and tobacco.

There were no increases of note.

Petroleum sent had an enormous decline, followed by rice, raw cotton and black pepper.

Increases were numerous, though not of much moment, principally in sugar and candy, preserved pines, fish, dried and salted, goat skins and ground nuts.

Imports from French and Indo-China amounted to 4$\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of nearly 6½ per cent., and exports over 2 million dollars, a decrease of more than 16 per cent.

Increased values of imports are shewn in dried and salted fish and swine, but declines are found in the values of rice, raw silk, sticklac and salt received.

The value of gunnies exported fell, areca-nuts and lubricating oil, however, shewing advances.

From the Malay Peninsula, excluding the Federated Malay States, viz., from Johore, Kelantan, Patani, Singora, and Tringganu, imports amounted to nearly 14⅕ million dollars, an increase of over 2½ per cent., and exports thereto to over 5⅘ million dollars, an increase of more than 4 per cent.

Import values from Johore fell in gambier, tin ore and fresh fruits, but increased in areca-nuts, copra, black pepper and gutta percha.

Tin ore and rice from Tringganu fell in value, but copra from Kelantan gave an increase.

Values of swine and rice from Singora declined, and tin and cattle from Patani advanced.

Exports to Johore fell in the values of rice and provisions sent.

Cotton piece goods increased to Kelantan and Patani, and petroleum and yarn to Singora.

Imports from Australia were valued at 2⅔ million dollars, an increase of over 37 per cent., and exports at over 1¾ million dollars, an increase of 32½ per cent.

Wheat flour, coal and fresh meat values account for the larger increases, tin ore, however, falling off.

Exports of tin, copra, and tapioca advanced, but white pepper showed a smaller value sent.

Imports from Japan were valued at nearly $6\frac{2}{3}$ million dollars, a decrease of $19\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and exports at over $2\frac{2}{3}$ million dollars, a decrease of over 37 per cent.

The fall in the value of coal alone accounted for more than the decrease, other items shewing no great change.

The value of tin sent fell, as well as that of petroleum and rice, but small advances are seen in tinware, manure, preserved fruits and coconut oil.

The value of imports from Siam and Siam West Coast was $30\frac{4}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of $9\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and exports thereto over $16\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, a decrease of $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Rice imports shewed a large advance, followed by bran, black pepper, and sticklac.

Declines were observable in fish, dried and salted, and raw hides, followed by swine, silk piece goods, and padi.

Export values fell in opium, gunnies and to a much smaller extent in areca-nuts.

The principal increases were in sugar, dyed yarn, cotton piece goods, and apparel sent.

Imports from Sarawak amounted to over 5 million dollars, an increase of over 9 per cent., and from British North Borneo a value of $852,000, an increase of nearly 70 per cent.

Rubber, rattans and gutta percha from Sarawak gave increased values, but sago flour and salted fish fell.

Rattans from British North Borneo increased in value, followed by gum copal, beeswax and sago flour.

Exports to Sarawak reached over $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of over 56 per cent.; to British North Borneo nearly $1\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of nearly 26 per cent.

Enhanced values were sent to Sarawak of rice, fish, tobacco, and cotton piece goods, and to British North Borneo of rice and cotton piece goods.

Observations on Trade.

From the middle of May to early in July, trade in piece goods was brisk, but August and September were poor months, nor did October and November show much better, and it was not till December that a marked improvement took place.

The buying season for Bangkok began earlier than usual, and at the close of June dealers bought largely, but when exchange rose buyers in Siam were slow to purchase, holding off in the natural expectation that prices would fall, with the result that local dealers were only able to take deliveries very slowly and were compelled to write off a very heavy percentage on the value of their stocks.

There was no advance in American or Japanese cottons, the former being too expensive a class for this market, while the qualities of the Japanese article are so much poorer than the Manchester goods, that the margin in price in no way compensates.

Stocks in importers' hands were very heavy at the close of the year, especially in white shirtings and prints.

Although it is probable that a more direct business is done with Bangkok in certain goods, such as prints and some lines of whites, the standard demands are still met from Singapore.

On the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula there was a good demand for dyed yarn, though at times the shortness of rains prevented quick deliveries.

Rough goods were a moderate market with keen competition throughout the year, and with the constant rising exchange anxiety to sell was manifested sometimes at prices little above cost.

Several heavy failures of import dealers occurred during the year, much the larger portion of the losses falling on foreign firms, which it is understood are more ready to grant long credits than their British competitors.

It was necessary to considerably curtail credits towards the end of 1905.

Taking the twelve principal articles of produce, viz., tin, gambier, pepper, copra, coffee, hides, sago, rattans, tapioca, gutta percha, Borneo and India rubbers, and gum copal, the volume exported increased by 13,570 tons.

Copra alone rose so enormously that the increase was 18,150 tons, and therefore if it were eliminated there would be a decrease in the other eleven articles of 4,580 tons.

On a few occasions small shipments of produce sent to this market were returned to the country of origin, having failed to meet with sales at the prices wanted.

The New York Freights Conference raised rates in August, with one or two exceptions, to the level of London.

Both imports and exports of all classes increased with the United Kingdom, decreased in both with the Continent, and increased in both with the United States, particular details being found under "Trade with Other Countries" in this report.

The average daily demand rate of sterling exchange was 2*s.* 0 $\frac{9}{16}$*d.*, compared with 1*s.* 11*d.* in 1904, or an increase of over 6½ per cent.

By taking the highest and lowest quotations for each month, the results 4 months' sight obtainable for the two years are in 1904 1*s.* 11 $\frac{3}{16}$*d.* and 2*s.* 0¾*d.* in 1905

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 18,890,600, as compared with 18,267,499 in 1904. The amount realised by light dues was $223,540.

Particulars of the shipping are given in Appendices G., H., and I. One thousand and two vessels, aggregating 9,025 tons, were built in Singapore in 1905, the figures for the previous year being one thousand and seventy-nine and 19,205 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Pine-apple cultivation in Singapore has increased even more than it did last year.

There has been also a further extension of Para rubber in Singapore and in Malacca. The cultivation everywhere is increasing, and the demand for seed from the Gardens is larger than can be supplied. The experiments in the Botanic Gardens were continued, and a report on them was published. The rubber made during the experiments was sold at 6*s.* 9¼*d.* per lb., the highest price then procurable.

Indigo cultivation still remains as it was last year in Singapore, there seems to have been no increase, nor any appreciable decrease.

Coconut plantations have increased in Singapore, considerable extension having taken place in the direction of Tampenis.

Pepper has shown no sign of increase, nor has citronella grass.

Considerable attention has been lately directed to fibre cultivation, chiefly in the matter of sanseviera. It is probable that the next few years may see a development of this industry.

The fruit crop in Singapore was poor last year, but good in Penang.

The agricultural exhibition held in Penang last year was undoubtedly the best ever held in the East. The produce shown was not only very extensive, but some of the exhibits, especially of rubber, were of a high order of excellence; a large number of prizes for the most important produce were taken by Colonial exhibitors.

No new rubber estates have been opened in the province, but the existing estates which grow rubber are largely extending this cultivation. A feature of one large estate is the granting of land to Chinese squatters who cultivate tapioca and other surface crops on condition that they plant and tend Para rubber, which will eventually become the chief crop. Other cultivations remain about stationary.

The failure of the Sea Island cotton, which was extensively experimented with at Golden Grove Estate, proves definitely that even that variety is equally with the Egyptian variety unsuitable for this country.

Land Grants.

Appendix F. shows the number of land grants issued, the area alienated, and the amount of praemia paid in the three Settlements during the past three years.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances were added to the Statute Book during the year. Of these, thirteen contain amendments of previous enactments, the most important being an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to railways, and to bring it into line with the law in force in the Federated Malay States.

The principal Ordinances containing new legislation were the following:—

The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance, whereby provision was made for the expropriation of the undertaking of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, Limited, and its management by the Government of the Colony; the Medical Registration Ordinance established a Medical Council for the Colony on the lines

of the General Medical Council, to control and register qualified medical practitioners; the Poisons Ordinance, to regulate the possession and sale of poisons; the Straits and Federated Malay States Government Medical School Ordinance, by which a school of medicine was established in Singapore in order to provide facilities for the study of medicine, surgery, and midwifery; and an important Ordinance dealing with Mohammedan and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, many of which in the past have been greatly mismanaged. Power is given to the Governor to appoint a Board in each Settlement to administer, manage, and superintend such trusts as may be determined by the Governor in Council if it should appear to him that they are being mismanaged, or that there are no trustees for their management, or that it would otherwise be advantageous for them to be placed under the Board's control.

An Ordinance was also passed to enable the Governor in Council to make rules for the control of fisheries within the waters of the Colony, with the object of preserving and fostering the the industry as far as possible.

In view of the impending necessity of raising a loan for works in connection with the harbour, and for other public works, a short Ordinance was passed towards the end of the year to enable the Government to raise, in 1906, temporary loans on Treasury bills or loan notes.

EDUCATION.

Nearly all the schools of the Colony are vernacular schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools, which are 172 in number, are defrayed by Government, and they provide free tuition in Malay to some eleven thousand pupils. The remaining schools are, with the exception of five which are controlled and financed by Government, aided-schools managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Government.

In 30 schools English only is taught, in four English and Tamil, and three Tamil only, and in one Chinese only; the numbers of pupils enrolled in these four classes of schools are 9,120, 310, 90, and 31 respectively. The average daily attendance at vernacular schools was 8,622, and that at schools where English only is taught was 8,442. There are, in addition to the Government and aided-schools, a few private schools, which are not inspected by Government. These are chiefly Chinese vernacular schools.

The net expenditure on Government schools was $79,274, on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese) $67,412, and on Government vernacular schools $91,225.

The cost of the Melacca training college for Malay teachers during the year under review was $10,737. The value of this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the vernacular schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before the schools in these Settlements are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The commercial and science classes at the Raffles Institution have made satisfactory progress during the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, while the estate hospitals maintained by the planters are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, was 23,762, as against 23,462 in 1904. In Singapore 228 patients were admitted into the lunatic asylum.

The usual returns will be found in Appendices J. 1, J. 2, and J. 3.

Reformatory.

The number of boys in the Reformatory at the end of the year was 43; the highest number during the year was 75 and the lowest 42. The new permanent buildings, to accommodate 120, will be finished early in 1906. The health of the inmates has been good throughout the year. Instruction is given at the school in English and Romanized Malay, and at the workshops in tailoring, carpentering, and shoemaking. The expenditure amounted to $8,984, as against $9,111 in 1904.

Savings Bank.

The transactions in this branch amounted to $369,970 (deposits) and $391,066 (withdrawals), as compared with $376,480 and $411,796 in 1904. The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was $558,451 (in 1904 $564,119).

The investments at the close of the year stood at $579,238, as compared with $576,782 at the corresponding period of the previous year. The details are as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	333,187
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 5 per cent.	58,000
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 4 per cent.	95,000
Fixed Deposits at the Chartered Bank, at 4 per cent.	35,000
Cape Stock, at 3 per cent.	8,516
Queensland Stock, at 3 per cent.	16,212
Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan	15,535
Cardiff Corporation Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	17,788

POLICE.

One Assistant Superintendent was appointed and one died.

One Assistant Superintendent was seconded for three years for service as Superintendent of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Police.

Eleven European constables were enlisted locally.

Twenty-seven murders and eighty-five gang-robberies were reported during the year; of the latter 25 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

The police force numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 603,460, the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Seventeen thousand two hundred and fifty-four births were registered, as against 15,244 in 1904. The usual statistics are given in Appendices T. 1, T. 2, and T. 3.

The death-rate was 40·53 per mille of the population. The rate in 1904 was 39.

The following table shews the cases of zymotic diseases and deaths therefrom for 1905 and 1904, not of course including the imported cases:—

—	Plague.				Cholera.				Small-pox.			
	1904.		1905.		1904.		1905.		1904.		1905.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore	20	20	18	17	3	3	22	19	33	11	23	11
Penang	—	—	2	2	—	—	*1	1	3	2	5	5
Province Wellesley	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	6	2	82	19
Malacca	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	7	18	—

* Choleraic Diarrhœa.

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipality, and in the several districts of Province Wellesley by Sanitary Boards with powers under the Municipal Ordinance.

Climate.

The mean temperature of the Colony is shown in Appendix U.

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 83·4 inches; in Penang, 80·52 inches; in Province Wellesley, 72·27 inches; in the Dindings, 86·65 inches; and in Malacca, 71·99 inches.

The greatest fall in 24 hours was 6·3 inches in Malacca on the 19th of July (Appendix V.).

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Over 16,100,000 articles passed through the Post Office, of which nearly 586,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to $509,094, as against $466,403 in 1904. The expenditure was $425,819, an increase of $90,059 over that of the preceding year. The money order business showed a decrease of $258,240, due to the fact that the Colonial Post Office is no longer the intermediary for the exchange of money orders between the Federated Malay States and India and Ceylon. Excluding such "through" orders, there was an increase of $88,571. The transactions in sterling amounted to £23,654, and those in Indian currency to Rs.2,226,051, while in local currency business was done to the

extent of $481,908, the aggregate being thus $2,206,205, as against $2,464,545 in 1904 and $2,066,641 in 1903.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system of the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company. This company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government Offices and Police Stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The telephone lines in Penang and Province Wellesley, 590 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the metallic circuit in Penang, but in Province Wellesley earth returns are used. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was 280, and there were in addition 75 service lines.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 151 miles of service lines.

MILITARY.

The garrison in Singapore consisted of two companies of Royal Garrison Artillery, half a company of Royal Engineers, one battalion of British Infantry, and one battalion of Native Infantry, besides Asiatic Artillery (Sikhs) and Malay Submarine Miners, with details of other corps. No Militia force exists. The strength of the garrison was 2,336, all ranks.

A detachment of the Malay States Guides was quartered in Penang.

The military contribution of the Colony in respect of the year 1905 amounted to $1,911,585.

A Volunteer Artillery Force 125 strong (including reserves) exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it. Its principal armament consists of a complete battery of 10 pr. B. L. screw guns, utilised with 7 pr. limbers as a field battery with pony draught. It also possesses four Maxim guns (·303) in the use of which it is proficient. This corps is armed with Martini-Metford carbines and sword bayonets.

A Maxim company, 47 strong including reserves, has been formed to work the four guns belonging to the Singapore Volunteer Artillery, which latter unit is not at present sufficiently strong in numbers to man both the 10 pr. B. L. battery and the four Maxims.

There is one company of Volunteer Engineers, composed of Europeans, 32 strong (including reserves).

There is one company of Eurasians and one company of Straits-born Chinese, 77 and 92 strong, respectively, including reserves.

A Volunteer Infantry force 100 strong is also in existence in Penang and is reported to be efficient.

The Malacca Corps was disbanded during the year.

There is in addition in Singapore a bearer and ambulance section composed of eight Europeans, 16 Eurasians, and seven Chinese (Straits-born), and a Cadet Corps, 61 strong, armed with Martini-Metford carbines. In Malacca there is a Cadet Corps 57 strong, also armed with Martini-Metford carbines.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SINGAPORE.

New works and the completion of works begun in the previous year amounted to $1,318,298, in addition to the usual charges for maintenance and current repairs of roads and buildings. The principal items were the new building for the Central Police Station, in which the Court of Requests is also accommodated, an additional strong room for the Currency Commissioners, to receive that part of the silver reserve for which there is no room in the main vault, the reconstruction of the Reformatory, and the completion of the new English School at Outram Road. Progress was also made with the new building for the Government Printing Office, the Beri-beri Hospital at Pasir Panjang, the extension of the Raffles Library and Museum buildings, and the new school at Victoria Bridge.

The extension of the West Coast Road and the bridge over the Pandan River were completed, as were the construction of a *pierre perdue* shield at Tanah Merah, and the reconstruction of the police bridge at Changi.

PENANG.

The cost of the new public works, &c., was $438,121. New quarters were built for the Assistant Surgeon at the Pauper Hospital, the roof and ceiling of the Civil Prison were repaired, the additional wing to the Supreme Court was built, thus completing the design, the Weld Quay Reclamation and that north of Swettenham Wharf were continued, a new store at Sungai Pinang was built for the Public Works Department, and a

new light was obtained for the Pulau Rimau Lighthouse. In Province Wellesley the Colonial Surgeon's quarters at Butterworth were reconstructed, Bukit Mertajam Market was finished, several Vernacular Schools were roofed with tiles, additions and alterations were made to the quarters of the District Officer, Nibong Tebal, and a new landing place and a sluice gate and wall were provided at Nibong Tebal.

The roads on Penang Hill were improved, and the extension of the Batu Feringgi Road proceeded with. Six bridges in the Province were renewed in iron and masonry, the Butterworth Jetties were repaired, the Muda Bund was strengthened, the retaining wall at Sungai Rambai was extended, and two new iron pontoons were replaced in the bridge at Nibong Tebal. Progress was made with the renewal of ten other bridges in iron and masonry, while work was done on the new road from Ginting to Jalan Baharu, and in the Dindings the completion of the Sungai Rotan Road was further advanced.

MALACCA.

The new Residency, new Municipal Office, new Harbour Office, and a new ward at the Hospital were completed. New condemned cells and an execution chamber were built at the prison, the telephone system was extended by five miles to Sungai Rambai on the Muar border, and the High School was extended. Several important works were carried out in connection with the river—dredging at the mouth was continued, and a reclamation of over 26,000 square feet completed; three small rubble groynes, each 100 feet long, were constructed on the Banda Hilir foreshore to assist natural reclamation, and the North and South Groynes at the mouth of the river were extended to a total length of 1,720 and 1,325 feet respectively. The total amount spent on public works in Malacca was $135,926, exclusive of railway expenditure amounting to $499,690, subsequently reimbursed by the Government of the Federated Malay States.

IMMIGRATION.

(*a.*) CHINESE.

The number of immigrants from Chinese ports shows a reduction of 15·5 per cent. upon the number for 1904 and of 21·4 per cent. upon that for the record year 1903. The figures for female immigrants show corresponding reductions of 4·7 per cent. and 5·6 per cent. The proportion of women to men among Chinese immigrants rises steadily though slowly. The number of "unpaid passengers," *i.e.*, of coolies who obtain free

passages from China in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony has fallen to 14,866. In the last ten years only one year—1897—has shewn a lower figure. The main cause of the reduction in the number of immigrants is probably good harvests in China.

The returns for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1901	158,809	11,822	8,147	178,778
1902	184,198	13,151	9,807	207,156
1903	193,339	14,539	12,443	220,321
1904	178,650	14,395	10,751	204,796
1905	148,869	13,714	10,548 (*a*)	173,131

(*b*.) Indian.

The figures for the last three years speak for themselves:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.
1. Statute immigrants	572 (*b*)	2,721	4,823
2. Free coolies (with aided tickets)	1,980	3,556	7,687
3. Other immigrants	19,478 (*c*)	24,475 (*d*)	27,030 (*e*)

(*a*) Boys, 7,377; Girls, 3,171. (*b*) 91 came with ordinary tickets and signed contracts on arrival. (*c*) 1,474 children. (*d*) 1,810 children. (*e*) 2,488 children.

Eighteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine adults and 955 children left the Colony for Southern India.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir John Anderson continued to administer the Government during the year. Sir William Taylor having been transferred to the Federated Malay States as Resident-General, Mr. F. G. Penny was appointed Colonial Secretary on the 1st January, but proceeded to Europe on leave of absence in April and has since retired.

The Queen Victoria Memorial Hall, which was erected by public subscription and generous contributions from the municipality and the Government, was formally opened by the Governor in October. The Arbitration Court appointed to determine the amount to be paid as compensation for the expropriation of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company assembled in

Singapore in October, and after sitting for ten days and hearing the evidence and speeches of counsel for both sides the Court was adjourned.

Tenders were invited for the construction of the harbour improvement works recommended in the report of Messrs. Coode, Son, & Matthews of the 14th of February, 1904, and the tender of Sir John Jackson, Limited, for the construction of the works excluding the two outer moles involving a total cost of about a million and a quarter sterling including all charges, has been accepted, with the option of constructing the outer moles should the Colonial Government so determine.

The Malacca-Pulau Sebang Railway, which connects Malacca with the railway system of the Federated Malay States, was completed and opened for traffic during the year. In view of the expense of maintaining such a small section with an independent staff, an arrangement was made with the Government of the Federated Malay States and the Malacca Railway was transferred to the Government of the Federated Malay States on payment of the total cost of construction. It is understood that the returns from traffic on the railway have been satisfactory.

Towards the end of the year 1905 the rate of exchange began to rise rapidly; the rise being partly due to speculation, but mainly to stringency of the currency. Shortly after the close of the year the rate of exchange was fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* the dollar, the Currency Commissioners being empowered to issue notes against sovereigns at the rate of sixty dollars for seven sovereigns.

The Straits and Federated Malay States Medical School was established during the year and made a very successful start. The school is endowed by a fund raised almost entirely by subscriptions from the Chinese of the Colony and the Federated Malay States, who responded liberally to the appeal made to them.

On the 13th April, 1905, an agreement was signed in London by certain firms regarding the trade between Japan, China, Manila, Straits, and Malabar Coast to the United States of America viâ Suez.

The purpose of the agreement is to prevent competition for the same cargo among the representatives in the Far East of the signatories thereto, and also to prevent their steamers from clashing while loading. A pooling agreement was entered into on the same date between the owners (including chartered owners) of the steamers then being run or to be run in the trade between the Atlantic ports of the United States of America and the Far East. Severe penalties for breach of the agreement are provided.

One of the clauses of the agreement provides that in fixing rates the agents at Hong Kong and Singapore should endeavour to do so on a basis reasonably profitable to the shipowner without being so high as to attract competition or impede trade in any commodity. No steamer can carry more than 6,000 tons from Japan, China, and Hong Kong, except by the consent of all parties in Hong Kong, and the agreement further sets out that in order to preserve the trade as far as possible for those recently and now supplying it with tonnage it is considered necessary that shippers should be bound to them by a system of deferred rebates made payable to the shippers in the Far East, and steps were accordingly made to carry out this plan.

The effect of the combination has been of course to raise rates very considerably; for instance, the rates on tapiocas and peppers were raised from 25*s.* to 42*s.* 6*d.* and 40*s.*, and gums from 25*s.* to 50*s.*

As in the Eastern Conference provision is made also in the Westward Agreement by which a small ring of merchants (including certain foreign firms) receive, in addition to the general rebate, a further rebate on the total freight of all goods exported to America.

This combination is viewed with considerable alarm, and there appears to be some justification for the complaint that a few favoured mercantile firms should be able to obtain an advantage over other competitors in the way of a secret bonus paid to them for their support to the combination without which support it could not exist.

It is hardly reasonable to suppose that Singapore should be able to retain for ever the whole of the transhipment trade which it has had in the past, with such ports as Macassar for instance, and in the natural course of events direct routes would be selected in preference, but it is also reasonable to believe that the effect of combinations such as those referred to above must be to hasten the change of route and therefore drive and keep away from the port of Singapore a certain amount of trade which formerly was attracted there by the cheapness of freights and the absolute freedom of the port.

E. L. Brockman,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Singapore,

1st June, 1906.

APPENDIX A.

Abstract of Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.	1st January 1905.	1st January 1906.
	$	$
Treasury and Banks	810,487	1,793,293
Cash in reserve on account of Currency Commissioners.	11,323,204	10,821,256
Investments	8,047,460	9,207,182
Advances, &c.	113,372	462,967
Advances, Currency Commissioners ...	*400,000	—
Other Governments	8,561	26,760
Federated Malay States	2,425	4,064
Coin Account, Silver	65,001	—
Coin Account, Copper	46,533	23,588
Suspense Account, Penang Pier	*540,828	—
	21,357,871	22,339,100
Dependencies	16,500	16,000

Liabilities.	1st January 1905.	1st January 1906.
	$	$
Deposits	1,412,432	1,234,064
Deposits, Currency Commissioners ...	17,595,598	18,101,524
Drafts	32,486	13,813
Suspense Account	62,489	72,568
Advances from Crown Agents ...	—	535,450
Loans from Federated Malay States ...	600,000	600,000
	19,703,005	20,557,419
Credit Balance	1,654,866	2,332,399
	21,357,871	22,889,818

* Since written off.

APPENDIX A 1.

Total Revenue and Expenditure for the last Five Years.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	$	$	$	$	
Revenue	7,041,686	7,754,736	7,958,496	10,746,517	11,657,424*
Expenditure...	7,315,001	7,601,354	8,185,952	10,848,989	10,980,391*

* Subject to audit.

APPENDIX B.

Rates of Exchange during 1905.

Bank Bills.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average.
On London :— Sterling on demand—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Lowest ...	1 11½	1 11 9/16	1 11 7/16	1 11½	1 11 9/16	1 11 11/16	1 11 13/16	1 11 11/16	2 1¼	2 1¼	2 1 11/16	2 2	2 0 9/16
Highest...	1 11⅝	1 11⅞	1 11¾	1 11⅝	1 11⅞	1 11 13/16	2 0¼	2 1½	2 1⅝	2 1 11/16	2 2 1/16	2 2 11/16	

APPENDIX C.

Municipal Revenue.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore	1,203,560	1,578,083	1,532,816	1,977,064	2,074,526	2,149,9
Penang	451,029	458,934	509,095	568,695	751,288	819,5
Malacca	29,560	30,594	32,496	34,801	37,459	39,7
Total	1,684,149	2,067,611	2,074,407	2,580,560	2,863,273	3,009,1

Municipal Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1,071,809†	1,581,604	1,756,758	1,923,466‡	1,960,065†	2,158,645
Penang	499,891	544,721‡	615,879‡	867,613‡	709,501	1,191,142
Malacca	28,002	34,806	31,023	32,592	34,349	41,780
Total ...	1,737,962	2,161,131	2,403,660	2,823,671	2,703,915	3,391,567

* Subject to audit.
† Exclusive of sums expended on Loan Works.
‡ Includes expenditure on Loan Works.

APPENDIX D.

Debts of Municipalities and Provisions for Repayment

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 at 5 per cent. ...	—	400,000	Sinking Fund at 2 p
" " 1890 " 6 " ...	—	400,000	cent.
" " 1893 " 5 "			
originally	280,000		
less (redeemed)	202,000		
		78,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cen
" " 1897 at 4 per cent. $500,000 Bonds issued	—	424,500	Annual drawings 2½ p cent. of loan. (Redeem $74,200.)
" " 1898 at 4 per cent. $500,000 Bonds issued	—	28,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cen
" " 1899 at 4 per cent. ...	—	400,000	(Redeemed $176,000.)
" " 1901 " 5 " ...	—	1,000,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cen
" " 1902 " 5 " ...	—	400,000	" " " 2 "
Temporary loan from F.M.S. Govt. at 4 per cent.	—	600,000	
		3,740,500	
Penang—			
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1889.	—	250,000	Sinking Fund at 2 p cent. per annum amount of loan.
Loan at 6 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1891.	—	100,000	
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1901.	—	500,000	
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1904.	—	600,000	
Loan at 4 per cent. Tramway Loan, 1904.	—	400,000	Annual repayments $20,000.
		1,850,000	
Malacca—			
1885 Loan by Government $25,000 at 3 per cent.	—	16,000	Annual repayments of $50

APPENDIX E1.

IMPORTS.

('000 omitted.)

Merchandise.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	30,595	29,482	34,405	32,580	33,758
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	128,969	151,830	166,458	156,439	151,526
Foreign Countries ...	123,929	129,799	136,933	136,849	134,493
Inter-Settlement ...	9,717	11,286	12,333	11,195	11,844
Total	292,810	322,397	350,129	337,063	331,621
Treasure ...	27,710	40,538	52,908	46,879	13,417
Grand Total ...	320,520	362,935	403,037	383,942	345,038

EXPORTS.

('000 omitted.)

Merchandise.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	53,156	61,536	55,304	54,202	56,851
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	56,980	58,925	60,287	54,603	65,140
Foreign Countries ...	134,934	153,161	156,618	146,633	143,193
Inter-Settlement ...	11,704	12,332	11,408	9,720	12,404
Total	256,774	285,954	283,617	265,158	277,588
Treasure ...	21,980	28,081	53,081	61,035	18,660
Grand Total ...	278,754	314,035	336,698	326,193	296,248

APPENDIX E2.

IMPORTS.

(*Merchandise.*)

('000 omitted. Inter Settlement trade included.)

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Class A.— Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	$114,200	127,915	134,472	128,746	127,505
	£ 11,165	11,000	11,830	12,336	13,011
Class B.— Raw Materials :—					
(*a*) Textile ...	$ 2,240	1,525	2,075	2,265	1,489
	£ 218	131	187	217	153
(*b*) Metal ...	$ 57,248	68,811	82,572	80,086	81,106
	£ 5,597	5,896	7,291	7,682	8,268
(*c*) Other ...	$ 53,060	57,440	56,271	53,301	49,943
	£ 5,178	4,846	4,955	5,106	5,098
Total	$112,548	127,776	140,918	135,652	132,538
	£10,993	10,873	12,433	13,005	13,519
Class C.— Manufactured Articles :—					
(*a*) Textile ...	$ 39,736	40,805	43,736	41,969	43,421
	£ 3,884	3,503	3,875	4,023	4,440
(*b*) Metal ...	$ 9,124	8,210	11,033	11,056	9,696
	£ 891	705	977	1,059	990
(*c*) Other ...	$ 17,202	17,691	19,970	19,640	18,460
	£ 1,682	1,521	1,767	1,882	1,887
Total... ...	$ 66,062	66,706	74,739	72,665	71,577
	£ 6,457	5,729	6,619	6,964	7,317
Total imports of Merchandise	$292,810	322,397	350,129	337,063	331,621
	£ 28,615	27,602	30,882	32,305	33,846

APPENDIX E2—*continued.*

EXPORTS.

(*Merchandise.*)

('000 omitted.)

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Class A.— Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	$107,229	119,216	117,168	106,564	112,082
	£ 10,475	10,254	10,313	10,211	11,426
Class B.— Raw Materials :—					
(*a*) Textile ...	$ 1,563	1,320	1,949	2,087	1,441
	£ 152	113	177	200	148
(*b*) Metal ...	$ 60,780	73,881	78,172	76,285	81,182
	£ 5,946	6,355	6,868	7,315	8,287
(*c*) Other ...	$ 50,854	56,630	52,510	45,824	44,835
	£ 4,964	4,876	4,622	4,394	4,583
Total... ...	$113,197	131,831	132,631	124,196	127,458
	£ 11,062	11,344	11,666	11,909	13,018
Class C.— Manufactured Articles :—					
(*a*) Textile ...	23,187	22,011	20,702	21,154	22,734
	£ 2,269	1,894	1,822	2,030	2,323
(*b*) Metal ...	$ 3,805	3,315	3,316	3,442	4,051
	£ 372	285	293	330	414
(*c*) Other ...	$ 9,356	9,581	9,801	9,803	11,262
	£ 914	824	865	940	1,152
Total... ...	$ 36,348	34,907	33,819	34,399	38,048
	£ 3,555	3,003	2,980	3,300	3,889
Total exports of Merchandise	$256,774	285,954	283,618	265,159	277,588
	£ 25,092	24,601	24,959	25,420	28,333

APPENDIX E2—*continued.*

Comparative Statement of Principal Imports and Exports.

Imports.

—	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.
Cotton Piece Goods ...	4,290,130	4,810,733	520,603	—
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Coal	619,709	640,444	20,735	—
Rice	478,062	450,612	—	27,450
	Chests.	Chests.	Chests.	Chests.
Opium	12,974	12,960½	—	13½
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.
Silk Piece Goods	304,845	217,098	—	87,747
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.
Petroleum	3,879,709	1,154,163	—	2,725,546
	Corges.	Corges.	Corges.	Corges.
Sarongs	346,890	347,654	764	—
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Fish, Dry and Salted ...	40,778	55,012	14,234	—
Tobacco	7,747	6,413	—	1,334
Tin Ore	58,125	56,329	—	1,796
Wheat Flour	25,100	23,705	—	1,395
Sugar...	60,307	62,927	2,620	—
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	924,255	1,133,550	209,295	—

Exports.

—	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Sago	47,842	47,788	—	54
Coffee	5,407	3,745	—	1,662
Gambier	37,907	36,803	—	1,104
Gums...	25,589	29,432	3,843	—
Hides...	4,890	5,448	558	—
Spices...	52,524	70,423	17,899	—
Tapioca	54,923	48,055	—	6,868
Copra...	40,484	58,631	18,147	—
Rattans	25,403	25,367	—	36
Tin	56,558	58,878	2,320	—
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.
Preserved Pineapples ...	447,933	548,096	100,163	—

APPENDIX F.

1903.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
No. of Statutory Grants issued.	197	165	163	835
Area granted ...	a. r. p. 844 1 22 + 502,717 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 2,593 0 09 + 36,522 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 6,104 2 34	a. r. p. 9,542 0 25 + 539,239 sq. ft.
Praemia paid ...	$189,640·60	$115,351·99	$21,409·06	$326,401·65

1904.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
No. of Statutory Grants issued.	77	295	156	528
Area granted ...	a. r. p. 469 0 37 + 284,768 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 2,293 3 36 + 5,450 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 3,230 1 24 + 2,433 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 5,993 2 17 + 292,651 sq. ft.
Praemia paid ...	$35,035·50	$1,654·26	$13,200	$49,889·76

1905.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
No. of Statutory Grants issued.	97	470	113	680
Area granted ...	a. r. p. 169 2 34 + 46,451 sq. ft.	a. r. p. 1,102 2 31	a. r. p. 4,137 3 25	a. r. p. 5,410 1 10 46,451 sq. ft.
Praemia paid ...	$165·60	$932·25	$15,233·95	$16,331·80

APPENDIX G.

SHIPPING.

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

—		Total.	
		No.	Tons.
Arrivals	1904	9,767	9,138,455
	1905	9,240	9,432,368
Departures	1904	9,801	9,129,044
	1905	9,261	9,458,232
Total	1904	19,571	18,267,499
	1905	18,501	18,890,600

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

—		Total.	
		No.	Tons.
Arrivals	1904	16,677	783,650
	1905	16,429	767,293
Departures	1904	16,292	783,326
	1905	16,473	776,991
Total	1904	32,969	1,566,976
	1905	32,902	1,544,284

Comparative Statement of Shipping Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	16,289,704	17,098,762	18,404,383	18,267,499	18,890,600

NATIVE CRAFT.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamer under 50 tons Entered and Cleared for last Five Years.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	1,470,606	1,520,136	1,620,365	1,566,976	1,544,284

APPENDIX H.

STEAMERS and SAILING VESSELS.

Total Tonnage Entered and Cleared at each Port in the Colony during 1904 *and* 1905.

Flag.	1904.				1905.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.
American	7,129	—	—	7,129	88,201	3,278	—	91,479
Austrian	227,860	161,182	—	389,042	182,358	160,097	—	342,455
British	7,535,350	3,607,674	699,720	11,842,744	7,745,694	3,830,707	667,222	12,243,623
Chinese	—	—	—	—	2,516	—	—	2,516
Danish	76,678	7,034	—	83,712	69,064	9,396	—	78,460
Dutch	1,242,751	281,562	26,982	1,551,295	1,235,253	250,397	15,664	1,501,314
French	591,528	7,286	—	598,814	746,739	23,946	—	770,685
German	1,827,135	1,032,626	—	2,859,761	1,820,434	1,056,191	—	2,876,625
Italian	163,982	22,008	23,814	209,804	146,844	44,148	4,116	195,108
Japanese	80,769	7,742	—	88,511	458	—	—	458
Malay	—	—	60	60	—	—	—	—
Norwegian and Swedish ...	288,826	49,718	4,596	343,140	419,265	61,064	—	480,329
Russian	18,817	3,742	—	22,559	35,238	—	—	35,238
Sarawak	66,626	—	—	66,626	94,138	—	—	94,138
Siamese	57,741	—	—	57,741	46,244	—	—	46,244
Spanish	146,561	—	—	146,561	131,928	—	—	131,928
Total	12,331,753	5,180,574	755,172	18,267,499	12,764,374	5,439,224	687,002	18,890,600

APPENDIX I.

Light Dues.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Collected in India on account of Straits Settlements Government.	Total.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1901 ...	120,510 94	26,800 00	1,589 46	29,972 22	178,872 62
1902 ...	121,983 56	28,044 25	1,592 50	37,456 29	189,076 60
1903 ...	131,981 55	30,187 86	1,934 87	45,545 07	209,649 35
1904 ...	131,396 70	29,757 58	1,870 89	50,178 73	213,203 90
1905 ...	137,344 46	28,960 12	1,974 75	55,260 65	223,539 98

APPENDIX J1.

Deaths due to the more Important Specific or Infectious Diseases.

—	Small-pox.			Cholera.			Beri-beri.			Plague.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Singapore	34	15	16	381	3	20	1,340	1,621	1,233	25	26	21
Penang...	57	7	10	10	1	1	155	307	291	1	2	3
Province Wellesley ..	49	2	19	—	—	—	46	75	70	—	—	5
Dindings	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	3	—	—	—
Malacca	40	7	—	—	—	—	180	284	291	—	—	—
Total... ...	180 *	31 †	45 ‡	391 §	4 ¶	21 ‖	1,729	2,287	1,888	26 **	28 ††	29 ‡‡

* 5 cases imported Singapore.
† 4 cases imported Singapore and 5 Penang.
‡ 5 cases imported Singapore and 5 Penang.
§ 191 cases imported Singapore and 10 Penang.
¶ 1 case imported Penang.
‖ 1 case imported Singapore and 1 Penang.
** 22 cases imported Singapore and 1 Penang.
†† 6 cases imported Singapore and 2 Penang.
‡‡ 4 cases imported Singapore and 1 Penang.

APPENDIX J2.

Hospital Return.

—	Number of patients treated.			Number of deaths.			Percentage of deaths to total treated.		
	Europeans.	Asiatics.	Total.	Europeans.	Asiatics.	Total.	Europeans.	Asiatics.	Total.
1903 ...	1,043	24,324	25,367	45	3,911	3,956	4·31	16·07	15·6 °
1904 ...	1,163	24,769	25,932	69	3,767	3,836	5·93	15·21	14·79†
1905 ...	1,143	25,127	26,270	62	3,623	3,685	5·42	14·42	14·03‡

° 400 cases and 55 deaths in lunatic asylum.
† 485 cases and 59 deaths in lunatic asylum.
‡ 511 cases and 67 deaths in lunatic asylum.

APPENDIX J3.

Return of Leper Hospitals.

Hospitals.	1903.				1904.				1905.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged, absconded or transferred.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged, absconded or transferred.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged, absconded or transferred.	Remained.
Leper Hospital, Singapore	117	22	60	35	100	37	33	30	120	29	57	34
Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak	434	84	16	334	468	140	46	282	466	78	31	357
Leper Hospital, Malacca	16	—	13	3	12	—	9	3	8	1	5	2
Female Leper Ward, Jelutong	—	—	—	—	17	1	1	15	15	5	—	10

APPENDIX K.

Savings Bank Return.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened	872	254	41
Accounts closed	744	185	38
Accounts open at the end of the year	2,365	825	119
Deposited in 1905...	$ 282,126	$ 76,992	$ 10,850
Withdrawn in 1905	$ 295,838	$ 79,140	$ 16,089
Balance due to Depositors at close of 1905	$ 431,915	$ 110,200	$ 16,335

APPENDIX L.

Prisons Returns.

Settlement.	Daily average in prison.°	Daily average sick.	Deaths.*	Total number treated.	Percentage of natural deaths to total treated.	Ratio of deaths per mille of daily average number.
Singapore...	1,079·83	74·25	47† in hospital	1,354	2·8	36·1
Penang ...	417·92	14·96	31	354	8·75	74·15
Malacca ...	45·16	1·18	2	24	8·33	44·28

* Including Civil Prison.
† One from asphyxia, 3 suicides and 4 judicial hangings.

APPENDIX M.

Judicial Return—Criminal.

Supreme Court, Criminal Side.	1904. No. of Prisoners.				1905. No. of Prisoners.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
1. Culpable homicide—								
Convicted	3	3	—	6	6	3	1	10
Acquitted	8	1	1	10	7	6	—	13
2. Culpable homicide not amounting to murder.								
Convicted	3	1	—	4	9	15	1	25
Acquitted	1	—	1	2	1	1	2	4
3. Attempt to murder—								
Convicted	4	2	—	6	6	3	—	9
Acquitted	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	10
4. Voluntarily causing grievous hurt—								
Convicted	9	3	1	13	6	—	—	6
Acquitted	3	2	—	5	2	—	—	2
5. Unnatural offences—								
Convicted	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	2
Acquitted	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
6. Other offences against person—								
Convicted	16	—	2	18	11	21	1	33
Acquitted	9	4	2	15	—	1	1	2
7. Gang robbery—								
Convicted	4	22	11	37	12	14	12	38
Acquitted	2	2	8	12	6	10	6	22
8. Theft, housebreaking, &c.—								
Convicted	32	—	3	35	14	7	3	24
Acquitted	10	—	—	10	1	—	3	4
9. Other offences against property								
Convicted	16	21	—	37	4	23	1	28
Acquitted	2	6	1	9	—	8	1	9

APPENDIX M.—*continued.*

Supreme Court, Criminal Side.	1904. No. of Prisoners.				1905. No. of Prisoners.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
10. Miscellaneous Offences—								
Convicted	10	2	1	13	19	—	1	20
Acquitted	5	8	—	13	12	1	2	15
Total ... convicted	98	54	18	170	88	87	20	195
Total ... acquitted	43	23	13	79	39	27	15	81
Grand Total	141	77	31	249	127	114	35	276

APPENDIX N.

JUDICIAL RETURN—CIVIL.

Supreme Court. Civil Side.	Civil Actions, 1904.						Civil Actions, 1905.					
	Pending 31st December, 1903.	Commenced.	Debt or damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending 31st December, 1904.*	Pending 31st December, 1904.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending 31st December, 1905.*
			$						$			
Singapore	788	2,853	3,047,330	141	1,454	1,209	1,209	3,230	6,683,693	67	1,881	1,230
Penang ..	428	1,287	929,247	23	435	558	558	1,305	1,087,336	22	633	423
Malacca ..	35	244	168,395	42	139	48	48	210	126,978	27	109	52
Total ..	1,251	4,384	4,144,972	206	2,028	1,815	1,815	4,745	7,898,007	116	2,623	1,705

* The figures in these columns do not include cases not proceeded with and liable to be struck out.

APPENDIX O.

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION.

—	1904.		1905.	
	No. of Petitions Granted.	Value of Estates.	No. of Petitions Granted.	Value of Estates.
		$		$
Singapore	359	4,485,949	230	3,470,812
Penang	511	5,580,714	489	1,412,961
Malacca	60	111,850	53	229,814
Total	930	10,178,513	772	5,113,587

APPENDIX P.

Courts of Two Magistrates.

Return of Persons Tried.	1904.			1905.		
	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.
Singapore... ...	275	108	383	193	150	343
Penang	303	291	594	239	238	477
Malacca	41	7	48	41	37	78
Total ...	619	406	1,025	473	425	898

APPENDIX Q.

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.

Return of Persons Charged.

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.	1904.					1905.				
	Convicted and sentenced.*	Acquitted or cautioned and discharged.	Committed to the Superior Courts.	Awaiting trial on 31st Dec., 1904.	Total.	Convicted and sentenced.*	Acquitted or cautioned and discharged.	Committed to the Superior Courts.	Awaiting trial on 31st Dec., 1905.	Total.
Singapore ..	24,828	4,726	538	37	30,129	20,307	6,531	484	22	27,344
Penang	3,803	8,205	515	149	12,672	14,395	6,425	621	89	21,530
Malacca	1,942	480	23	22	2,467	2,505	652	115	31	3,303
Total ..	30,573	13,411	1,076	208	45,268	37,207	13,608	1,220	142	52,177

* Including Magistrates' Orders.

APPENDIX R.

Courts of Requests.

Courts of Requests. (Jurisdiction up to $100.)	1904.		1905.	
	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages Claimed.	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages Claimed.
		$		$
Singapore	5,941	222,378	6,356	230,002
Penang	6,820	175,112	7,365	220,719
Malacca	1,181	27,112	1,179	27,963
Total	13,942	424,602	14,900	478,684

APPENDIX S.

Inquests.

—	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
Homicide, culpable	21	15	3	39
" justifiable...	1	2	—	3
" by misadventure... ...	1	—	8	9
Suicide...	38	36	1	75
Death in pursuance of judicial sentence	4	—	1	5
Natural causes, accidental, &c. ...	1,078	114	42	1,234
Found dead, causes unknown, &c. ...	24	19	3	46
Found drowned	34	7	19	60
Still-born	27	—	—	27
Open Verdict	—	2	—	2
Total	1,228	195	77	1,500

APPENDIX T1.

Births and Deaths.

Settlement.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
Singapore	5,435	5,726	10,937	11,122
Penang	2,493	2,613	5,517	5,437
Province Wellesley... ...	3,778	4,129	3,392	3,851
Dindings	158	162	128	148
Malacca	3,380	4,624	3,259	3,905
Total	15,244	17,254	23,233	24,463

APPENDIX T2.

Birth-rate.

Settlement.	Ratio per mille.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.
Singapore	21·13	22·04	22·68
Penang	19·17	19·08	19·94
Province Wellesley	32·57	32·08	34·77
Dindings	32·10	36·79	37·29
Malacca	41·30	34·97	47·66

Death-rate.

Settlement.	Ratio per mille.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.
Singapore	47·77	44·37	44·07
Penang	38·33	42·24	41·50
Province Wellesley	28·01	28·80	32·43
Dindings	32·34	29·80	34·06
Malacca	34·61	33·73	40·25

APPENDIX T3.

Special Death-rate (Racial).

Settlement.	Europeans. Ratio per mille.			Eurasians. Ratio per mille.			Chinese. Ratio per mille.			Malays. Ratio per mille.			Indians. Ratio per mille.			Other Nationalities. Ratio per mille.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Singapore	17·65	20·84	21·98	35·08	23·57	31·85	50·20	47·08	44·03	45·18	41·08	48·45	39·83	33·48	36·49	43·11	48·62	54·62
Penang	17·65	16·68	17·49	19·46	25·78	24·05	42·75	48·34	43·45	27·83	32·32	32·85	44·13	40·40	53·78	26·81	29·93	27·81
Province Wellesley ...	10·81	5·37	9·85	3·31	13·13	13·07	33·48	33·61	35·88	24·37	26·72	27·40	34·61	30·82	44·88	12·96	13·72	37·75
Dindings	—	—	—	—	—	—	46·92	39·42	45·59	27·17	26·37	30·83	39·42	35·71	32·03	—	—	—
Malacca	47·62	—	33·90	40·54	39·24	39·61	46·25	48·32	53·41	30·72	28·67	34·73	31·56	69·11	148·34	607·14	475·	317·07

APPENDIX U.

Mean Temperature of the Air.

—	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	° F.	° F.	° F.
Singapore	89·1	74·3	80·7
Penang	94·0	67·0	80·5
Province Wellesley	99·0	67·5	81·1
Malacca	88·4	74·8	82·3

APPENDIX V.

Rainfall.

Settlement.	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
Singapore	97·64	14·59 Dec.	1·21 Sept.	4·85 4th Dec.
Penang	80·52	19·08 Oct.	0·21 Feb.	4·95 23rd Aug.
Province Wellesley	71·30	14·99 Oct.	1·28 Jan.	3·87 27th Oct.
Dindings	86·64	21·35 Dec.	2·32 Jan.	4·95 17th July
Malacca	90·25	15·10 July	0·30 Feb.	6·30 19th July

APPENDIX W.

(i.) Chinese Immigrants.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.
Chinese deck passengers	220,321	204,796	173,171
Chinese female immigrants (included above).	14,539	14,395	13,714
Contracts	18,768	17,045	14,574

(ii.) Tamil Immigrants.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.
Statute coolies	572	2,670	4,823
Adult dependents...	14	29	363
Minor dependents...	11	84	356
Free coolies	1,982	3,527*	7,686
Other immigrants...	19,479	22,665†	24,179‡
Minors	1,474	1,810	2,488

* 247 minors. † 1,479 minors. ‡ 1,389 minors.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
474	Fiji	1904
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria...	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena...	"
487	Weihaiwei	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles...	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ...	1905
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	1905
496	Bahamas	1905–1906
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 540.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 502.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.

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No. 540.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 502).

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Singapore,
September 5, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1906.

I have, &c.,
JOHN ANDERSON.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,
K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 24282 10/07 D & S 5 30039 A 2

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1906.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for 1906 amounted to $9,618,314,* that of each Settlement being shown in the following table:—

	$
Singapore	6,043,618
Penang	2,866,816
Malacca	707,880

These figures show that there was a decrease of $2,039,110 as compared with the revenue collected in 1905, and one of $1,128,203 as compared with the corresponding sum in 1904. The revenue proper was less than that of 1905 and 1904 by $692,684 and $1,211,898, respectively.

Increased receipts appear under:—

	$
Stamps	69,330
Post Office and Telegraphs	38,723
Rents	13,766

while decreases are shown under:—

	$
Land Sales	1,346,426
Reimbursements	474,167
Licences	214,839
Interest	97,274
District Collections	35,312

The large decreases in respect of the first two items are explained by the facts that in 1905 the proceeds of the sale of the Malacca-Pulau Sebang Railway (for $1,414,218) were credited to Land Sales, and the accumulated balance of the Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund, transferred to Government (amounting to $470,141), was included under the heading "Reimbursements." The lower revenue from licences is due to the concession made to the opium and spirit farmers in allowing them to defer the payment of a portion of their rents.

The total expenditure in 1906 was $9,333,901, as compared with $10,976,525 and $10,848,989 in 1905 and 1904, respectively. The following table shows the amounts by which the

* Subject to audit.

expenditure on the chief items of the estimates fell below the corresponding figures for 1905:—

		$
Public Works, special services	...	1,172,471
Special expenses	...	642,354
Lands and houses purchased ...	...	294,975
Defence contribution	...	160,506

The expenditure on public works was less than in 1905 owing to the postponement of several large items, while the expenditure in 1905, in respect of special expenses and lands and houses purchased, was abnormal, being due to the payment from general revenue of a sum of $747,581 to the Currency Commissioners, to cover in part the depreciation of securities held by them on account of the Currency Note issue, and to the purchase of the Excise Farm Buildings in Singapore, respectively.

Exchange.

The appreciation of the dollar, due to the restriction of the circulation between 1904 and 1906, gave rise to considerable speculation on exchange. It was certain that the exchange value of the dollar would continue to rise until the point was reached at which it could be fixed with safety, and all classes of people began to speculate for this rise. The rate naturally rose still more rapidly towards the end of 1905, and in January, 1906, it was decided that the dollar should be fixed at the rate of $60 for £7 sterling, or 2*s.* 4*d.* to the dollar.

This was effected on the 29th February, on which day Ordinance I. of 1906, authorising the Currency Commissioners to give notes in exchange for gold against telegraphic transfer in favour of the Crown Agents, was passed at one sitting, and an Order in Council published fixing, as above, the rate at which the Commissioners might receive gold for notes. From the date of the issue of this Order the demand rate continued fairly uniform, the maximum and minimum rates for the remainder of the year being 2*s.* $4\frac{3}{16}$*d.* and 2*s.* 4*d.*, respectively.

Gold was first tendered to the Commissioners in March, and by the end of August the amount in their hands had reached £954,730. On the 14th September, Ordinance XXIII. of 1906 was passed, enabling the Commissioners to issue gold in exchange for notes and sell telegraphic transfers payable in London by the Crown Agents against notes received in Singapore. The sovereign was made legal tender in the Colony by proclamation of the 20th November under an Order of His Majesty the King in Council dated 22nd October, 1906, the dollar, however, remaining the standard coin.

Currency.

Bar silver continued to appreciate during the first-half of the year, until the margin between the intrinsic and nominal

values of the Straits dollar became so small that it was necessary to obtain His Majesty's Government's sanction to a reduction in the size of the dollar, in order that if the margin disappeared the Straits dollar should not leave the Colony. The reduction decided upon was one of 25 per cent., the fineness of the coin being retained at 900, and its weight reduced to 312 grains.

Several consignments of Straits dollars were despatched to England for the purpose of being re-minted in accordance with this decision, but none of the new dollars had been delivered by the end of the year. These dollars were, to a great extent, taken from the balance in the hands of the Currency Commissioners, so that as little inconvenience as possible might be caused to the trade of the Colony. In addition to using these balances, however, notes of the value of $1 each were also printed and brought into circulation. There was therefore but little inconvenience, more especially as the law relating to currency notes was amended to make the one-dollar notes legal tender for any amount. This small note has proved a popular one.

The sovereign was also made legal tender in the Colony, mainly with the object of enabling the Currency Commissioners to prevent any drain on the silver reserve, of which the greater part was being remitted to England for re-coinage.

At the beginning of the year the dollars and notes in circulation, including the stocks held by the banks, and the treasuries in the Federated Malay States, amounted to $54,136,722, of which $17,353,710 were Government currency notes, $1,408,731 bank notes, and the rest Straits dollars. At the end of the year the corresponding figures were $58,721,096, $22,222,560, and $1,124,255, respectively.

The excess of exports of dollars over the quantity of that coin imported was $844,672 for Singapore and $611,880 for Penang, in all an excess of $1,456,552, as against an excess of $3,557,902 in 1905. No account is taken in these figures of small quantities of dollars taken away from or brought into the Colony by passengers. The greater part of the exports was to Sumatra.

In Singapore subsidiary silver coin to the value of $796,301 was withdrawn from circulation. The rise in the value of the Straits dollar over the parity of the British and Mexican dollars had caused the return of large quantities of Straits subsidiary coin, which had circulated in China and elsewhere at an equal value with the local subsidiary currency. As soon as the rise in the exchange value of the Straits dollar became such that it paid to return this subsidiary coin, so much of it flowed into the Colony that the supply became too great for the needs of the place, and it was to relieve this congestion that the Government withdrew the amount in question from circulation. No copper coin was imported during the year.

The average bank note circulation was $1,329,053, as compared with $1,866,215 in 1905. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation continued the reduction of their note issue.

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $3,214,971, and their expenditure, including sums spent on Loan Works, to $3,245,299.

TRADE.

The trade of 1906 was not generally satisfactory, though exports in dollar values largely increased, and both exports and imports increased in sterling.

A continuous rise in home prices tended to restrict sales, as goods had to be parted with below the value of replacement, in order to prevent congestion of stocks, which are larger generally than they have been for many years.

Dollar imports of merchandise decreased by over one-half per cent., but export values rose by over 6 per cent.

The rise in sterling exchange of over 14 per cent. resulted in a large increase in the sterling value of over 13½ per cent. in imports and 21 per cent. in exports.

Singapore imported 72·3 per cent. of the whole dollar value, a decline of ·7 per cent.; Penang, 27·3 per cent., a rise of ·4 per cent.; and Malacca the balance.

In exports, Singapore contributed 69·3 per cent., a decline of 2·3 per cent.; Penang, 30·1 per cent., an advance of 2·2 per cent.; and Malacca the remainder.

Statistics of the land traffic between Negri Sembilan and Malacca have been inserted for the first time, but the rail traffic between Penang and Perak is not included.

The value of the Colony's trade with outside places is as follows, the Inter-Settlement trade being excluded:—

—	1905.	1906.
Merchandise:—	$	$
Imports	319,776,549	317,850,836
Exports	265,184,613	281,273,455
Total	584,961,162	599,124,291
Treasure:—		
Imports	12,457,367	21,457,455
Exports	17,776,172	29,732,354
Total	30,233,539	51,189,809
Gross Total ...	$615,194,701	$650,314,100

The imports of merchandise from the United Kingdom were 11·1 per cent. of the whole, an increase of ·6 per cent., and the exports 23·6 of the total, an advance of 2·2 per cent.

British Possessions and Protectorates sent 46·7 of the value received, and took 24·9 of the export value, a decrease of ·7 per cent. in imports, and a rise of ·3 per cent. in exports.

Foreign countries account for 42·2 per cent. in value of goods consigned here, and 51·5 per cent. of goods taken; an advance of ·1 per cent. in imports, and a decrease in exports of 2·5 per cent.

The Colony, with the Federated Malay States, British North Borneo, and Sarawak, is now possessed of a gold standard, and Siam having previously taken this step, only China and Hong Kong are left with silver currencies; therefore, a statement showing the trade according to gold and silver currency countries (as in past years) is no longer of interest.

Taking the twelve principal articles of produce as exported, viz.:—Tin, gambir, pepper, copra, coffee, hides, sago, rattans, tapioca, gutta, Borneo rubber and India rubber, and gum copal, it is seen that 306,500 tons were sent off, a decrease of 11,000 tons, but if copra, which is remarkable for the fluctuation in its movements, is excluded, an increase, of 6,850 tons results.

Values of produce, when viewed on the basis of the last five years, have generally fallen except in tin and tapioca, declines being especially marked in the prices of pepper, gambir, and gutta percha.

Import Values and Quantities.

The gross imports into the three Settlements were valued at over 352½ million dollars (£41,129,000), an advance of nearly 7½ million dollars; but treasure alone rose by 8¾ millions, so that merchandise showed a fall of over one million and a quarter dollars.

The Class "Foods, Drinks, and Narcotics," decreased by two million dollars, the principal decreases being in the values of opium, sugar, fish (dry and salted), lard, salt, beans and teas, and drugs and chemicals.

Advances were recorded in the values of tapioca, live animals, spices, padi, tobacco and cigars, milk, onions and garlic, bran, wines, tea, and spirits.

Imports of rice into the Colony show about the same quantity as in 1905, 451,000 tons, with a value of over 30½ million dollars (also much the same), 89·4 per cent. of the quantity being re-exported, an increased proportion of 8¾ per cent.

Burmese supplies decreased, but Siam and French Indo-China sent more than the deficiency.

Opium received reached 12,658 chests, a decrease of 302½ chests, of which 82¾ per cent. were re-exported, in addition to over 25,000 lbs. of the manufactured article.

It is to be noted the quantity sent to Johore is not included in these export figures, and that 921 chests, transhipped here chiefly to Java and Siam, are not inserted in the statistics.

Nearly 72,000 tons of sugar were received; an increase of 9,000 tons, but the value declined by nearly a million dollars owing to lower prices. Of this amount over 83 per cent. was sent out again, besides 14,000 tons of locally-manufactured sugar-candy.

The quantity of dry and salted fish received reached over 55,000 tons, a trifle more than the 1905 import, but the total value fell by $822,000.

Imported wheat flour reached 27,438 tons; an increase of 3,733 tons. This market has been captured by Australia, the transfer of the greater portion of the trade from the Pacific coast having originated with the Chinese boycott of American goods; but the market has been much over-stocked and prices were sometimes less than those quoted in Australia.

Provisions, tinned goods, fresh meat, butter, cheese, milk, hams, and biscuits were valued at nearly six million dollars; an increase of $125,000. Over a million of this was oilman's stores; a decrease of $64,000, and 2¼ millions, mostly of Eastern foods under dry and salted provisions, give an increase of $84,000.

Biscuits imported came to $443,000; an increase of $38,000, of which total, 87 per cent. was British, an increase of $12,000.

Hams and bacons were imported to the extent of $171,000; a decrease of $21,000, the United Kingdom supplying 62½ per cent. of the imports, or nearly all the consignments from Europe.

Butter and cheese were brought in to a value of $347,000, a decrease of $4,000. Australia supplied 37¾ per cent.; a decrease of $6,000, and, except a small import from Bombay, the Continent sent the remainder.

Condensed and other tinned milks imported reached 186,500 cases, valued at close on 1½ million dollars; an increase of 39,000 cases and $126,000. More than three-fourths of the total is Swiss condensed milk, and prices are cut very fine.

Of spirits, excluding liqueurs, 1,130,000 gallons were brought in, valued at nearly 2$\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, or a slight reduction in quantity but $66,000 more in value. Native liquor accounted for 353,500 gallons, a decrease of 29,000. Whisky showed 150,000 gallons, an increase of 15,300; brandy, 270,000, an increase of 41,000; gin, 316,000, a decrease of 37,000; and rum, 32,000, an increase of 6,000. Sales of gin were fairly good, and much on a par with 1905, though

returned goods from the Celebes somewhat weakened the market; brandy on the whole met with a good demand.

Imports of malt liquor reached 890,000 gallons, valued at over 1¼ million dollars, an increase of 3,200 gallons in quantity but a fall in value of $63,000. Ale and beer in bottle and bulk accounted for 717,000 gallons of the total, a decrease of 18,000 gallons, and porter and stout for the remainder. Although beer and ale in bulk fell off, there were increased sales of British bottled beer.

The Class "Raw Materials" increased by 1⅓ million dollars, metals (including tin) advancing by nearly 1⅗ million dollars, the Produce Class decreasing by $145,000, and raw textiles by $108,000. The articles in detail are more conveniently treated under exports.

The Class "Manufactured Articles" shows a fall in the total of $627,000.

Textiles contributed a decline of 1⅓ million dollars; metals an advance of $800,000; and miscellaneous manufactures a fall of $88,000.

Cotton piece-goods were imported to the extent of 5,400,000 pieces, an increase of nearly 600,000, the value reaching considerably over 17½ million dollars, an increase of 666,000. The United Kingdom supplied over 4½ million pieces, valued at about 15 million dollars, an increase of over half-a-million pieces, and three-quarters of a million dollars, or 13½ per cent. in quantity, and 5½ per cent. in dollar value. Continental imports reached 466,000 pieces, valued at over 1½ million dollars, an increase of 23,000 pieces. Supplies from Indian mills increased by 10,000 pieces, and Eastern imports by 32,000 pieces. Grey yarn imported shows 14,295 bales, a small decline in quantity; but only half the 1905 quantity from the United Kingdom was sent in 1906, Indian spinners rapidly ousting the United Kingdom from this trade. Of dyed yarn 13,304 bales were received, an increase of 1,806 bales, of which total 10,103 bales were from the United Kingdom (an increase of 2,060), while the Continent sent 2,844 bales, a decline of 32. Although Swiss dyes find a market, they are not in favour on their merits, but business is attracted owing to misleading tickets regarding lengths. There was a heavy fall in cotton blankets brought in, only 301,000 pieces, comparing with 556,000 in the previous year, and an average of 538,000 for the previous five years. While the buying powers of the natives are not sufficient to go in largely for woollen blankets, makes, chiefly Continental, but superior to the ordinary wick blanket, find favour. Of the important class included under apparel, hosiery, millinery, &c., the value received was about 3 $\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of nearly $320,000. The United Kingdom showed a rise of over $204,000, with a total of nearly 1⅕ million dollars, while Germany, with about the same total, fell by $236,000, and other Continental supplies also fell off. Japan improved its

position in this class by $60,000, but other consignments declined. Sarongs, Slendangs, and Kains showed 303,000 corges, of 20 pieces each, imported, a decrease of 44,000, valued at $5\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars, a fall of $1\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars. About 81,000 corges were received from the United Kingdom, a decrease of over 40,000, and 80,000 corges from the Continent, a decrease of 9,000; but Indian imports increased, while Java supplies remained stationary. The demand for this class was fairly large, but poor prices were realised. Woollen blankets have not been a good market, for reasons above stated. Hats and caps valued at $427,000 were imported, an increase of $29,000, increasing British values meeting Italian declines. About 230,000 pieces of silk cloth were brought in, valued at close on $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of 13,000 pieces and $94,000; European manufactures of this class continuing to fall off and Eastern to increase.

The import of umbrellas was valued at over half-a-million dollars, a decrease of $46,000. Supplies from the United Kingdom increased by $64,000, and French imports by $10,000; but Eastern productions showed less value by $113,000.

Over 20,000 pieces of woollen cloth of different kinds entered the market, valued at considerably over half-a-million dollars, a decrease of 2,000 pieces and $27,000, the United Kingdom sending 1,500 pieces less and Germany 500 pieces more. Jute gunny bags from Calcutta were valued at over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of $600,000. The value of sewing thread showed a decrease of $104,000, orders from home not being met owing to great pressure in the mills.

Manufactured metals of European origin amounted to roughly over 9 million dollars in value, an increase of $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Of this total, the United Kingdom sent about $6,140,000, or 68 per cent., the Continent of Europe over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million, or 28 per cent., and the United States of America $354,000, or 4 per cent. These figures show an increase of $342,000 from the Mother Country, $240,000 from the Continent, and a decline of $6,000 from the United States of America. In 1905, however, there was imported (principally for railway construction in Johore territory, and, strictly speaking, a transhipment trade) a very large value, and, if this be taken off to show the goods marketed, the increase in the United Kingdom portion of the imports would be nearly a million dollars, compared with increases from the Continent and the United States of America of $274,000 and $22,000, respectively.

The chief advances from the United Kingdom are seen in hardware and ironware, machinery, cycles, and motor cars, and telegraph and telephone materials.

Hardware and ironware, machinery and iron bars, and nail rod give the principal advances from the Continent, and machinery from the United States of America. Tramway and railway materials and corrugated iron were the principal

decreases from the United Kingdom, telegraph and telephone materials, those from the Continent, and most other metals, except machinery, cycles, and motor cars, declined from the United States.

The profits on standard metals such as bar and corrugated iron, tin plates, and sheathings, have been cut so fine that some firms content themselves with doing a commission indent business instead of taking the risks of stocks, and the growth of this system is apparent. The large imports of corrugated iron in 1905 resulted in large stocks which had to be drawn on at cut prices, and it was not till the close of the year that an improvement took place. Notwithstanding the increased import of tin plates, owing to the expansion of the pineapple and oil industries, stocks were short at the close, and prices which had not been satisfactory hitherto advanced rapidly. It was a fair year for other metals so far as regards overturn.

British makes of motor cars are steadily advancing on French productions, which have hitherto taken the lead.

Miscellaneous hard goods give evidence of declines generally, except in earthenware and crockery, matches, carriages, and carriage materials, perfumery, lamps and lampware, and musical instruments.

Reduced values are seen in cement, tanned hides, paints, joss sticks, and paperware, followed by Japanware and candles.

From the United Kingdom over 100,000 more casks of cement were received, while the Continent sent 70,000 less. The trade showed a profit all through the year owing to home advances, but if these continue to rise, a promising field is opened for the Hong Kong cement.

Dynamite rose in quantity from Germany, but decreased from the United Kingdom. Owing to accepted tenders from the Federated Malay States and other causes, it is expected the Anglo-Swedish brand will show much better next year.

Values of clocks and watches from the Continent fell off, as well as from the United Kingdom, but Japanese and American makes were more to the front.

Imports of earthenware, including crockery, rose from the United Kingdom by $71,000, but the Continent increased by over that amount, Holland and Belgium showing important advances.

Fancy goods, toys, and sporting materials exhibited a slight fall from the United Kingdom, German and Austrian consignments rising a little in value.

Glassware imports fell off from the United Kingdom by $10,000, but rose from the Continent by $35,000.

The market in paints was not quite up to former years, more caution being evinced in giving credits to dealers in this class of goods, but the trade actually done was fairly remunerative. All sources of supply showed declines in the value shipped here.

Burma has displaced Belgium and Holland in supplying this market with candles; out of the total trade $165,000, no less than $115,000 being received from Rangoon. The Burma candle is stiffer and altogether a better article than that of Continental make.

Perfumery imports increased from the United Kingdom and the Continent, but fell off from the United States.

While carriages and carriage materials from the Continent fell off by one-half or $6,000, values from the United Kingdom rose to $161,000, an increase of $35,000, and the United States accounted for a trade of $42,000, an increase of $6,000.

European paper and stationery rose in the case of the United Kingdom to $546,000, an advance of $5,000, but, although Continental manufactures fell off by $7,000, the total exceeded that of the Mother Country by $88,000. The United States sent a value of $31,000, a decrease of $74,000.

Musical instruments increased in value from the United Kingdom by $37,000, and from the Continent by $18,000.

Boots and shoes from the United Kingdom were valued at $242,000, an increase of $69,000, and from the Continent at $39,000, a decrease of $8,000. American consignments reached a value of only $5,000, or less than half the 1905 value.

Saddlery and leatherware shewed expansion in British makes, a value of $127,000, representing an increase of $35,000; but Continental supplies also rose by $30,000, American and Indian shipments falling off.

Lamps and lampware, with a total trade of over half-a-million dollars, give an increase of over $78,000, the United Kingdom being responsible for an advance of $50,000, the Continent for $71,000 more, Eastern and American imports declining in value.

Of the 3,077 tons of soap and soda received, the Mother Country sent 2,460 tons, a decrease of 70; Australia sending 38 tons more. Toilet soap from the Continent increased in value by $5,000.

Matches shew 82,000 cases received, an increase of 10,000, nearly all of Japanese make.

Photographic materials imported came to $74,000, an increase of $5,000, of which the United Kingdom sent to the value of $56,000, and the Continent to the value of $14,000, being increases of $5,000 in both cases; but the United States sent over $4,000 less in value.

The raw materials which may be treated as imports are coal, petroleum, tin ore, and raw sago.

Imports of coal were 753,918 tons, and in addition there were 5,000 tons of patent fuel brought in, an increase of 117,000 tons. The United Kingdom sent 85,000 tons of coal and 5,000 tons of patent fuel, a total increase of 23,500; Australia 219,000 tons, an increase of 152,000; Bengal over

323,000 tons, an increase 118,000; Borneo and Sarawak 13,000 tons, an increase of 7,500; and Tongkin 10,400 tons, an advance of 5,500. From Japan only 85,000 tons were received, a fall of 176,000; and from Dutch Borneo 17,500 tons, a decrease of over 5,000.

Imports of petroleum in bulk and cases represented over $9\frac{1}{10}$ million gallons, an increase of 712,000 gallons. Sumatran oil is principally responsible for the advance, American increasing by 144,000 gallons only, while no imports came from Burma, which sent 816,000 gallons in the previous year. Besides these imports 44,000 tons of bulk oil were declared for transhipment, an increase of 8,500 tons. Liquid fuel from Dutch Borneo reached over 39,000 tons, an increase of 13,000, and from Sumatra 744 tons, a decrease of 3,321. Of benzine 33,000 gallons were imported, an increase of 11,000, and from the United States of America 5,000 gallons, an increase of 2,000; in addition 12,000 tons were declared for transhipment, an advance of 4,500 tons.

Imports of tin ore reached over 52,000 tons, a decrease of 4,300; while imports from the Federated Malay States fell off, Australia and the Dutch Islands sent increased supplies.

About 14,600 tons of raw sago were imported for milling purposes, a decline of about 1,250 tons.

Export Values and Quantities.

The gross exports from the three Settlements reached nearly $324\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars (£37,853,000), an advance of $28\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars; but treasure exported increased by nearly 12 millions, so that the increase in merchandise was about $16\frac{1}{4}$ millions.

The class "Foodstuffs, Drinks, and Narcotics" increased by over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, seen chiefly in rice, areca-nuts, and tapioca, the largest decline being in opium.

Raw materials rose in value by $7\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, but the metal (tin) class alone advanced by close on 8 millions. Tin exports amounted to 59,091 tons, an increase of 213 tons. Declines in quantities of the refined article were visible from the Federated Malay States, shewing a fall of 1,600 tons and in ore as above stated. Singapore imports of tin and ore, taken at 70 per cent., shew imports and exports within 140 tons of each other, but Penang exports are larger than the imports on the same basis by 715 tons. The Singapore average price for the year was $89.90 per $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs., an increase of $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. About $57\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole was sent to the United Kingdom and nearly $25\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the United States. Increased shipments were despatched to the United Kingdom and Austria only; exports to nearly all other places decreased.

Exports of produce, though generally somewhat larger in volume, have been in a stagnant position for some years past.

Taking the previous five years as a basis for averages, the quantities of tin, pepper, sago, hides, gum copal, and Borneo rubber exported rose, but tapioca, coffee, gutta percha, and rattans declined. The total of spices reached 79,221 tons, an increase of 8,798, and of gums 31,321, an increase of 1,889, as compared with 1905.

Para rubber, coconut oil, gutta percha, planks, illipi and ground-nuts, precious stones, seeds of sorts, and gum copal furnished the principal advances in value of produce, excluding articles used as foods, copra, gambir, india rubber, Jelutong or East India gums, sticklac, goats' skins, and petroleum giving the principal declines. Advances are seen in the quantities of preserved pineapples, areca-nuts, black and white pepper, sago, gum benjamin, gum damar, gum copal, rattans, gutta percha, Borneo and Para rubber, and hides sent out in 1906, compared with 1905, decreases being observable in copra, tapioca, jelutong, sticklac, and india rubber. Nearly 707,500 cases of Singapore-grown pineapples were exported in tins, valued at nearly 3¼ million dollars, an increase of about 160,000 cases and $457,000.

Of copra imported, after allowing for a large consumption by local oil mills, 40,772 tons, valued at over 5 $\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, were sent off, a decrease of 17,859 tons and over two million dollars. Into Singapore alone the imports reached 37,800 tons, of which 25,400 tons were re-exported. Prices averaged an increase of 8 per cent. over the 1905 rates. Little variation is noticed in the quantity of coffee exported, planters having for some time neglected this product in favour of rubber and other more profitable crops. Gambir exports recorded 38,976 tons, valued at under 5½ million dollars, an increase of 2,173 tons, but a fall in value of $656,000; a little in a desiccated form has been sent out for some time, complaints of adulteration being frequent in the case of the ordinary gambir. The average price fell by about 16 per cent.

Exports of black pepper reached over 17,700 tons, an increase of 2,600. To nearly all countries except the United States increased shipments were made. The average price in Singapore was $21.55 per pikul of 133½ lbs., a decrease of $4.90 per pikul as compared with the previous year. White pepper exports reached about 6,940 tons, an increase of about 2,000 tons, seen chiefly in larger shipments to Germany and the United States. The local average price fell from $37 to $28½ per pikul as compared with 1905.

Tapioca exports recorded 42,225 tons, valued at over 5 million dollars, a decrease of 5,730 tons but an increase in value of 1$\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, a rise in price of over 62 per cent. having taken place. Sago exports amounted to over 50,000 tons, valued at nearly 2 $\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of 2,214 tons and $146,000. To Holland only was there any marked decline in the quantity sent.

Shipments of gutta percha shew 2,673 tons, an increase of 570 tons. The value was nearly $3\frac{1}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of $395,000. Most was sent to the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States, but prices were poorer generally than in 1905, and this once great trade shews little signs of revival. Borneo and India rubber shew 2,694 tons sent off, a small decrease in quantity. Borneo rubber increased in quantity, but India rubber fell off, the value of Borneo increasing by $45,500, but that of the other declining by $388,000. Inferior rubbers and guttas, including jelutong, reached over 11,100 tons, valued at nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, a decrease of close on 1,200 tons and $382,000. The United States and Germany received the largest consignments. Para rubber, much of which merely passed on through bills of lading but had been inserted as exports, reached over 8,400 cwts., valued at nearly $2\frac{1}{10}$ million dollars, being increases of 6,430 cwts. and nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars. Nearly all came from the Federated Malay States, Malacca, and Johore, but Sumatra consigned 119 cwts.; the United Kingdom took the bulk of the exports.

Hides, raw and tanned, shew 5,711 tons, valued at considerably over 3 million dollars, an increase of 263 tons and about $140,000.

The exports of rattans reached 26,460 tons, an increase of 1,093; the value was over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, a decrease of $43,000. Sumatra, Dutch Borneo, and Achinese ports sent greater quantities, but supplies from Sarawak and the Celebes declined.

Gum copal exports record 9,135 tons, valued at over 2 million dollars, an increase of 1,498 tons and $72,000. Larger consignments were made to the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, and the United States of America.

The trade in areca-nuts is a very large one of over 52,000 tons, valued at $6\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars, being an increase of over 3,760 tons and nearly $1\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars. Indian ports, Siam, and French Indo-China are the largst purchasers, little or no trade being done with Europe.

Of spices not particularly mentioned, cardamums, cloves, ginger, long pepper, and cinnamon shew advanced value sent off, while nutmegs, cassia, cubebs, and mace declined.

Shells were a large trade, especially in mother o' pearl.

Exports of manufactured articles advanced by over $3\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, textiles rising by nearly 3 millions, metals by $670,000, and miscellaneous manufactures by $295,000.

Trade by Countries.

Imports from the United Kingdom rose to $35\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of close on $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars or over $4\frac{1}{4}$ per

cent., and exports to 66½ millions, an advance of over 9⅗ millions or nearly 17 per cent. The articles received shewing the largest gains were cotton piece-goods, cement, ironware and hardware, apparel, hoisery and millinery, coal, dyed yarn, bicycles and motor cars, and telegraph and telephone materials. Declines are seen in tramway and railway materials, sarongs, slendangs and kains, cotton blankets, grey yarn, corrugated iron, sewing thread, and malt liquors.

Exports rose in tin (with an advance of over 9 million dollars), Para rubber, hides, gutta percha, gum copal, and preserved pineapples. The following articles exported fell off in value:—India rubber, sugar, white pepper, sago and tapioca flour, and jelutong.

The Continent of Europe sent goods to the value of 16 1/10 million dollars, a decrease of $631,000 or over 3¾ per cent., and the exports were valued at nearly 32½ million dollars, a decrease of $544,000, or over 1½ per cent.

France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden (with Norway) and Russia sent increased values, but Italy and Austria values especially fell off, and Germany, Denmark, and Spain also shewed declining values. Italian decreases are marked in cotton piece-goods, apparel and hosiery, condensed milk, and sarongs, and, in the case of Austria, in cement and hardware. German cement, apparel, and sugar declined, but ironware and hardware with cotton piece-goods advanced. Dutch supplies rose in cotton piece-goods and earthenware, but fell in dyed yarn, sarongs, gin, and candles. Milk and iron bar increased in value from Belgium, but cottons fell off. Brandy from France increased in value, and apparel from Spain declined. Matches from Sweden and milk from Norway increased in values, but Danish cement gave a fall.

Exports declined to France, chiefly in copra and Borneo rubber, but flake tapioca, tin, and illipi nuts gave enhanced values. There was a slight decrease to Germany over all, tin, rattans, and copra yielding the principal declines, and rubbers, pepper, oil cakes, and gutta percha shewing advances. Copra and gambir fell off in value to Italian ports, and to Russia the former article alone declined in over 1¼ million dollars. Tin and black pepper to Austria increased, but decreased to Holland, along with sago flour.

Raw hides, gum copal, and copra to Holland advanced, as also copra to Belgium.

Copra to Spanish ports and to Denmark increased; Denmark also received greater values of black pepper and pearl sago.

The United States of America sent goods to the value of nearly 2 7/10 million dollars, a decrease of $582,000, seen chiefly in decreases in the values of lard, petroleum, oilman's stores, wire nails, paper, and stationery. Wheat flour brought from

Hong Kong (but chiefly from [illegible]ican mills) fell off very largely in value to only $800,[illegible] a fall of no less than $1,129,000, and even of this reduced supply about one-third is said to have been of Australian origin. Exports to the United States were valued at over 34$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, a fall of nearly 1$\frac{7}{10}$ million or 4$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Smaller values of the following articles sent off are mainly responsible for this:—Black pepper, tin, jelutong, coconut oil, Borneo rubber, gutta percha, gambir, gum copal, and tapioca flour. Tapioca (pearl), preserved pineapples, white pepper, and rattans shewed increased export values.

Imports from British India and Burma, excluding goods shipped *viâ* ports in French India, declined to 40$\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of nearly 3$\frac{7}{10}$ millions; of which Calcutta was responsible for nearly 1$\frac{2}{5}$ million, Burma ports 1$\frac{3}{5}$ million, Madras well over half a million, and Bombay about $174,000. Benares opium from Calcutta fell by nearly three million dollars, but gunny bags rose by three-fifths of a million, and coal by nearly one million dollars.

Rice from Burma ports fell by nearly 1$\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, and petroleum also declined. Imports of ground-nuts and tobacco, however, increased in value. Sarongs from Madras ports fell by over seven-tenths of a million dollars, followed by goats' skins. Cattle received advanced in value. Smaller values of cloves and grey yarn from Bombay are noticeable. Exports to British India and Burma rose to nearly 13$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of $618,000. Calcutta values advanced by nearly a million dollars, Burma receiving half-a-million less in value, Bombay an increase of about $200,000, and Madras one of $77,000. Areca-nuts to Calcutta increased in value by over a million dollars, and to Burma by $207,000, and also shewed a small advance to Madras. Sticklac to Calcutta, and fish, tin, and coconuts to Burma gave less values, while tin exported to Bombay increased.

The trade with the Dutch Indies recorded 50$\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars as imports, an increase of 1$\frac{1}{4}$ million. Java sent less value by $329,000, but the fluctuations were enormous, sugar shewing a decline of $682,000, followed by birds' nests, kachang oil, and ground-nuts with declines of over $100,000 each, while black pepper advanced by $283,000, areca-nuts by $182,000, and curry stuffs by $121,000. Sumatran supplies increased by 1$\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, areca-nuts, black pepper, and petroleum accounting together for nearly 1$\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars of the advance, gutta percha for $237,000, followed by inferior rubber, rattans, and illipi nuts, with smaller increases. The increase in petroleum is partly attributable to the oil now being declared under its country of origin. Borneo rubber and sago flour shewed less values by $340,000 and $120,000 respectively.

Imports from Dutch Borneo fell off by nearly $400,000, copra, jelutong, and coal being the principal declines, while Borneo rubber, petroleum residue, and areca-nuts increased. From the Dutch Islands and the Celebes an increase of nine-tenths of a million is noted. From the Dutch Islands tin ore alone accounted for a rise of $1\frac{3}{4}$ millions, but petroleum (subject to the above explanation), fish, copra, tin, and nutmegs fell off. Supplies from the Celebes increased in gum copal; values of nutmegs and bêche de mer falling off. A decrease of $306,000 value is noted from Bali; copra alone decreased by $625,000, but coffee rose by $123,000. An advance of $440,000 is seen from Achinese ports, chiefly apparent in areca-nuts and copra, black pepper consignments falling off. The decrease of $372,000 from the Natunas Islands is almost entirely due to copra. Gambir and pepper from Rhio declined in values.

Exports to the Dutch Indies were higher at $41\frac{4}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of $836,000. Java had a decrease of half-a-million, rice, grey yarn, coffee, sarongs, and curry stuffs shewing the principal declines. Coconut oil and gunnies rose in value to Java ports. An increase of $1\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars is registered for Sumatran ports, rice, sarongs, cotton piece-goods, tobacco, tin, and tea shewing the chief improvements. A decrease of over one million dollars to the Dutch Islands and the Celebes is seen, rice and opium being responsible for this. An increase of $129,000 to Dutch Borneo is accounted for by greater values of rice and cottons. To Bali the value of goods sent decreased by $234,000, and that to the Natunas Islands by $56,000.

Achinese ports took nearly $600,000 more value and Rhio $68,000. To Bali, Benares opium and cottons are the principal decreases, and to Rhio a greater value of Benares opium was sent. Achinese ports received greater values of cotton piece-goods, rice, fish, and sugar.

Imports from the Federated Malay States were valued at over $75\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of $316,000. Perak consigned less value by nearly two million dollars, Selangor an increase of $876,000, Negri Sembilan an increase of over $1\frac{1}{10}$ million, and Pahang a decline of $327,000 value.

Tin and tin ore accounted for a decrease of nearly two million dollars, gutta percha for one of $160,000, followed by curry stuffs, coffee, and black pepper. Para rubber increased by $1\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars value, followed by tapioca (pearl), swine, and seeds.

Exports to the Federated Malay States rose to 34 million dollars, an increase of over three millions. Perak received nearly three million dollars more value, Selangor six-tenths of a million less. Negri Sembilan $850,000 more and Pahang $141,000 less. Benares opium, swine, and sugar all fell off

in value, but rice, tobacco, and cigars, cotton piece-goods, bran, tea, fish, paperware, and apparel all largely increased.

Imports from Hong Kong and China shewed a value of $26\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of over $1\frac{3}{5}$ million.

From Hong Kong, hides, jewellery, tea, tin, and dried fruits all increased, but wheat flour fell by over $1\frac{1}{10}$ million dollars, followed by beans and peas, Persian opium, cement, lard, and raw silk with smaller reductions. Lard, earthenware, and beans and peas from China advanced, but joss sticks and joss paper, jewellery, and tobacco decreased..

Exports to Hong Kong and China rose to nearly $17\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of close on $1\frac{7}{10}$ million. The following articles increased largely:—Sugar-candy, black pepper, preserved pineapples, ground-nuts, birds' nests, planks, and tanned hides. Decreased values were seen in Benares opium, raw cotton, tapioca flour, and goats' skins.

French Indo-China sent goods to the value of nearly $4\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, a rise of nearly three-fifths of a million, for which rice was more than responsible.

Exports thither rose by $361,000 to nearly $2\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, gunny bags and areca-nuts shewing the greater advances, but the value of lubricating oil fell off.

From the Malay Peninsula other than the Federated Malay States imports totalled nearly $12\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, of which Johore contributed $8\frac{4}{5}$ millions. This is a total decrease of $1\frac{7}{10}$ million, for which Johore is almost entirely responsible. Tringganu increased by $180,000, Kelantan decreased by about the same amount, and imports from Singgora and Patani slightly advanced. Gambir and black pepper from Johore, fish from Tringganu, and copra and fish from Kelantan all decreased, but areca-nuts, tin ore, flake tapioca, and Para rubber rose in the case of Johore, tin ore, padi, and black pepper in that of Tringganu, and padi in that of Singgora.

Exports to these States decreased by $97,000 to about $5\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, of which total Johore contributed nearly $3\frac{9}{10}$ millions, a slight decrease. Provisions and preserved vegetables decreased in value to Johore, but rice and railway materials advanced. To Kelantan a decrease of $110,000 is noted, to Tringganu an increase of $49,000, to Singgora an increase of $44,000, and to Patani a decrease of $51,000.

Sarongs and rice to Tringganu, cotton piece-goods to Singgora, and tobacco and gambir to Kelantan advanced, but dyed yarn to Patani declined.

Australia sent to the value of $5\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, an increase of nearly $2\frac{9}{10}$ millions or over 119 per cent. Coal advanced in value by $1\frac{3}{5}$ million, wheat flour by nearly a million, and tin ore by $377,000.

Exports at something over 1½ million decreased by $208,000. Values of tin and copra declined, but tapioca (pearl) shewed an enhanced value.

Imports from Japan decreased by $1,336,000 to rather more than five million dollars, coal alone falling by 1¾ million, and umbrellas and Japan-ware also giving decreased values. Matches, silk piece-goods, and jinrikshas advanced.

Exports at nearly 2⅔ million dollars shewed a decrease of $44,000. Tanned hides and manure decreased, and raw cotton was the only advance of any importance.

Siam and Siam West Coast sent merchandise to the value of 33½ million dollars, an increase of over 2⅔ millions. Rice supplies rose by over half-a-million, padi by $364,000, cattle by $284,000, hides by $250,000, bran by $211,000, swine by $207,000, and tin by $197,000. Sticklac decreased by $147,000.

Exports, valued at nearly 18¼ million dollars, increased by nearly two millions. The only important decline was in Benares opium by $690,000. Increases were prominent in areca-nuts, gunnies, sarongs, cottons, rice, grey yarn, medicine, provisions, &c.

Imports from Sarawak were nearly 5 million dollars, a decrease of $106,000, and from British North Borneo $845,000, a fall of $7,000. Gutta and copra from Sarawak decreased, but sago flour and coal advanced in values. Rattans and Borneo rubber fell off from British North Borneo, gum copal and gum dammar giving enhanced values.

Exports to Sarawak, valued at over 3⅓ million dollars, decreased by $162,000, seen in declines in the values of tobacco and cigars, fish, sarongs, Persian opium, sugar, cottons, &c., but the export value of rice rose considerably. Exports to British North Borneo came to nearly 1⅗ million dollars, a decrease of $27,000. Rice, tobacco and cigars, beer and ale, sugar, &c., fell in value, cotton piece-goods yielding an increase.

Observations on Trade.

The first six months of 1906 were most disappointing to merchants.

The smaller firms had to turn over stocks, and the larger, in order to keep in their marks, were forced to follow suit. From July to December, however, the fixity of exchange becoming recognized and a great advance taking place in home prices, merchants were able to obtain better profits than had obtained earlier in the year. The large number of native firms forced into liquidation during the earlier half of 1906 has had a beneficial effect in weeding out the weaker class of dealers, and prospects for 1907 are, at the time of writing, fairly promising. The stocks in hand at the close of the year were heavier than has been the case for a considerable time past.

While the principal staple cotton goods are still supplied to Siam, principally through the Singapore agents of rice merchants there, prints and dyed fancy cloths are being more and more imported direct; but it is satisfactory to note that more than three-fourths of the textiles imported into Bangkok are from the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Observations on the different classes of goods will be found in greater detail in the preceding portion of this report.

It has been stated by compilers of statistics that the imports from the United Kingdom have fallen off when compared with the total imports of the Colony if the proportional percentage test is taken. This is no doubt the case, for during the decade 1880 to 1889 the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 20·4 per cent. of the whole, whilst for the decade 1896-1905 the percentage was only 10·5.

The statements on which the above percentages are based include, however, raw material from Asia, such as tin, opium, rice, &c., and the Registrar of Imports and Exports has prepared a return, which I annex, giving the value of European goods imported into the Colony: this return shows that although the proportional percentage of the imports from the United Kingdom is 63·5 for the decade 1897-1906 as compared with 71·3 during the decade 1887-1896, the excess of British over foreign goods is $129,500,000 during the decade 1897-1906 whilst for the decade 1887-1896 it was $110,900,000.

Return Shewing the Imports of European Goods into the Straits Settlements, 1887 *to* 1906.

—	Import Values of European Goods.	Increase over previous period.	Import Values from United Kingdom.	Increase over previous period.	Import Values from Foreign Countries.	Increase over previous period.	United Kingdom proportional percentage of total Imports.	Foreign Countries proportional percentage of total Imports.
In millions of dollars—	$	$	$	$	$	$		
1887–1896 ...	260·3	—	185·6	—	74·7	—	71·3	28·7
1888–1897 ...	271·5	11·2	191·4	5·8	80·1	5·4	70·5	29·5
1889–1898 ...	283·7	12·2	198·3	6·9	85·4	5·3	59·9	30·1
1890–1899 ...	300·4	16·7	207·3	9·0	93·1	7·7	69·0	31·0
1891–1900 ...	321·2	20·8	216·9	9·6	104·3	11·2	67·5	32·5
1892–1901 ...	346·4	25·2	230·5	13·6	115·9	11·6	66·5	33·5
1893–1902 ...	370·7	24·3	244·2	13·7	126·5	10·6	65·9	34·1
1894–1903 ...	403·6	32·9	263·1	18·9	140·5	14·0	65·2	34·8
1895–1904 ...	429·5	25·9	274·9	11·8	154·6	14·1	64·0	36·0
1896–1905 ...	454·3	24·8	288·6	13·7	165·7	11·1	63·5	36·5
1897–1906 ...	480·3	26·0	304·9	16·3	175·4	9·7	63·5	36·5

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

In Singapore, the increase of pineapple cultivation has been very large. Extensive areas, for many years waste ground covered with secondary jungle, have been cleared and planted up with pineapples for tinning. The whole of this business appears to be in the hands of Chinese.

Considerable interest has been shown in the cultivation of the oil-grasses, lemon-grass, and citronella in several parts of the Island, and the development of this industry has been active. The cultivation of indigo and vegetables has increased, as has that of pepper in a minor degree. Ground-nuts are coming into favour again, and some acres are now under this plant. The fruit-crops continued to be poor, and the planting of fruit trees appears to be on the increase. It is possible that the poorness of this crop, and the general scarcity of fruit grown in Singapore of recent years, may be due to the age of the trees and a failure to plant young ones. Coconut cultivation increases rapidly.

Experiments, undertaken with a view to determining the best method of tapping Para rubber trees, were continued at the Singapore Botanic Gardens throughout the year, and very interesting and useful information has been obtained.

An Agri-horticultural Show, which was a decided success as regards the quality and quantity of exhibits, was held in Singapore in August. The exhibits were representative of the industrial as well as agricultural work of the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and the Show was very well patronised by the public.

As to Penang and Province Wellesley, the rubber trees at the gardens in Penang were tapped, and a fair quantity of seed was sold to planters. In spite of the rise in the exchange value of the dollar, agricultural prices were on the whole better than in 1905, while tapioca reached the highest point recorded for many years. The padi harvest was a fairly good one, but the fruit crop was, as in Singapore, poor, Para rubber and coconuts are gradually superseding sugar on nearly all the estates in Province Wellesley, except those of the Penang sugar estates. Two sugar estates, Prai and Batu Kawan, which have been flourishing undertakings in the past, were offered for sale towards the close of the year, but found no purchasers. The nutmeg plantations on Bukit Mertajam are gradually dying out. In Malacca the opening of the railway has had considerable influence on the cultivation of tapioca, inasmuch as the demand for pigs (which are largely fed on tapicoa refuse) has risen owing to the increased facilities for sending them to the Federated Malay States.

Planters of tapioca are now compelled by the conditions of their titles to plant through the crop fruit trees, coconuts, or

rubber, in order to ensure permanency of cultivation. Land planted with tapioca alone soon gets exhausted and when abandoned becomes a waste covered by lalang grass. Immense tracts of such land have been abandoned in the past, but are now being taken up rapidly for rubber. The clause compelling permanent cultivation has been very successful, and it is hoped that there will be few additions to the amount of land abandoned to lalang. Small cultivators are enabled to plant rubber by utilising tapioca or gambier as a catch crop to tide over the years which must elapse before the rubber makes any return, and the consequence is that small rubber plantations are springing up all over the Settlement.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 19,711,498, as compared with 18,890,600 in 1905. The amount realised by light dues was $223,387.94.

Nine hundred and sixty-seven vessels aggregating 8,258 tons were built in Singapore in 1906, the figures for the previous year being 1,002 and 9,025, respectively.

LEGISLATION.

Thirty Ordinances were passed in 1906, of which 15 amended existing Ordinances, 14 were new legislation, and one repealed "The Public Servants Liability Ordinance, 1889."

Of the new legislation the more important Ordinances were:—"The Currency Note Amendment Ordinance," already referred to, (No. I.), "The Corporations Duty" (No. II.), an Ordinance to impose a duty on the property of bodies corporate and unincorporate, which have hitherto been free from taxation; "The Vagrancy Ordinance" (No. VI.), which establishes houses of detention for vagrants and provides machinery for repatriating persons not born in the Colony who are convicted of vagrancy; "The Banishment Ordinance" (No. VII.), which extends the powers of expulsion of the Governor in Council to certain criminal aliens; "The Exclusion Ordinance" (No. IX.), to prevent the landing of decrepits and beggars in the Colony; "The Administration of Estates Ordinance" (No. XI.), which gives improved provision for the protection and administration of the estates of deceased persons; "The Pilgrim Brokers Ordinance" (No. XVII.), a much needed measure for preventing fraud by a most unscrupulous class of the community; and two Ordinances relating to liquors and opium (Nos. XIX. and XX.), which consolidate and bring up to date the law governing the collection of excise duties on liquors and the control of the opium traffic. An Ordinance was also passed to enable the Government to raise loans for public purposes ("The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance," No. XXV.).

In consequence of the changes in the currency, "The Currency Note Ordinance, 1899," was again amended four times. "The Municipal Ordinance, 1896," was again amended in several important particulars by Ordinance No. XII., and Ordinances were also passed amending the Banishment, Malacca Lands, Pilgrim Ships, Volunteer, and Widows and Orphans' Pensions Ordinances. The work of consolidation and improvement in the form of the laws has been kept in view, and the Minor Offences Ordinance (No. XIII.) forms a consolidation of the law of street and other offences and matters, the subject of summary jurisdiction. It effected a repeal of nine old Indian Acts and Ordinances dealing with their substance on more modern lines, and it should be a considerable help to magistrates in the stress of their daily work.

Having the same object in view, a Committee, consisting of the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Honourable W. J. Napier, and Mr. C. E. Velge, Registrar of the Supreme Court, were, during the year, appointed to undertake the arduous task of drafting new Courts and Civil Procedure Ordinances. The work of the Committee had not been completed by the end of the year, but it is hoped that the Bills will be brought before Council during 1907. Other legislation in contemplation is a complete revision of the Stamp Ordinances, and the introduction of the long delayed Merchant Shipping Ordinance, into which will be incorporated last year's Imperial legislation on the subject.

Much legislation, which is of a technical nature, cannot be properly dealt with in a Committee of the whole Council, and the tendency is for such legislation to be delegated to Sub-Committees. The Government has to acknowledge the services of the Members of Council who, acting on Sub-Committees, considered and redrafted the Bills introduced into Council which subsequently resulted in "The Administration of Estates," "The Pilgrim Brokers," and "Minor Offences" Ordinances. A Sub-Committee also dealt with the difficult question of Registration of Partnerships, a Bill on which subject was read a second time in the early part of the year under review.

This Sub-Committee held a large number of meetings and presented a revised Bill which was approved of by a majority of the Sub-Committee, seven in number, but was dissented from by a minority of three. Owing to the opposition which the Bill has evoked among the mercantile community, it has been decided not to proceed further in the matter at the present time.

EDUCATION.

Nearly all the schools of the Colony are vernacular schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools, which are 171 in number, are defrayed by Government, and they provide free tuition in Malay to some 11,300 pupils. The remaining schools are, with the exception of four which are controlled and financed by Government, aided-schools managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Government.

In 29 schools English only is taught, in six, English and Tamil, in two, Tamil only, and in one, Chinese only; the number of pupils enrolled in these four classes of schools are 10,803, 458, 66, and 36, respectively. The average daily attendance at vernacular schools was 8,949, and that at schools where English only is taught was 8,533. There are, in addition to the Government and aided-schools, a few private schools which are not inspected by Government. These are chiefly Chinese vernacular schools.

The net expenditure on Government schools was $85,490, on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese), $92,317, and on Government vernacular schools, $87,286.83.

The cost of the Malacca Training College for Malay teachers during the year under review was $4,136.65. The value of this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the vernacular schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before the schools in these Settlements are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The Commercial and Science Classes at the Raffles Institution have made satisfactory progress during the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, while the estate hospitals, maintained by the planters, are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, was 24,696, as against 23,762 in 1905. In Singapore, 231 patients were admitted into the lunatic asylum, the number during the previous year being 228.

Reformatory.

The number of boys in the reformatory at the end of the year was 63; the highest number during the year was 62 and the lowest 36. The new permanent buildings, to accommodate

120, were finished early in 1906. The health of inmates has been good throughout the year. Instruction is given at the school in English and Romanised Malay, and at the workshops in tailoring, carpentering, and shoemaking. The expenditure amounted to $8,391, as against $8,984 in 1905.

Savings Bank.

The transactions in this branch amounted to $393,889 (deposits), and $385,013 (withdrawals), as compared with $369,970 and $391,066 in 1905. The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was $582,236 (in 1905, $558,485).

The investments at the close of the year stood at $587,438, as compared with $579,238 at the corresponding period of the previous year.

POLICE.

The Inspector-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Pennefather, retired on pension in December.

One assistant superintendent was seconded for one year for service in the Federated Malay States Police.

One inspector died and one was pensioned during the year.

Seventeen European constables were enlisted, 10 were engaged from England, and seven locally.

Eleven European constables were dismissed during the year.

Twenty-three murders and 51 gang robberies were reported during the year; of the latter, 24 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

The police force numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

A training department for the instruction of recruits was established during the year at Malacca.

The judicial returns indicate a slight decrease in cases of serious crime, though the number of persons brought before the magistrates exceeded that for 1905.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 611,790, the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Fifteen thousand four hundred and thirty-four were registered as against 17,254 in 1905.

The death-rate was 37·82 per mille of the population. The rate in 1905 was 40·51.

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipality and in the several districts of Province Wellesley by sanitary boards with powers under the Municipal Ordinance.

CLIMATE.

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 118·38 inches; in Penang, 102·21 inches; in Province Wellesley, 88·79 inches; in the Dindings, 90·34 inches; and in Malacca, 80·57 inches.

The greatest fall in 24 hours was 5·7 inches in Penang on 19th April.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Over 17,000,000 articles passed through the Post Office, of which nearly 585,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to $587,952, as against $555,285 in 1905. The expenditure was $429,881, a decrease of $41,223 as compared with that of the preceding year. The money order business showed a decrease $429,706, due to the fact that the Colonial Post Office has, since 1905, ceased to be the intermediary for the exchange of money orders between the Federated Malay States and India and Ceylon. Excluding such "through" orders, there was an increase of $120,511. The transactions in sterling amounted to £24,434, and those in Indian currency to Rs. 1,911,702, while in local currency business was done to the extent of $477,713, the aggregate being thus $1,776,600, as against $2,206,305 in 1905 and $2,464,770 in 1904.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system of the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company. This Company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government offices and police stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The telephone lines in Penang and Province Wellesley, 704 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the metallic circuit in Penang, but in Province Wellesley earth returns are used. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was (331) and there were in addition 48 service lines.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 154 miles of service lines.

MILITARY.

The garrison in Singapore consisted of two companies of Royal Garrison Artillery, half a company of Royal Engineers, one battalion of British Infantry and one battalion of Native Infantry besides Asiatic Artillery (Sikhs) and details of other corps. No militia force exists. The strength of the garrison was 2,380, all ranks.

A detachment of the Malay States Guides was quartered in Penang. The military contribution of the Colony in respect of the year 1906 amounted to $1,751,785.

A Volunteer Artillery Force, 134 strong (including reserves), exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it. Its armament is under alteration. It also possesses four Maxim guns (·303), in the use of which it is proficient. This corps is armed with Martini-Metford carbines and sword-bayonets.

A Maxim company, 47 strong, works the four guns belonging to the Singapore Volunteer Artillery.

There is one company of Volunteer Engineers, composed of Europeans, 56 strong (including reserves).

There is one company of Eurasians and one company of Straits-born Chinese, 120 and 89 strong, respectively, including reserves.

A Volunteer Infantry Force, 84 strong, is also in existence in Penang, and is reported to be efficient.

There is in addition in Singapore a bearer and ambulance section composed of 7 Europeans, 14 Eurasians, and 4 Chinese (Straits-born), and a Cadet Corps, 152 strong, armed with Martini-Metford carbines. In Malacca there is a Cadet Corps, 81 strong, also armed with Martini-Metford carbines.

IMMIGRATION.

I.—Chinese.

The number of immigrants from Chinese ports shows an increase of 1·9 per cent. upon the number for 1905, but a reduction of 19·3 per cent. upon that for the record year, 1903. The figures for female immigration show a regrettable reduction from all ports, which it is difficult to explain satisfactorily. The number of *unpaid passengers, i.e.*, of coolies who obtain free passages from China, in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony, has risen to 18,675, an increase of 3,811 over the figures for last year. These *unpaid passengers* now number over 12 per cent. of the total adult male immigrants, the highest percentage since the year 1900.

The harvests in South China appear to have been normal.

The returns for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1902	184,198	13,151	9,807	207,156
1903	193,339	14,539	12,443	220,321
1904	179,650	14,395	10,751	204,796
1905	148,869	13,714	10,548	173,131
1906	153,624	12,478	10,485*	176,587

*Boys, 7,631 ; Girls, 2,854.

II.—Indian.

The figures for the last three years are appended:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.
1. Statute Immigrants	2,721	4,823	3,674
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets)	3,556	7,687	20,215
3. Other immigrants	24,475*	27,030†	28,152‡

* 1,810 children. † 2,488 children. ‡ 3,450 children.

Twenty-one thousand one hundred and forty-four adults and 735 children left the Colony for Southern India.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue received in Christmas Island during the year 1906 was $1,670.46; the royalty on the phosphate exported, which is paid in London, was £7,153 8*s.* 10*d.*, as against £6,096 15*s.* in 1905, and £4,638 8*s.* 8*d.* in 1904.

The expenditure was $13,709.55 (in Christmas Island), and $1,004.70 (in Singapore, for passages, &c.); total $14,714.25.

There was a slight increase in crime, 183 cases being tried as against 166 in 1905 and 178 in 1904. Two hundred and seventy-three persons were accused and 227 convicted. The offences were, however, chiefly of a petty character.

Thirty-five vessels were cleared in 1906, with a total registered tonnage of 45,053, as against 50,744 tons in 1905. Excluding cargoes of phosphate taken by the company's steamer to Singapore, ten vessels took phosphate to Japanese ports and five to European ports.

The district officer reports that the present somewhat limited facilities for loading, to a large extent due to the indifferent

weather so frequent on the island, render it doubtful whether shipments of phosphate can be much increased beyond those of the last two years; but it is anticipated that the shipments for 1907 will not be less than those for 1906, and may, if favourable circumstances prevail, reach 100,000 tons.

On the 1st January, 1906, the population of the island was 1,061, and on the 31st December it had risen to 1,152; of the latter number 1,112 were males and 40 females. Included in these figures were 26 Europeans and Eurasians (18 males, 8 females). The death-rate was 28·5 per mille per annum, the figures in 1905 and 1904 being 19·98 and 116·43 respectively. Beri-beri was responsible for 54·8 per cent. of the deaths, the number succumbing to this disease being 17, as against 12 in 1905.

The increased mortality from beri-beri is hard to explain. There were 174 less admissions to hospital for this disease, and the number of cases treated dropped from 601 to 410. The percentages of deaths to cases in 1905 and 1906 were 2 per cent. and 4·1 per cent. respectively. The conditions of life were no different; the coolies enjoy good food, pure air and water, and there is no fault to find with the sanitary conditions under which they live. The mortality from beri-beri is, of course, much less than in formr years, but it is clear that the problem of eradicating the disease is by no means near solution.

In the hospital "parboiled," or Indian rice, is used exclusively, but the coolies are said to decline to eat it when not in hospital. It is hoped that the company will endeavour to persuade the coolies to take to the parboiled rice, as the balance of medical opinion still tends to the belief that the ordinary rice cannot be neglected as a possible cause of the disease. If looked at only from the business point of view, it would appear that the interests of the company would be best served by eradicating the disease, as the number of patients admitted for beri-beri in 1906 was 370, with an average stay in hospital of 25 days each. This represents a loss of 9,250 days' labour, in addition to the cost of drugs &c., and the food of the coolies.

The year was a very wet one, rain falling on 189 days, and the output of phosphate was in consequence not so large as was anticipated. During the year an experimental vegetable garden was started by the company, but the earth is so porus that it retains hardly any moisture. The garden is, moreover, not large enough for the needs of the community.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Early in February His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught passed through Penang and Singapore on his way to Japan to invest His Imperial Majesty the Mikado with the Order of the Garter. He was accorded a loyal and hearty reception by the inhabitants of both Settlements.

The Governor (Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G.), proceeded on leave in March, and returned to the Colony in June. The office of Colonial Secretary being vacant, Sir William Taylor, K.C.M.G., Resident-General, Federated Malay States, administered the Government during that period.

Tenders for the construction of the harbour works in Singapore having been invited from several prominent firms of engineering contractors in England, that of Sir John Jackson, Ltd., was in March accepted by the Legislative Council. Preliminary work was begun before the end of the year.

Extensive schemes for the improvement of Penang Harbour, the construction of a lagoon dock at Tanjong Pagar, and the general improvement of facilities for working cargo at both ports were under consideration at the end of the year.

There was a slight outbreak of cholera in the Nibong Tebal District of Province Wellesley, but the precautions taken effectually prevented the disease from spreading, and it was soon stamped out.

The award of the Umpire in the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company Arbitration was delivered on July 4th. The sum awarded was $28,447,177.

Good progress was made in Singapore with the improvement of Kampong Glam, which has been rendered possible by Ordinance XIII. of 1904, and the work will undoubtedly result in a great amelioration of the sanitary conditions of that quarter of the town. In Penang a Board for the management and control of Hindu and Mohammedan endowments was constituted under Ordinance XVII. of 1905 at the beginning of the year, and has taken over the administration of several important properties, notably the Captain Kling Mosque lands, in the heart of the town, and it is hoped that the efforts of the Board will do much for the improvement of the town.

New instructions for the administration of the Colony in substitution for those dated 17th June, 1885, and 7th December, 1887, were passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet on the 31st October.

The Agri-horticultural Show held in August has already been referred to. It should do much to further the development of all the agricultural industries of the Colony and the Federated Malay States.

In November His Majesty's Order in Council annexing the Colony of Labuan to the Straits Settlements was issued; from the 1st January, 1907, it becomes part of the Settlement of Singapore. It has been arranged that only the balance of the island's revenue over its expenditure (if any) shall be assessable to military contribution.

The opium and spirit farms for the Colony for the term 1907-9 were let in August. The tenders received were considerably below the rents paid by the late farmers, so that the revenue (for 1907) from licences shows a large reduction on the figures which appear in the Estimates for 1906.

A British Vice-Consul was appointed for the Siamese Western States, with headquarters at Alor Star, as the growing interests of British subjects in these countries urgently called for the appointment of such a resident official.

Mr. W. R. Collyer, I.S.O., retired from the post of Attorney-General early in the year, while other retirements were those of Captain Boldero, R.N. (retired), Master Attendant, Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather, Inspector-General of Police, and Mr. R. W. Hullett, Principal of Raffles Institution and for some time Acting Director of Public Instruction, Straits Settlements. Mr. J. K. Birch took leave in November prior to retirement in the early part of 1907.

Among the appointments made during the course of the year was that of Sir William Hyndman-Jones as Chief Justice in succession to Sir Lionel Cox, retired. Towards the latter portion of the year the Education Department was reorganised and Mr. J. B. Elcum was made Director of Education for the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, the appointment of Director of Public Instruction being abolished. Captain Boldero was succeeded as Master Attendant by Commander C. A. Radcliffe, R.N., and Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather as Inspector-General of Police by Mr. W. A. Cuscaden. I was appointed Colonial Secretary in June, and assumed my duties on the 27th of that month.

Mr. G. T. Hare, C.M.G., I.S.O., late Secretary for Chinese Affairs, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, died during the year, after a long illness. His work in the Chinese Protectorate is too well known to require reference in this report. He was a most valued public servant, and one who, after his retirement, was always willing to place at the disposal of the Government his great and varied experience of Chinese affairs.

The death of Mr. H. H. Hudson, Solicitor-General, Penang, must also be recorded. Mr. Hudson joined the Service in 1888 as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, Singapore, and was appointed Solicitor-General in 1902. In him the public service has prematurely lost an officer of much talant.

In England the deaths occurred of Mr. Cosmo Paterson and Mr. W. G. Gulland. These two gentlemen were for many years prominently connected with this Colony.

Professor W. J. Simpson, who was engaged to enquire into and report upon various matters connected with the health of the Colony, stayed some months at Singapore, and it is probable that his visit will, in the future, be regarded as one of the most important events in the history of this Colony.

It will be necessary for the Government, the municipalities, and the people to work together with the resources at their disposal so that the various measures he may recommend for promoting the health of the towns by better housing and drainage and by improved water supplies may be adopted. In time, it is hoped that owing to these improvements the towns of the Colony may not occupy the unenviable position they at present hold in respect to death rates.

The Acting Colonial Secretary in his report for the year 1905 referred to the Shipping Conference, and I desire here to bring prominently to notice that the Registrar of Imports and Exports in his report for 1906 states that freights from Europe and America are now generally under the rates charged a few years ago, but owing to the export trade to Europe, America, Australia, and Indian ports, so far as freights are concerned, being in the hands of shipping rings, rates are excessive, and are slowly but surely restricting our operations as collectors of produce.

ARTHUR YOUNG,

Colonial Secretary.

19th August, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda...	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 582.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 540.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1908.

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No. 582.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 540.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Singapore,
9 September, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1907.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ANDERSON.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1907.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The estimated revenue of the year was $9,436,932 and the actual revenue $10,023,016, or $586,084 in excess of the estimate and $404,704 in excess of the actual revenue of 1906.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue collected in 1906 and 1907:—

—	Revenue of 1906.	Revenue of 1907.	Net increase.	Net decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Land revenue	377,972 46	412,710 13	34,737 67	—
2. Rents exclusive of land	39,727 21	56,470 37	16,743 16	—
3. Licences	6,650,558 49	6,749,404 60	98,846 11	—
4. Stamps	367,464 95	393,924 55	26,459 60	—
5. Port and harbour dues	276,019 38	274,569 86	—	1,449 52
6. Post and telegraphs	592,962 58	620,442 61	27,480 03	—
7. Government railway	196,682 98	199,972 96	3,289 98	—
8. Fines and forfeitures	96,585 62	90,739 76	—	5,845 86
9. Fees of office	298,717 86	319,383 78	20,665 92	—
10. Reimbursements	320,457 10	313,256 14	—	7,200 96
11. Sale of Government property ..	2,323 35	57,807 85	55,484 50	—
12. Interest	84,183 47	113,040 35	28,856 88	—
13. Miscellaneous receipts	67,162 64	180,859 57	113,696 93	—
14. District collections	141,314 39	142,172 43	858 04	—
15. Land sales	106,180 49	98,261 53	—	7,918 96
Total	9,618,312 97	10,023,016 49	427,118 82	22,415 30
Deduct decrease			22,415 30	
Net increase			404,703 52	

Exclusive of land sales, the total revenue of 1907 was $9,924,755 as against $9,512,132 in 1906.

The increase under Miscellaneous Receipts is principally due to Labuan Revenue having been included under this head.

EXPENDITURE.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure for 1906 and 1907:—

Heads of Service.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Charges on account of public debt	24,000 00	193,966 79	169,966 79	—
2. Pensions	326,357 16	365,296 42	38,939 26	—
3. Personal emoluments	2,586,194 80	2,770,484 19	184,289 39	—
4. Other charges	1,864,595 62	1,639,314 27	—	225,281 35
5. Charitable allowances	11,531 65	11,312 55	—	219 10
6. Transport	14,646 04	12,115 08	—	2,530 96
7. Exchange	20,225 53	17,333 23	—	2,892 30
8. Interest	5,634 21	4,523 00	—	1,111 21
9. Miscellaneous services	181,829 18	189,193 77	7,364 59	—
10. Military expenditure	1,763,488 56	1,554,512 20	—	208,976 36
11. Expenditure under the Volunteer Ordinance, 1888.	47,983 92	51,805 62	3,821 70	—
12. Land and houses purchased ..	5,820 00	846,999 43	841,179 43	—
13. Special expenses	108,195 81	5,614 44	—	102,581 37
14. Public works, annually recurrent	200,242 55	224,032 19	23,789 64	—
15. Roads, streets, &c., annually recurrent.	377,783 31	379,842 83	2,059 52	—
16. Public works, special services ..	983,584 75	934,974 76	—	48,609 99
17. Roads, streets, &c., special services	225,706 33	298,372 03	72,665 70	—
Total	8,747,819 42	9,499,632 80	1,344,076 02	592,202 64
Deduct decrease			592,202 64	
Net increase			751,873 38	

The total expenditure of 1907 chargeable to current revenue was $751,873·38 more than in 1906.

The large increase under land and houses purchased is principally due to the purchase of property at Mount Wallich, $380,000, in connection with the Singapore Harbour Works, and of the land belonging to the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, Limited, $351,355, for railway extension.

The actual expenditure was $391,059 in excess of the estimate, the chief heads under which the actual expenditure exceeded the estimate being:—

	$
Land and houses purchased	846,999
Charges on account of Public Debt ...	119,967

While there were savings under:—

Military expenditure	230,508
Public Works, special services ...	163,377
Personal emoluments	146,419

The total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	$	c.	$	c.
1903	7,958,496	07	8,185,952	14
1904	10,746,517	49	10,848,988	54
1905	11,657,423	75	10,976,525	37
1906	9,618,312	97	8,747,819	42
1907	10,023,016	49	9,499,692	80

Important Changes in Taxation.

The Liquors Ordinance XIX. of 1906 not only introduced a higher scale of taxation on intoxicating liquors but rendered all beverages containing more than 2 per cent. of pure alcohol liable to duty.

The following table shows the most salient increases in taxation under the new Ordinance:—

	Old Scale.		New Scale.	
	$ c.		$ c.	
Warehouse licence ...	120 00	per annum.	1,000 00	per annum.
Retail licence	72 00	„	120 00	„
Public House:—				
1st Class ...	240 00	„	480 00	„
2nd Class .	120 00	„	360 00	„
3rd Class .	96 00	„	240 00	„
Temporary licence not exceeding 30 days:—				
1st Class ...	5 00	per day.	10 00	per day.
2nd Class .	2 00	„		
3rd Class .	1 00	„		
Distiller's licence ...	50 00	„	100 00	„
Bhang within Municipal limits			24 00	„
Bhang without Municipal limits			12 00	„

A fee of 50 cents is charged for the board supplied.

Assets and Liabilities.

According to the accounts of the Colony the assets on 31st December, 1907, were $5,559,163 and the liabilities $1,822,596, or the assets exceeded the liabilities by $3,736,567. The assets were as follows:—

	$	$
Cash in the Treasury and banks...	1,937,076	
Investments	2,449,089	
Advances, &c.	281,718	
Other Governments	75,745	
Federated Malay States	18,198	
Suspense Account.		
British North Borneo copper coin	163,284	
Charges in connection with coin shipped for reminting	460,596	
Gold Standard Reserve Fund ...	173,457	
		5,559,163

and the liabilities were:—

Deposits	837,876	
Drafts	996	
Advances from Loan Account ...	336,176	
Temporary Loan from Federated Malay States	500,000	
Suspense Account, Interest, Currency Commissioners	147,548	
		1,822,596
Credit Balance		$3,736,567

The assets of the Currency Commissioners on 31st December, 1907, were as follows:—

	$	$
Cash in reserve	11,285,129	
Amount shipped for reminting...	3,487,500	
Amount to be recovered from Gold Standard Reserve Fund	196,045	
Investments	11,673,681	
		26,642,355

and the liabilities were:—

Deposits	23,685,212	
Advances from Straits Settlements Loan Account	2,957,143	
		26,642,355

Public Debt, showing Provision for Repayment.

A loan of £5,000,000 was raised in 1907 under the Loan Ordinance IV. of 1907 which authorises the Colonial Govern-

ment to borrow a sum of £7,861,457 for the following services:—

	£
1. Payment of Award and Costs under "The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance, 1905"	3,390,000
2. Redemption of Outstanding Debentures of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board ...	151,670
3. Tanjong Pagar Construction Works:—	
(1) Main Wharf, Lagoon Dock and Graving Dock	2,092,600
(2) Prai River Dock—Improvements to, and reconstruction of, wharves ...	70,000
4. Singapore Harbour Works	1,264,000
5. Singapore Municipal Water Works ...	523,187
6. Penang Pier Extension and General Harbour Improvements and repayment of $600,000 (£70,000) borrowed from the Federated Malay States on account of Penang Pier	200,000
7. Penang Municipal Loan—Improvement of Water Supply and other works ...	170,000
	£7,861,457

Provision is made for the repayment of this loan by means of a Sinking Fund which will come into operation in 1917, ten years from the date of the first issue of the debentures under the Ordinance. The payment of the award and costs was made on the 1st July, 1907.

The charge on account of interest on the Public Debt amounted to $677,343 in 1907.

The total amount in local currency of the debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1907, was $42,428,571 or $4\frac{1}{6}$th the revenue of the Colony for the year but only $2\frac{1}{5}$th of the aggregate of the Government, Tanjong Pagar, and Municipal revenues.

Exchange.

Exchange remained firm through the first eight months of the year, telegraphic transfers being as high as 2*s.* $4\frac{3}{16}$*d.* in January and never falling below 2*s.* 4*d.*, but in September there was a fall which continued until in October Government was obliged to intervene. This was done by offering telegraphic transfers on London at 2*s.* $3\frac{3}{4}$*d.* subsequently reduced to 2*s.* $3\frac{11}{16}$*d.*, and later by issuing gold here in exchange for

currency. By the end of the year the banks had taken £487,000 in telegraphic transfers and £335,000 in gold, and the year closed with a slight tendency to a rise in exchange.

CURRENCY.

The price of bar silver remained high for the first eight months of the year and advantage was taken of it to sell $3,000,000 of the old dollars. Later the price of bar silver fell very fast and no more dollars were sold. New dollars were received during the year to the face value of $10,767,500. They were by no means popular at first, and at the end of the year $5,150,000 were remaining in the hands of the Currency Commissioners. The $1 note continued to be popular; but there was some difficulty in distinguishing them from $5 notes when dirty and at dusk, and to obviate this a second issue of these notes was overprinted with the figure 1 on each side of the word "One." This rendered the note easily distinguishable. As notes of the earlier issue were received at the Currency Commissioners' office they were retained and not again issued.

These notes will in future be printed on red paper, but up to the end of the year none of this issue had been received.

At the beginning of the year the dollars and notes in circulation, including the stocks held by the banks, and the Treasuries in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, amounted to $46,991,332, of which $22,222,560 were Government Currency Notes, $1,325,795 Bank Notes, and the rest Straits Dollars. At the end of the year the corresponding figures were $42,774,636, $22,444,970 and $1,716,125, respectively.

The excess of imports of dollars over the quantity of that coin exported was $304,260 for Singapore and an excess of exports over imports of $1,173,242 for Penang, in all an excess of exports of $868,982 as against an excess of $1,456,552 in 1906. No account is taken in these figures of small quantities of dollars taken away from or brought into the Colony by passengers. The greater part of the exports went to Sumatra.

During the year subsidiary silver coin to the value of $414,357 was withdrawn from circulation, and the amount now in circulation is probably not much more than is required.

Seventy-five thousand and fifty dollars of copper coin was received during the year from the Calcutta Mint.

Early in the year it was decided to remove British North Borneo copper, which was circulating freely in the bazaars, from circulation; and by the end of July cents of this issue to the face value of $160,651 were received at the Treasuries of the Colony in exchange for Straits Settlements cents.

The average bank note circulation was $1,825,089, as compared with $1,329,053 in 1906.

The average amount of Government currency notes in circulation for each month of the year was:—

	$
January	22,551,000
February	22,700,657
March	23,232,146
April	23,858,418
May	24,140,566
June	24,893,484
July	27,333,265
August	27,333,910
September	27,009,488
October	26,522,454
November	24,378,637
December	22,635,449

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $3,301,304, and their expenditure, including sums spent on loan works, to $3,218,022. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure and the debts of the Boards and a statement of the provision made for the repayment thereof are detailed below.

Revenue.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1,977,064	2,074,526	2,149,951	2,224,354	2,306,749
Penang	568,695	751,288	819,531	892,431	906,139
Malacca... ...	34,801	37,459	39,717	89,408	88,416
Total ...	2,580,560	2,863,273	3,009,199	3,206,193	3,301,304

Expenditure.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1,923,466°	1,960,065†	2,158,645	2,168,528	2,245,623
Penang	867,613°	709,501	1,191,142	945,187	872,223
Malacca... ...	32,592	34,349	41,780	80,335	100,176
Total ...	2,823,671	2,703,915	3,391,567	3,194,050	3,218,022

° Includes expenditure on Loan Works.
† Exclusive of sums expended on Loan Works.

Debts of Municipalities and Provisions for Repayment.

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 at 5 per cent.	..	400,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1890 at 6 per cent.	..	400,000	
" " 1893 at 5 per cent. (originally) ..	280,000		
" less (redeemed)	202,000		
		78,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1897 at 4 per cent. $500,000 Bonds issued.	..	424,500	Annual drawings 2½ per cent. of loan. (Redeemed $95,400).
" " 1898 at 4 per cent. $500,000 Bonds issued.	..	28,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1899 at 4 per cent.	..	400,000	(Redeemed $240,000).
" " 1901 at 5 per cent.	..	1,000,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1902 at 5 per cent.	..	400,000	Do. at 2 per cent.
" " 1907 at 4½ per cent.	..	1,600,000	Do. at 2 per cent.
Temporary Loan from F. M. S. Govt. at 4 per cent.	..	600,000	
Loan from Colonial Government	..	150,000	
		5,480,500	
Penang—			
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, 1889	..	250,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent. per annum on amount of loan.
" at 6 per cent. do. 1891	..	100,000	
" at 5 per cent. do. 1901	..	500,000	
" at 5 per cent. do. 1904	..	600,000	
" at 4 per cent. Tramway loan, 1904	..	400,000	Annual Repayments of $20,000.
" at 4½ per cent. from Colonial Government 1907 (Part).	..	150,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent. per annum on amount of Loan ($1,500,000) commencing in 1907.
		2,000,000	
Malacca—			
1885 Loan by Government $25,000 at 3 per cent.	..	15,500	Annual repayments of $500.

Tanjong Pagar Dock Board.

The Board on behalf of the Government undertook charge of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company's business and property after expropriation proceedings on July 1st, 1905.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.	
	$	c.		$	c.
1903	5,227,994	40	...	3,997,700	92
1904	5,409,486	56	...	3,870,669	72
1905	5,420,354	26	...	4,072,004	79
1906	5,617,784	92	...	4,097,428	62
1907	6,145,579	25	...	4,484,476	20

The Board is liable for the repayment of $1,300,000 in debenture stock. The repayment of $250,000 falls due on April 10th, 1908, and $1,050,000 will be repaid on 30th June, 1909.

The capital cost of the undertaking as represented by the award and including Government costs is the sum of $29,003,149·45 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. per annum out of revenue.

In addition, under the provisions of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance the Board is responsible to Government for the interest, sinking fund, management, and redemption of

such loans as will be required to carry out the new construction works, towards which £2,092,600 has been allocated in the Loan Ordinance of 1907 for the Main Wharf, Lagoon Dock, and Graving Dock, and £70,000 for the improvements to, and reconstruction of, the wharves at Prai River Dock.

The following figures taken from the Wharf Tonnage Returns indicate a steadily increasing business in the number of vessels which use the wharves and in the amount of cargo and coal handled:—

——	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Number of vessels	2,211	2,356	2,315	2,470	2,556
Tonnage	4,290,463	4,445,558	4,491,351	4,701,004	4,747,210
Coal inwards and outwards ...	1,021,033	1,098,052	1,139,042	1,205,580	1,111,682
Cargo inwards and outwards...	1,110,518	1,170,021	1,115,654	1,150,527	1,270,285

TRADE.

The sterling value of imports of merchandise into the Colony in 1907 (excluding Labuan and the Christmas and Cocos Islands) was £37,668,000, an advance of £585,000, or over 1½ per cent. compared with 1906.

Exports of the same class valued £32,921,000, an increase of £106,000, or ·3 per cent.

The dollar figures show as follows in millions:—

——	Average for five years ended 1905.	1906.	1907.
Merchandise—	$	$	$
Imports	315·5	317·8	322·9
Exports	262·4	281·3	282·2
Total	577·9	599·1	605·1
Treasure—			
Imports	35·1	21·5	27·7
Exports	35·3	29·7	23·1
Total	70·4	51·2	50·8
Gross Aggregate Trade ...	648·3	650·3	655·9

The imports of merchandise from all places into Labuan valued $1,223,032 in 1907, a decrease of $247,356 below 1906,

and exports of the same valued $1,254,542, a decline of $156,761.

The imports from Singapore into Christmas Island valued $157,555, an advance of $6,132 compared with 1906, and exports to all places, including phosphates of lime, say at £2 per ton, about $1,894,000, an advance of $333,000.

Singapore imported from places other than the sister Settlements (Penang and Malacca) 72·6 per cent. of the import value of merchandise in 1906, an advance of ·3 per cent., Penang on the same basis 27·0 per cent., a fall of ·3 per cent., and Malacca the same as in 1906, ·4 per cent.

Of the exports of merchandise, Singapore sent 69·1 per cent., a fall of nearly ·2 per cent., compared with the previous year, Penang 30·5 per cent., a rise of nearly ·4 per cent., and Malacca ·4 per cent., a fall of ·2 per cent.

The only land traffic included in the figures is that between Malacca and the neighbouring State of Negri Sembilan.

From the United Kingdom, 11 per cent. of the total import value of merchandise was received, a fall of ·1 per cent.; from British Possessions and Protectorates 46·6 per cent., a fall also of ·1 per cent.; and from Foreign Countries 42·4 per cent., a rise of ·2 per cent.

The value of exports of merchandise to the United Kingdom was 24·0 per cent., an increase of ·4 per cent.; to British Possessions and Protectorates 26·3 per cent., an advance of 1·4 per cent.; and to Foreign Countries 49·7 per cent., a fall of 1·8 per cent.

Taking the last 20 years and dividing it into two decennial periods, the imports of all classes, principally manufactures and foods from the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe and America, were valued as follows:—

—	United Kingdom.	Foreign, European Countries, and America.	Total.
	$	$	$
1888–1897	191·4	80·1	271·5
1898–1907	316·5	186·0	502·5
Increase	125·1	105·9	231·

Therefore the excess of British over foreign goods amounted in value in the first period to $111,300,000 and in the last to $130,500,000, showing on the percentage basis an advance of 65·4 per cent. for the United Kingdom and 132·2 per cent. for the Continent and the United States.

According to the classes into which our trade is divided, live animals, foods, drinks, and narcotics (Inter-Settlement trade included) averaged a value of $128·8 million for the five years ended 1906, manufactured textiles $42·4 million and other manufactured articles $28·9 million compared with which 1907 fell in the first-named class by 1·4 per cent., and in the second by 6·4 per cent., but increased in the last-named by over 13 per cent.

Export values on the same basis show an average of $79·8 million for tin, &c., and for all other raw materials $50·5 million, being advances in 1907 of 4·6 per cent, and ·4 per cent., respectively.

An attempt to calculate the tonnage consigned to other places, but landed at Singapore for transhipment by other vessels, no figures of which are printed, shows that approximately 329,000 tons of cargo and 140,000 cases, casks, &c., of liquors were so treated in 1907, of which 74,856 tons and 129,838 cases, &c., of liquors were from Europe and America, the United Kingdom sending in this way 51,358 tons and 62,745 cases, the Continent of Europe and America 23,498 tons and 67,093 cases.

Large transhipments from the Dutch Indies comprised petroleum and benzine, tobacco and sugar.

Imports.

The gross total imports into the three Settlements from all places and from each other valued 364½ million dollars, of which 335½ million represented merchandise.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the principal imports shows:—

—	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Cotton piece goods	5,406,218	4,178,098	—	1,228,120
Silk piece goods	230,360	239,827	9,467	—
	Chests.	Chests.		
Opium	12,658	13,714	1,056	—
	Gallons	Gallons.		
Spirits	1,129,797	1,087,286	—	42,511
	Cases.	Cases.		
Petroleum	1,243,146	1,243,153	7	—
	Corges.	Corges.		
Sarongs	303,598	315,648	12,050	—
	Tons.	Tons.		
Coal	753,918	667,695	—	86,223
Rice	450,615	447,685	—	2,930
Fish, Dry and salted ...	55,205	49,731	—	5,474
Tobacco	7,311	6,317	—	994
Tin ore	52,026	57,198	5,172	—
Wheat flour	27,438	31,732	4,294	—
Sugar	71,929	54,950	—	16,979

There is an advance under merchandise of over 5 million dollars compared with 1906, animals, foods, drinks, and narcotics accounting for less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ million of the advance, Straits produce and raw materials generally for over $4\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars increase, manufactured metals for nearly 3 million dollars more, and miscellaneous manufactures for about $\frac{9}{10}$th of a million more.

The manufactured textile class, however, fell off in value by $2\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, and unmanufactured metals, chiefly tin and tin ore, by about the same amount.

The increase in foods, &c., is made up of larger values of rice, opium, padi, tapioca, sago, lard, live animals, provisions, and vegetables, important declines marking the trade in pepper and sugar, and to a less extent in arecanuts and coffee.

Copra alone accounted for more than three-fourths of the enhanced value under produce and raw materials, Para rubber giving the next important advance, followed by oils, gum copal, and gutta jelutong.

Borneo rubber, coal, gutta percha, sticklac, and gambodge fell off in value under the class.

Manufactured metals imported rose in the value of hardware and ironware, machinery, cycles, motor cars and parts, steel, tin plates, corrugated and bar iron, tools and implements, copperware, and brassware, &c., telegraph and telephone materials and zincware alone declining in value received.

Of manufactured goods not comprised in the textile or metal classes, increases are seen in musical instruments, leatherware, ships' stores, cabinetware, cement, earthenware and crockery, woodenware, photographic materials, and paints.

Matches, japanware, and paperware are the only declines of consequence, but japanese goods are now more properly declared under other items.

The decline in the value of tin and tin ore is attributable to smaller imports and lower prices.

Manufactured textiles show the enormous decline in the value of plain cottons imported of nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, prints also giving less value as well as gunnies, yarns, sarongs, silk piece goods and twine.

Dyed cottons, woollen cloth, apparel, umbrellas, cotton and woollen blankets and unenumerated textiles as well as Manila rope furnished advances in value.

Rice from Siam fell off in quantity but French Indo-China and Burma were larger suppliers than in 1906, and of the total import over 95 per cent. was re-exported.

The average import price of Benares opium slightly rose, an increase in import quantities meeting a decrease in exports.

Sugar from Java ports fell off and export movements corresponded, but from Penang to the United Kingdom a considerable increase in locally-produced cane is noted.

A decline is seen in the quantity and value of dried fish imported, Bangkok and French Indo-China supplying less.

It is estimated that over 75 per cent. of the wheat flour brought here is of Australian origin, 12 per cent. American, 8 per cent. Indian and the balance the product of a mill recently established at Hong Kong.

European tobacco is said to have had a record year in sales, imports of this class increasing from the United Kingdom, and an enormous increase from the United States of low-priced cigarettes was observed.

Although imports of European spirits fell off, there was a good market for gin, and the tendency was most marked in favour of better-class brandies since the introduction of the higher duties.

Malt liquors fell off in the total quantity imported, but Scotch brews found an increasing market at the expense of German makes.

Frozen meat brought from Australia considerably increased, the military now being supplied with this class.

Cement from the United Kingdom fell off largely owing, it is alleged, to the difficulty of procuring tonnage, notwithstanding increased rates of freight.

Candles of Burmese make have entirely taken the place of Continental.

A tendency in buyers towards better-class perfumery, especially French, is noticeable.

A large increase in the value of musical instruments, gramophone and records especially, is seen, as well as in cinematograph accessories and stereoscopic views, all included under photographic materials.

Earthenware and crockery sold freely, French tiles finding a good market.

An increasing quantity of Japan pressed glass found its way here.

The motor car industry has been exceedingly active as regards sales, but the Colonial market is limited and many of the places traded with do not afford facilities for their use.

There was for some time a considerable demand for mining machinery and agricultural implements, but the depressed state of the tin market checked expansion.

Coal imports decreased, especially from Australia and Bengal, but Japan sent 167,000 tons more, which is still, however, under the average of former years.

Much the same quantity of petroleum was received for sale locally, Sumatra and Borneo brands increasing, but American declining.

The quantity received for transhipment also varied little, except in benzine, which largely increased.

The distribution of all kinds of oil is now under the control of a combine, and competition being eliminated prices have risen by about 30 per cent. since the beginning of the year.

The value of imports for the last five years from the different countries was:—

('000 omitted.)

Merchandise.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom	34,405	32,580	33,758	35,210	35,636
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	166,458	156,439	151,526	148,558	150,302
Foreign Countries	136,933	136,849	134,493	134,083	136,930
Inter-Settlement	12,333	11,195	11,844	12,499	12,560
Total	350,129	337,063	331,621	330,350	335,428
Treasure	52,908	46,879	13,417	22,181	29,064
Grand Total ...	403,037	383,942	345,038	352,531	364,492

and the same according to classes shows the merchandise in dollars and sterling, '000 omitted, as follows:—

—		1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	$	134,472	128,746	127,505	125,528	126,991
	£	11,830	12,336	13,011	14,645	14,816
Raw materials	$	140,918	135,652	132,538	133,870	135,987
	£	12,433	13,005	13,519	15,618	15,865
Manufactured articles ...	$	74,739	72,665	71,577	70,951	72,450
	£	6,619	6,964	7,317	8,278	8,453

Exports.

The gross total exports from the three Settlements to all places and to each other valued over 319½ million dollars, of which over 295 million dollars represented merchandise.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the principal exports shows:—

—	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.		
Sago	50,002	59,244	9,242	—
Coffee...	3,704	2,907	—	797
Gambier	38,976	34,158	—	4,818
Gums...	31,321	36,963	5,642	—
Hides...	5,711	5,400	—	311
Spices...	79,221	81,455	2,234	—
Tapioca	42,325	39,405	—	2,920
Copra...	40,772	56,771	15,999	—
Rattans	26,460	27,696	1,236	—
Tin	59,091	56,518	—	2,573
	Cases.	Cases.		
Preserved pineapples ...	707,498	845,976	138,478	—
	lbs.	lbs.		
Para rubber (included in gums).	941,665	2,090,000	1,148,335	—

There is an increase of $1\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars in the value of goods sent out compared with the previous year, animals, foods, drinks, and narcotics accounting for nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars increase, while produce and raw materials fell by over one million dollars, and manufactured goods by $220,000.

Under raw materials, metals, including tin and tin ore, fell off by $5\frac{7}{10}$th million dollars, produce rising by nearly $4\frac{9}{10}$th million, and raw textiles declining by $213,000.

Foodstuffs and manufactured goods generally responded in sympathy when there were heavy fluctuations on the import side.

The volume of produce sent off represented by tin, gambier, copra, coffee, hides, sago, rattans, tapioca, gums and spices amounted to 400,516 tons, an increase of 22,933, of which copra alone accounted for 16,000 tons.

Taking the average output for the five years ended 1906 increases are seen in 1907 in the exports of all the principal articles except tapioca, gambier, coffee, and tin.

The prices for the different classes of Straits produce show at the close of the year a fall compared with those at the beginning in tin, cube gambier, copra, pepper, rattans, hides, tapioca, and Borneo and Para rubbers.

The reduced demand for tin, exports falling by $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in volume, combined with the financial crisis in the United States, caused prices to fall, in spite of Chinese holders retaining stocks and the loss at the close of the year was about £70 per ton over prices at the beginning.

Copra has shown enormous expansion all over the East, but the reduction in homeward freights as well as an alleged

stricter adherence to the Conference rates at Macassar and Java ports has probably attracted the article to Singapore.

The drop in the price of Santos coffee made it profitable to import here and sell in competition with that from the Dutch Indies.

Imports of tin ore from Australia rose largely, but smaller supplies were received from the Dutch mines.

The preserving and tinning of pineapples is a large and important local industry and greatly increased quantities were exported, but prices have been very poor and the markets are said to be largely overstocked.

Sago gave increased exports but tapioca fell off, Malacca territory producing less.

Black pepper exports increased though prices for both kinds have fallen considerably.

The output of gambier is slowly decreasing in face of substitutes now used, and a natural disinclination to grant land for this purpose owing to its injurious effects on the soil. At the same time the decline in output has been accompanied by a fall in price.

The great increase in Para rubber, about 2,090,000 lbs. being sent out valued at nearly 4½ million dollars, is owing to increased production in the Federated Malay States.

The United Kingdom received 78 per cent. of the whole, Ceylon, Belgium, Australia, Denmark, the United States, and Japan taking the balance between them.

Borneo rubber decreased in volume sent out and gutta percha advanced, but mostly in the lower grades, while the output of gutta jelutong rose considerably.

An increase in the trade of gum copal is apparent, but benjamin exports declined.

The value of exports for the last five years to the different countries was:—

('000 omitted.)

Merchandise.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom	55,304	54,202	56,851	66,493	67,712
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	60,287	54,603	65,140	70,062	74,236
Foreign Countries	156,618	146,633	143,193	144,718	140,231
Inter-Settlement	11,408	9,720	12,404	12,568	12,870
Total	283,617	265,158	277,588	293,841	295,049
Treasure	53,081	61,035	18,660	30,608	24,517
Grand Total ...	336,698	326,193	296,248	324,449	319,566

and the same according to classes shows the merchandise in dollars and sterling, '000 omitted, as follows:—

—		1903.	1904	1905.	1906.	1907.
Live animals, food, drinks, and narcotics.	$	117,168	106,564	112,082	116,665	119,127
	£	10,313	10,211	11,426	13,611	13,898
Raw materials	$	131,831	132,631	127,458	135,188	134,153
	£	11,344	11,666	13,018	15,772	15,651
Manufactured articles ...	$	33,819	34,399	38,048	41,989	41,769
	£	2,980	3,300	3,889	4,899	4,873

Trade by Countries.

The imports from the United Kingdom valued over 35⅔ million dollars, an advance of $426,000.

The larger advances took place in manufactured metals seen in such articles as machinery, ironware and hardware, tin plates, steel, cycles, and motor cars, and corrugated iron.

Woollen cloth, sarongs, and sewing-thread advanced in the textile class, but cotton piece goods declined by 2¼ million dollars, and dyed yarn by $326,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom valued 67 7/10th million dollars, an advance of 1⅕th million.

Para rubber values rose by 1⅗th million dollars followed by tapioca, sugar, copra, sago flour, hides, and coconut oil.

Tin, gutta percha, and Borneo rubber were responsible for the principal declines.

The value of imports from the Continent of Europe rose to nearly 18 million dollars, an increase of about 1 9/10th million.

The order of importance in the advance was Germany, Italy, Austria, Holland, Spain, and Russia.

France, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, with Belgium, sent less value of goods.

German supplies increased in apparel and hosiery, hardware and ironware, woollen cloth, and milk.

Milk and cottons from Italy also advanced, as well as Sarongs, hardware and earthenware from Holland, hardware and ironware and cement from Austria, salt and tinned goods from Spain, cement from Russia, and tram and rail materials, paints and cottons from Belgium.

The declines are seen in wire nails and cement from Germany, apparel and sarongs from Italy, cottons from Holland, milk, perfumery, and telephone materials from Belgium, sugar from Austria, brandy and Swiss milk from France, cement from Denmark, and matches and milk from Sweden and Norway.

Exports to the Continent of Europe valued over 34½ million dollars, an increase of over 2 million.

To Russia, Italy, Belgium, Spain, and Germany increased values in that order were sent, while Austria, Denmark, France, Holland, and Sweden and Norway took reduced values.

The value of produce sent to France rose in copra, but fell in tin, flake tapioca, gambier, rattans, coffee, illipi nuts, and white pepper.

Increased exports of gutta percha, copra, gum copal, pearl tapioca, tin, black pepper, and rattans were sent to Germany, but a large decline is noted in Borneo and India rubbers and white pepper.

Enhanced values of tin, copra, and black pepper were sent to Italy, copra and tin to Russia, copra and Para rubber to Belgium, and copra to Spain.

Declines in the export of copra, pepper, and tin to Austria, white pepper to Belgium, and of copra, black pepper, and gambier to Denmark are apparent.

Imports from the United States of America valued nearly 3⅗th million dollars, an advance of $894,000, the following articles giving advanced values: cigarettes, tallow and lard, metals excluding machinery, wheat flour, oilman's stores, and perfumery.

Machinery and petroleum received fell off in value.

Exports to the United States valued 25⅔th million dollars, a fall of over 9¼ million.

Tin alone fell by 7⅗th million dollars, followed by gambier, pepper, Borneo rubber, tapioca flour, rattans, coffee, &c.

The increases were in preserved pineapples, gum copal, tapioca pearl and flake, and gutta jèlutong.

Imports from British India and Burma valued nearly 42 million dollars, an advance of 1⅗th million.

The value of coal and gunny bags from Calcutta fell off, but opium increased.

Rice from Burma ports, cattle, goats' skins, and oilcakes from Madras and dyed yarn, fruits, wax, and curry-stuffs from Bombay all rose in value, but sarongs and cottons fell in value from Madras ports.

Exports to British India and Burma valued 13 7/10th million dollars, an increase of $96,000 only.

Declines are seen in arecanuts and sticklac to Calcutta, arecanuts and raw silk to Burma, coffee and gum benjamin to Bombay, and goats' skins, cottons, and arecanuts to Madras ports.

Increased values were sent to Calcutta of tin and pearl sago, provisions, fish, matches, curry-stuffs, and sarongs to Burma ports, and tin and arecanuts to Bombay.

From the Federated Malay States the value received was $73\frac{1}{10}$th million dollars, a fall of over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million, but these figures exclude the rail traffic between Perak and Penang.

Tin in slabs declined by over $6\frac{1}{10}$th million dollars received, followed by coffee and sugar, but were met by heavy advances in tin ore, Para rubber, pearl tapioca, and copra.

Exports to the Federated Malay States valued $38\frac{4}{5}$th million dollars, an advance of $4\frac{1}{10}$th million.

Rice, cottons, swine, cigars, and cigarettes, kachang oil, beans and peas, and ironware all rose in value sent and to a less extent sugar provisions, milk, bran, fish, coconut oil, paperware, and medicines.

Malt liquors, apparel and hosiery, and cattle values sent fell off.

The value of imports from the Dutch Indies was over 49 million dollars, a fall of $1\frac{4}{5}$th million.

From Sumatra black pepper and arecanuts, Borneo and india rubbers, gutta percha, illipi nuts, gum benjamin, wax, and tobacco all declined.

Copra, gutta percha, and india rubber advanced in value from Dutch Borneo, but Borneo rubber, jelutong, and rattans fell off.

Sugar from Java declined by nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, but curry-stuffs, sarongs, arecanuts, tobacco, black pepper, and birds' nests also show reduced values, tapioca flour being the only increase of importance.

Copra increased from the Celebes, including Moluccas ports and the Dutch Islands, as well as gum copal, hides, and rattans, and greater values of dried fish and copra were received from the smaller Dutch Islands.

Tin ore, however, fell off from the islands, as well as slab tin, pepper, and fresh fish.

Greater values of copra and swine are seen from Bali and Lambok, but less of coffee, cattle, and raw cotton.

Black pepper from Acheen increased in value, arecanuts falling off, while from the Natunas and Anambas Islands copra advanced, but cube gambier and white pepper from Rhio continued to decline.

The value of exports to the Dutch Indies valued nearly $40\frac{3}{5}$th million, a decline of about $1\frac{1}{5}$th million dollars.

Rice, fish, coconut oil, and gunnies declined to Java ports, lubricating oil alone showing an increase, while increases, though small, were numerous to Sumatra, seen especially in cottons, rice, opium, coconut oil, and sarongs, tin alone showing a reduced value sent.

Opium, gambier, and matches to the Celebes and Moluccas fell off, but cottons rose as well as rice to the smaller islands.

While more rice was sent to Dutch Borneo cottons and sarongs show decreased values, there being, however, several small advances in other goods.

Values of cottons, opium, and fireworks to Achinese ports fell off, and to Rhio opium also declined, but rice to the Natunas and Anambas groups gave advanced values.

The variations in goods sent to Bali and Lombok were not of much moment.

From the Malay Peninsula, excluding the Federated Malay States, viz., Johore, Kelantan, and Trengganu, as well as the States more or less in the Siamese sphere of influence, viz., Patani and Singora, imports valued nearly 13 million dollars, an increase of $446,000.

Black pepper, tin ore, gutta percha, and fresh fruits from Johore all fell in value, but copra, arecanuts, and gambier increased.

From Kelantan fish, copra, arecanuts, and padi gave enhanced values, cattle alone decreasing; from Trengganu padi and tin ore increased but black pepper declined; and while cattle and padi from Patani, and swine and padi from Singora advanced, tin from Patani fell off.

Exports to these places valued over 6½ million dollars, an advance of $670,000.

Rice values rose to Johore, but railway materials fell off; yarn and sarongs rose to Kelantan and yarn to Patani, but the value of rice to Trengganu declined.

Imports from Siam and Siam West Coast valued nearly 30 million dollars, a fall of about 3½ million.

Rice from Bangkok fell off by $2\frac{7}{10}$th million, followed by declines in the values of fish and sticklac and tin and firewood from the places on the coast, but tin ore, swine, and rice rose from the last named.

Exports to Siam and Siam West Coast valued $17\frac{1}{5}$th million dollars, a fall of $444,000.

Gunnies, sarongs, cotton piece goods, yarn, sugar, and arecanuts to Bangkok declined, but opium and coconut oil values advanced.

Cottons and rice rose in value to Siam West Coast.

The imports from Hong Kong and China valued $28\frac{1}{3}$rd million dollars, a rise of $1\frac{7}{10}$th million.

From Hong Kong tobacco, kachang oil, lard, tin, preserved vegetables, and provisions rose in value, but jewellery, silk piece goods, matches, and paperware fell off.

Kachang oil, preserved vegetables, lard, and joss sticks, and paper increased in value from China, twine imports declining.

Exports to Hong Kong and China valued $16\frac{3}{5}$th million dollars, a fall of over a million.

Tin, rice, and rattan values rose to Hong Kong, but declined in sugar and sugar-candy, pepper, preserved pines, Benares opium, raw cottons, gunnies, bêche-de-mer, and tobacco.

Tin and rice values increased to China, while opium, sugar, preserved fruits, and birds' nests fell off.

From French Indo-China imports rose principally in rice, the value of swine declining and exports also advanced seen in greater values of gunnies, lubricating oil, and arecanuts, but exports of grey yarn, gambier, and wax fell off.

Imports declined from British North Borneo and Sarawak while exports rose.

Gutta jelutong, sago flour, gutta percha, and rattans from Sarawak increased in value, but white pepper, Borneo rubber, and coal declined, while rice and cotton piece goods sent rose in value.

Rattans fell off from British North Borneo, but goods sent give an increase in the total.

Imports from Japan increased by two million dollars seen in greater values of coal, fish, umbrellas, apparel and hosiery, and carriage materials, chiefly jinrikishas received, but japan-ware declined as well as silk piece goods.

An advance in exports of $204,000 is recorded, Borneo rubber and rice accounting for the increase.

Observations on Trade.

The condition of trade in 1907 affords small grounds for satisfaction.

Although exports generally show greater volume than in 1906, prices were lower except in a few articles, and the sales of cotton piece goods were below normal both as to turnover and prices.

The low prices of produce, the slump in the tin market, Chinese speculation in eastern exchange, and the calling in of capital by the Indian chetties or money-lenders, all contributed to depress the local market.

Up to the close of September, metals and hard goods generally were benefited by the rising home prices, but a check was then given, and some expensive stocks were on hand in a financially weak bazaar, evidenced by several large dealers being forced to suspend payment.

Imports of piece goods were lower in quantity than in any year since 1896, giving a fall of 17 per cent. in quantity compared with the annual average for the decade ended 1897 and 16·4 per cent. compared with that for the decade ended 1907.

Stocks of textiles especially are still unduly high in certain classes, and a disquieting increase is observable in the direct

shipments from the United Kingdom to Bangkok, our best market in grey and white goods as well as prints.

It is, however, stated by the Registrar of Imports and exports in his Annual Report that this abnormal advance did not appear to be in answer to any great demand, but was due to the attempts of new firms to push a business by giving extended credits and selling at cutting rates, and the stocks of the class are said to be still heavy, being only slowly absorbed.

The proximity of Singapore to Bangkok, its ability to satisfy demands at short notice and in small quantities of the most favoured class of goods, in conjunction with the strong position of the large Chinese rice merchants here, are advantages of which Singapore cannot well be deprived.

The Federated Malay States, Sarawak, and Borneo, and the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula are promising markets for our imports.

The import of European metals averaged $8,178,000 for the decade ended 1906 compared with which 1907 showed 41 per cent. more value, but the figures have been to some extent affected by the imports of materials for the construction of important Government and Municipal works now in progress.

The United Kingdom sent metals to the value of $7\frac{8}{10}$th million dollars, a rise of about $1\frac{7}{10}$th million, or 27 per cent. over 1906 imports, the Continent of Europe over $3\frac{1}{5}$th million, an advance of $688,000, or about the same percentage of increase, and the United States of America half-a-million dollars, an advance of $154,000, or over 43 per cent.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

During the year a considerable increase in the cultivation of Para rubber was noticeable throughout the Colony, every suitable bit of land being planted up with it. Indigo is still largely cultivated in the district round Thomson Road and Serangoon Road, and shows no signs of decrease.

A large increase in the cultivation of native vegetables is noticeable and the fruit crop was unusually heavy. Cocoanut plantations were extended to the Tampinis River.

Trials of the cultivation of ground-nuts and soy-beans were made in the Serangoon district in Singapore. Soy is manufactured largely in Singapore from beans imported from China. If a strain could be procured which would fruit well in this climate, it would form a valuable industry.

Pineapple cultivation remained steady, no great progress in it was seen. Sago still continues in demand in Singapore. Ramie and sanseviera are being cultivated to some considerable extent in Province Wellesley and Johore.

Lemon-grass has been widely cultivated as a catch crop between coconuts, as well as in many places through rubber.

The rubber experiments in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, were continued.

The planting of rubber by European companies in Province Wellesley has continued to extend notwithstanding a decline in the price of rubber.

The area planted in Penang Island still continues insignificant. One application for 500 acres of hill land on the west side of the island to be planted with rubber was received from a Chinese syndicate.

The export of Para rubber from Penang in 1907 amounted to 324,464 lbs. against 79,968 lbs. in 1906. Very little of this was from the Settlement of Penang. The Gardens Department are experimenting with Manicoba rubber at Tasek Glugor, in Province Wellesley.

The prices of tapioca have been gradually falling from the high level reached in 1906 and the area under cultivation is diminishing. This product comes chiefly from the Malakoff and Alma Estates, in Province Wellesley, and from Chinese-owned estates in South Kedah, adjoining the Province Wellesley border. It is largely planted as a catch crop with rubber.

1907 was a good year for coconuts and copra. Sugar cultivation is decreasing, the outturn for 1907 from Province Wellesley is stated to have been 7,000 tons against 11,000 of the previous year.

The clove and nutmeg plantations are gradually disappearing, but there are still many fine clove gardens on the hills—all owned by Chinese.

The fruit season was a very good one.

The rice crops in several Mukims both in Penang and Province Wellesley were reported to have failed entirely. Nowhere was the yield better than 500 gantangs per acre—the average was probably below 300. (8 gantangs = 1 bushel.)

Penang was well represented at the Agricultural Show at Kuala Kangsar in August, 1907, and many of the exhibits took prizes.

Land Grants.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued and the premia paid for the same during the last five years are as follows:—

Singapore.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Area granted	a. r. p. 844 1 22 sq. ft. 502 717	a. r. p. 469 0 37 sq. ft. 284 768	a. r. p. 169 2 34 sq. ft. 46,451	a. r. p. 5,895 0 23 sq. ft. 805,636	a. r. p. 119 3 28 sq. ft. 327,687
Number of statutory grants issued.	197	77	97	237	63
Premia paid	$189,640·60	$35,035·50	$165·60	$69,506·30	$12,623·00

Penang.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Area granted	a. r. p. 2,593 0 09 sq. ft. 36,522	a. r. p. 2,293 3 36 sq. ft. 5,450	a. r. p. 1,102 2 31	a. r. p. 1,487 0 20	a. r. p. 6,927 3 35 sq. ft. 300,916
Number of statutory grants issued.	165	295	470	301	352
Premia paid	$115,351·99	$1,654·26	$932·25	$2,279·70	$10,532·66

Malacca.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Area granted	a. r. p. 6,104 2 34	a. r. p. 3,230 1 24 sq. ft. 2,433	a. r. p. 4,137 3 25	a. r. p. 3,249 0 34½	a. r. p. 10,451 1 16 sq. ft. 9,159
Number of statutory grants issued.	163	156	113	92	*270
Premia paid	$21,409·06	$13,200	$15,233·95	$45,042·75	$51,774·70

* 249 Statutory Grants. 21 Mining Leases.

The total land revenue collected in Singapore was $168,895 compared with $147,411 in 1906.

The settlement of about 56 acres of land in Kampong Glam held under defective titles was proceeded with, and by the end of the year was approaching completion.

The demarcation of the island in connection with the re-survey was completed in August, none of the re-survey sheets had been published by the end of the year, but the whole town and a large part of the country has been completed, and the sheets will be issued block by block in 1908.

Two valuable properties were acquired for the Harbour Improvement Scheme, 199,355 square feet at Mount Wallich at a cost of $380,000, and 2 roods and 17 poles off Tanjong Pagar Road at a cost of $50,000.

In Penang the land market remained extremely dull throughout the year.

Government purchased the property known as "Huntley Lodge," in Macalister Road, for $22,500, and a large portion of the Ayer Rajah Estate for $18,000.

A large portion of the Sungai Pinang Reclamation was available for sale, but only one application was received. It was decided, owing to the dull state of the market, to defer the question of putting up some of the land to auction.

In Malacca, there has of recent years been a distinct appreciation in the value of land, especially in the neighbourhood of the town. And this is true not only of house property but also of agricultural holdings. High prices were the rule in 1907.

The registration of "customary" lands in Malacca has made but slow progress, and cannot be completed for some years yet. It was rendered necessary by the recent re-survey of a number of districts.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 20,055,874, as compared with 19,711,498 in 1906. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

Nationality.	1906.				1907.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
American ..	7,422	—	—	7,422	4,144	—	—	4,144
Austrian ..	206,650	178,330	—	384,980	234,527	194,646	—	429,173
British ..	7,210,897	3,932,572	619,290	11,762,759	7,120,883	3,968,438	554,762	11,644,083
Chinese ..	—	—	—	—	2,856	—	—	2,856
Danish ..	159,709	20,442	—	180,151	48,622	13,086	—	61,708
Dutch	1,354,996	217,192	20,042	1,592,230	1,484,577	233,178	13,016	1,730,771
French ..	779,929	42,552	-	822,481	904,268	24,278	—	928,546
German ..	1,948,987	992,432	332	2,941,741	1,836,444	1,005,156	—	2,841,600
Italian ..	138,371	73,584	588	212,543	126,684	68,844	—	195,528
Japanese ..	479,706	148,990	—	628,696	861,747	293,880	—	1,155,627
Norwegian ..	438,964	120,738	—	559,702	366,983	80,462	—	447,445
Russian ..	319,954	5,512	—	325,466	313,000	22,038	—	335,038
Sarawak ..	94,570	—	—	94,570	95,768	—	—	95,768
Siamese ..	35,577	—	—	35,577	39,523	—	—	39,523
Spanish ..	140,934	—	—	140,934	133,366	—	—	133,366
Swedish ..	17,672	4,574	—	22,246	6,338	4,360	—	10,698
Total ..	13,334,338	5,736,918	640,242	19,711,498	13,579,730	5,908,366	567,778	20,055,874

The increase over 1906 is therefore 344,376 tons.

The principal increases are:—Japanese, 526,931 tons; Dutch, 138,541 tons; French, 106,065 tons; and Austrian, 44,193 tons.

The decreases are:—British, 118,676 tons; Danish, 118,443 tons; Norwegian, 112,257 tons; German, 100,141 tons; Italian 17,015 tons; and Swedish, 11,548 tons.

The great increase in Japanese tonnage is due to extra steamers put on the Japan to Bombay run and to her recovery from the effects of the war. The increase in 1907 as compared with 1903 (the year before the war) is 324,587 tons only.

The French and Dutch increases are accounted for by new large steamers having been added to the lines trading between Europe and the far East.

Comparative Statement of Merchant Vessels Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	18,404,383	18,267,499	18,890,600	19,711,498	20,055,874

It will thus be seen that the tonnage as compared with 1903 has increased by 1,651,491 tons.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 tons.

—	1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Arrivals	15,649	737,921	15,210	709,898
Departures	15,783	746,880	15,379	721,738
Total	31,432	1,484,801	30,589	1,431,636

The decrease as compared with 1906 is 53,165 tons.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamers under 50 tons, Entered and Cleared, for last Five Years.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	1,620,365	1,566,976	1,544,284	1,484,801	1,431,636

As compared with 1903 this native craft tonnage has decreased by 188,729 tons. This decrease is probably due to the fact that steamers of medium tonnage now call at ports which were not visited formerly.

The amount realized by light dues was $221,482.85.

The total collections under this head for the last five years are as follows:—

	$	c.
1903	209,649	35
1904	213,203	90
1905	222,997	61
1906	223,387	94
1907	221,482	85

During the year seven new steamers with a tonnage of 620 tons and sailing vessels of 2,114 tons were registered under the Imperial and Colonial Shipping Acts. Six new sailing vessels of 634 tons were registered under Ordinance V. of 1883; also 859 of 6,720 tons under Ordinance VIII. of 1872.

LEGISLATION.

Of the thirty-seven Ordinances passed during the year, seventeen were amendments to existing Ordinances. Three dealt with supply, three with loans, one (the Repeals Ordinance) was merely passed to repeal a number of obsolete laws, and the remainder were either new laws or re-enactments in a consolidated or improved form of existing laws.

The most important of the new Ordinances are the Courts Ordinance and the Civil Procedure Code, which were framed by a Committee appointed by the Governor for that purpose. The functions and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court have been entirely re-modelled and assimilated with that of England, and an attempt has been made to consolidate the whole of the law relating to the legal profession. The most important change, however, in the legal system, is the inauguration of District Courts, with civil jurisdiction up to $500 and a limited jurisdiction in cases between landlord and tenant, administration actions, grants of probate, and proceedings relating to distress for rent.

A Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council to give the Supreme Court jurisdiction in divorce cases.

The Civil Procedure Code, 1907, adopted the English law so far as it is applicable; but where the law is not covered by the Rules and Orders relating to the general practice and procedure of the Supreme Court in England, the existing law has been preserved.

"The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Ordinance, 1907," was necessitated by the passing of "The Courts Ordinance, 1907," the primary object being the adaptation of "The Criminal Procedure Code, 1900," to the new system of District Courts inaugurated by the Courts Ordinance, 1907. A com-

prehensive chapter dealing with the procedure in cases of *Habeas Corpus,* was inserted in order to carry out the provisions of the Imperial Extradition Acts.

Another important Ordinance was "The Stamp Ordinance, 1907," which was introduced with a view to raising revenue, more especially from the death duties on large estates. The Ordinance was the subject of careful scrutiny on the part of the local Chambers of Commerce and of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, and the rates of duty were in several cases reduced to meet their views. The Ordinance did not come into force until February 1st, 1908.

Labuan became part of the Settlement of Singapore on January 1st, 1907, and three Ordinances were passed to place its legal status on a satisfactory footing.

It was necessary to raise a loan of £7,861,457 for the purpose of paying the Tanjong Pagar Award, redeeming the outstanding debentures of the Board, constructing the works at Tanjong Pagar and Singapore Harbour, and other purposes. Part of this sum has been lent to the Municipalities of Singapore and Penang to enable them to undertake works of public utility and to enlarge the existing Water Works. Two Ordinances extending the borrowing powers of the Municipal Commissioners of Singapore and Penang were accordingly passed to carry into effect the purposes of the loan.

It was found necessary to deal by law with the use of cocaine and similar drugs amongst the coolie classes, and "The Morphine Ordinance, 1904," of which the scope was confined to that particular drug, was accordingly repealed, and a new Ordinance was passed under the title of "The Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, 1907," to prevent the illicit use of all drugs which the Governor in Council might consider physically and morally injurious. I regret to say that despite the vigilance of the police, the large number of convictions and the deterrent sentences imposed by the magistrates, the profits of the pernicious trade are so large that the number of professional injectors is on the increase. A Bill on somewhat more stringent lines than the present Ordinance will be introduced into the Legislative Council to cope with this evil.

The Government of the Federated Malay States having expressed its desire to restrict the practice of medicine to qualified persons, the Medical Registration Ordinance, 1905, was repealed. A new Ordinance under a similar title consolidated the law in this respect, and provision was made for the establishment of a Medical Council common to the Colony and Federated Malay States.

In order to procure a cheap and abundant labour force to cope with the increased demand for labour caused by the rapid development of the rubber industry in the Malay Peninsula, a representative Committee was appointed by the Governments of the Colony and Federated Malay States to enquire

into and report upon the best system of recruiting labour from the Madras Presidency. In accordance with the recommendation of this Committee, the Tamil Immigration Fund Ordinance has instituted a fund, subscribed by the estates which employ Tamil labour, to provide for direct recruiting in India by the officers of this Government and for cheap and regular passages by the British India line of steamers. The Government has also been in correspondence with the Government of Netherlands India with a view to obtaining the importation of Javanese labour for employment on rubber and agricultural estates.

Owing to the growth of the savings bank system and the economic development of the Malay Peninsula, "The Government Savings Bank Ordinance, 1879," had become obsolete. It was necessary to repeal the old law and to legislate afresh for modern requirements.

The only other Ordinance to which it is necessary to refer is "The Municipal Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1907." It is based on the report of Professor W. J. Simpson, who was engaged to enquire into and advise upon the various measures necessary for promoting the health of the towns.

A Bill codifying the law relating to Trustees and incorporating the latest English legislation on the subject has been drafted by the Attorney-General, and an Ordinance bringing the law regarding companies up to date is also in course of preparation.

The Merchant Shipping Bill, which was sent to the Board of Trade at the end of 1905 before the passing of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, was received from that department at the beginning of this year. The work of incorporating the suggestions of the Board of Trade and such of the provisions of the Imperial Act as are applicable to the Colony is being steadily proceeded with, and it is hoped that before long this measure will be introduced into the Legislative Council.

EDUCATION.

Nearly all the schools of the Colony are vernacular schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools, which are 173 in number, are defrayed by Government and they provide free tuition in Malay to some eleven thousand one hundred and forty-two pupils. The remaining schools are, with the exception of three which are controlled and financed by Government, aided-schools managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Governments.

The net expenditure on Government Schools was $51,195.27, on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese),

$106,010.20, and on Government Vernacular Schools, $83,430.69.

The cost of the Malacca Training College for Malay teachers during the year under review was $8,065.83. The value of this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the vernacular schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before the schools in these Settlements are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The commercial and science classes at the Raffles Institution have made satisfactory progress during the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, while the estate hospitals maintained by the planters are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, was 26,196, as against 24,696 in 1906. In Singapore 197 patients were admitted into the lunatic asylum, the number during the previous year being 231.

The number of patients treated in the hospitals was 28,708, of whom 1,193 were Europeans: the corresponding figures for 1906 were 27,340 and 1,103, respectively. Of these the deaths numbered 3,688 (74 being Europeans); the rate of mortality shows a percentage of 12·85 of the total number of cases treated as compared with 14·01 recorded for 1906. These figures include 483 cases, with 57 deaths, at the lunatic asylum.

The inmates of the various Leper Hospitals, the majority of whom are quartered at Pulau Jerejak, numbered 389 at the close of the year as compared with 391 in 1906. One hundred and thirty-five deaths occurred as against 154 in 1906.

Reformatory.

The number of boys in the Reformatory at the end of the year was 68: the highest number during the year was 68 and the lowest 53. The new permanent buildings, to accommodate 120, were finished early in 1906. The health of the inmates has been very good throughout the year. Instruction is given at the school in English and Romanized Malay, and at the workshops in tailoring, carpentering, and shoemaking. Bread-making and vegetable planting were introduced during the year, and the boys make their own bread and grow their own vegetables. The expenditure amounted to $9,105 as against $8,391 in 1906.

Savings Bank.

The transactions in this branch amounted to $415,926 (Deposits), and $416,442 (Withdrawals), as compared with $393,889 and $385,013 in 1906. The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was $598,882 (in 1906, $582,236).

The investments at the close of the year stood at $618,620 as compared with $587,438 at the corresponding period of the previous year: the details are as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent. Rupee Paper ...	368,120
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 5 per cent. ...	58,149
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 4 per cent. ...	74,300
Fixed Deposits at the Chartered Bank, at 4 per cent.	60,000
Cape Stock, at 3 per cent.	8,516
Queensland Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	16,212
Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan	15,535
Cardiff Corporation Stock, at 3 per cent.	17,788
Total	618,620

POLICE.

The police force numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

Sixty-six boys have passed through the training depôt at Malacca for the instruction of recruits since it was opened in October, 1906.

Prisons.

The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons during 1906 and 1907 were as follows:—

		1906.	1907.
Singapore ...	Criminal ...	920·00 ...	852·00
	Civil ...	53·90 ...	53·35
Penang ...	Criminal ...	300·91 ...	208·81
	Civil ...	25·91 ...	18·58
Malacca ...	Criminal ...	24·07 ...	24·98
	Civil ...	9·53 ...	11·65

The consistent practice of banishing habitual criminals (358 in 1907) has had the salutary effect of reducing the number of inmates and of checking the re-admissions of old offenders.

The health of the prisoners was uniformly good, the number of deaths being at Singapore 20, at Penang 18, and at Malacca nil.

Criminal Statistics.

Twenty murders and seventy-two gang robberies were reported during the year; of the latter 35 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

There was on the whole less serious crime than in 1906, and this is attributed in a great measure to the banishment of habitual criminals.

One hundred and sixty-four persons as against 201 in 1906 were tried before the Supreme Court, 97 being convicted and 67 acquitted. Gang robbery and offences against property were the principal crimes. The lower Courts also had to deal with a smaller number of cases as compared with the previous year. The Bench Courts convicted 400 and acquitted 313 persons (total 713, in 1906, 864) whilst out of a total number of 48,736 who appeared before the Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts 36,641 were convicted and 11,008 were acquitted, the remainder being either committed for trial before the higher Courts or else not yet tried at the end of the year.

In 1906, 54,823 persons were brought before the Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 619,796 the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Sixteen thousand one hundred and eighty-one births and 24,220 deaths were registered as against 15,434 and 23,140, respectively, in 1906.

The death-rate was 39·07 per mille of the population. The rate in 1906 was 37·82.

The birth-rate was 26·11 per mille, as compared with 25·23 in 1906.

The deaths due to the more important specific or infectious diseases in 1907 were as follows:—

Small-pox 10 (one imported), as compared with 21 (8 imported) in 1906.

Cholera 228 (46 imported), as compared with 510 (244 imported) in 1906.

Beri-beri 1,626, as compared with 1,507 in 1906.

Plague 15, as compared with 10 (one imported) in 1906.

The stringent quarantine regulations and the vigilance of the medical and municipal authorities have hitherto prevented these scourges from finding a permanent home in the Colony.

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the municipality and in the several districts of Province Wellesley by Sanitary Boards with powers under the Municipal Ordinance.

Climate.

The mean temperature of the air at Singapore was 80·6° F. (maximum 88·2° and minimum 73·9°); Penang 80·3° (maximum 89·2°, minimum 73·5°); Malacca 79·9° (maximum 88·4°, minimum 72·9°).

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 81·25 inches; in Penang, 87·53 inches; in Province Wellesley, 76·78 inches; in the Dindings, 53·21 inches; and in Malacca, 71·35 inches.

The greatest fall in 24 hours was 6·72 inches in Province Wellesley on 14th November.

In spite of the high death-rate the climate in the towns and country which has long been opened up cannot be considered unhealthy for Europeans, who, if they take ordinary precautions and with their higher and more sanitary mode of life can to a great extent avoid the malarial and other tropical fevers and dysentery which attack the Oriental inhabitants of the peninsula.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Over 18,300,000 articles passed through the post office, of which over 640,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to $624,845, as against $593,705 in 1906. The expenditure was $448,275, an increase of $18,394, as compared with that of the preceding year. The money order business showed an increase of $187,539. The transactions in sterling amounted to £20,564 and those in Indian currency to Rs. 2,255,391, while in local currency business was done to the extent of $463,682, the aggregate being $1,964,139, as against $1,776,600 in 1906 and $2,206,305 in 1905.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system of the Federated Malay States are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company. This Company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government offices and police stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The telephone lines in Penang and Province Wellesley, 810 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the metallic circuit in Penang, but in Province Wellesley earth returns are used. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was 374 and there were in addition 57 service lines.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 213 miles of service lines.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SINGAPORE.

Among the more important public works completed during the year were three bungalows for Government officials and certain improvements and extensions were made to the hospitals and medical institutions. An opium factory was constructed at Telok Blangah which is rented by the farmers.

Considerable progress was also made in the construction of the new Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the foundations of 11 wards including baths and latrines being completed, and a commencement was made in the latter half of the year with the new Maternity Hospital. The erection of quarters for certain subordinate officers entitled to them was also put in hand.

Numerous improvements and repairs of a minor nature were effected to certain Government schools, police stations, and the prison.

The new ferro-concrete lighthouse at One Fathom Bank was practically completed, the new light being exhibited on 12th January, 1908. The lighthouse is octagonal in plan carried by 17 piles 24 inches and 18 inches in diameter, and includes service room quarters for lightkeeper and crew, visitors' room, office and armoury, store room for oil, water, and dry goods, and bath and lavatory accommodation. The light which was supplied by Messrs. Chance Brothers, Birmingham, is a second order occulting white light giving four flashes in quick succession every 15 seconds. The duration of each flash is one-third second followed by an eclipse of two seconds, the long interval between the groups of flashes being 7⅔rd seconds. The intensity of the light is 64,000 candles. It has a range of 15½ nautical miles, the focal plane being 92½ feet above high water. The total cost of the work will be $247,000.

The total amount expended by Government on public works special services, in Singapore, was $528,860·82.

Singapore Harbour Works.

In January, 1907, the staff of the contractors, Messrs. Sir John Jackson, Limited, came on the ground, and took possession of a piece of land for their workyard between Robinson Road and the sea front, extending from the Telok Ayer Market to Fort Palmer.

In April the engineering staff of Messrs. Coode, Son, and Matthews, the consulting engineers, arrived.

During the year the contractors built their import jetty, which extends for a length of nearly 600 feet out into the sea, near the Telok Ayer Market end of the yard.

Early in April, the contractors commenced clearing away the jungle at Pulau Ubin, and laying their temporary roads for opening up the quarry from whence they are obtaining their granite for the works.

A commencement was made with driving the staging for the southern end of the reclamation wall, in September, 1907, and the staging at the northern end, near Johnston's Pier, was commenced in October.

At the end of the year the state of the works was as follows: The contractors' office, bungalows for the European foremen, fitting shop, blacksmiths' shop, cement shed, locomotive house, and carpenters' shop had been erected: a stone crusher for breaking the granite from Pulau Ubin for concreting purposes, a concrete mixer, and the floor for building the concrete cylinder rings were completed, and the necessary railway lines laid throughout the yard.

One hundred and forty feet of staging had also been erected at each end for the commencement of the quay wall.

Pulau Ubin quarry at the end of the year had been opened up, and a jetty started for loading barges with broken stone for the works.

The numbers of men employed were:—On the quay wall and reclamation works, 365: at the quarry, 157: these figures including 61 Europeans. Amongst other plant on the works, the contractors had the following:—two locomotives, two 35-ton goliaths, four 10-ton steam cranes, six 5-ton steam cranes, one 15-ton hand crane, and 391 tons of cement in the cement shed.

Roads.

Under roads, streets, bridges, and canals, special services, the forming, draining, and metalling of Bedoh Road was completed, the earthwork in connection with the new road from Kranji to Woodlands was finished and a length of 1·13 miles metalled. Four brick and concrete culverts and two bridges of 10 feet and 15 feet span respectively were built.

The old earth formation West Coast Road for a length of 1·26 miles between Pandan and Jurong Rivers was raised an average height of 3·26 feet and two culverts built.

A new bridge of 20 feet span was constructed at the junction of Labrador Villa Road and Pasir Panjang Road.

A length of 6½ miles of road was re-metalled, chargeable to special service votes, and a further length of 13½ miles re-metalled from the vote for maintenance.

The total expenditure under roads, streets, bridges, and canals, special services, was $139,920.60.

The length of road under maintenance was 89·7 miles, of which 85 miles are metalled with granite and laterite, 2·7 gravelled, and 2 natural.

The dredger "Mudlark" removed 121,026 tons of silt from the Singapore River, 92,526 tons of which were removed in Chinese twakows and deposited in the Mount Zion Reclamation and the remainder removed to sea. A sum of $31,999·51 was spent in depositing dredging in the reclamation.

Penang.

The total expenditure, exclusive of establishment and other charges, &c., by the Public Works Department during 1907 in Penang, Province Wellesley, and the Dindings was $871,218·26.

In Penang the principal works taken in hand and completed were certain quarters for Government officers and improvements to the wards and low-lying grounds of the hospitals; the opium and spirit farm offices and factory were completed; a new tiled roof and hardwood timber trusses were put to St. George's Church, the reclamation at Sungai Pinang was completed, the new dredger from England was received and a new launch built locally for towing mud barges. A commencement was made with the extension of the Government offices to provide room for the Chinese Protectorate and Indian Immigration offices. The old Convalescent Bungalow was pulled down and a new bungalow commenced near the same site.

The Batu Feringgi Road was further extended and several decayed timber bridges were renewed in iron and masonry.

In Province Wellesley a new ward and a new dresser's quarters were built at Bukit Mertajam Hospital, a new isolation camp for animals was commenced near Butterworth, and also a new police station at Sungai Lembu. The extension of the water supply to Sungai Setar and Sungai Acheh, including a syphon under the Krian River, was completed.

Several decayed timber bridges and culverts were renewed in iron and masonry. Masonry drains were extended in several villages, and a new steam road-roller purchased from England.

The total cost of public works was $508,279.58, including establishment charges.

The total cost of roads, streets, bridges, and canals was $362,938.68.

Malacca.

All the works undertaken at Malacca were of a minor character and consisted chiefly of improvements, extensions, and alterations to certain Government buildings and the construction of additional quarters for the police and of two new vernacular schools.

The channel at entrance to Malacca River was deepened by means of a grab dredger. The quantity dredged was 20,134·80 tons at an average cost of 19¾ cents.

Where settlement had taken place the North and South Groynes were raised in order to prevent the sea washing over them and causing damage. The sum expended on this work was $5,000.

IMMIGRATION.

I.—Chinese.

The number of immigrants from China, viz., 227,342, was the largest which has ever been recorded. It exceeds that for 1903, the previous record year, by 3·1 per cent. The female immigrants formed 8·2 per cent. of the total. The total number of infants under three years of age was large; deducting those reported as leaving for other ports 525 male and 645 female infants were added to the population of the Colony. The number of "unpaid passengers," *i.e.*, of coolies who obtain free passages from China in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony has risen to 24,089. These "unpaid passengers" formed 10·5 per cent. of the total arrivals.

The totals for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1903	193,339	14,539	12,443	220,321
1904	179,650	14,395	10,751	204,796
1905	148,869	13,714	10,548	173,131
1906	153,624	12,478	10,485	176,587
1907	197,284	16,265	13,793*	227,342

* Boys, 10,377; Girls, 3,416

II.—Indian.

The figures for the last five years are appended:—

Year.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
1. Statute immigrants ...	572	2,721	4,823	3,674	5,499
2. Free coolies (with aided tickets).	1,980	3,556	7,687	20,215	24,709
3. Other immigrants ...	19,478	24,475	27,020	28,152	31,922

The figures for 1907 include 3,548 children.

Twenty-nine thousand six hundred and thirty-one adults and 891 children left the Colony for southern India.

The number of immigrants from south India shows an increase of 20 per cent. on the figures for 1906. This is in a great measure due to the development of the rubber-planting industry in the Colony and Federated Malay States, which has increased the demand for Tamils of the agricultural classes. Coolies are now shipped from Madras as well as from Negapatam, and recruiting depôts are established at both these ports. Of the 30,208 agricultural labourers who came over, about 14 per cent. were females.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue collected locally during the year 1907 amounted to $1,207.81 as against $1,670.46 in 1906. The royalty on the phosphate exported, which is paid in London, was £8,411 16*s.* 2*d.* as against £7,153 8*s.* 10*d.* in 1906 and £6,096 15*s.* 0*d.* in 1905.

The expenditure totalled $16,720.97, $11,810.20 being disbursed on the island and $4,910.77 in Singapore for passages of officers, &c.

The number of cases of crime shows a tendency to rise, being 190 in 1907 as compared with 183 in 1906 and 166 in 1905: the offences were all, however, of a trivial nature, with the exception of two persons who were banished for complicity in unlawful and secret societies.

Thirty-eight vessels were cleared in 1907, an increase of three over 1906, the total registered tonnage amounting to 49,753 as against 45,053 in the previous year. Of this 4,201 tons sailed under the Swedish flag and 2,330 under the Danish flag, the remainder being British. Apart from the cargoes of phosphate shipped to Singapore in the company's steamer ten vessels sailed for Japanese and eight for European ports with phosphate.

There is no import trade, but the exports, which consist entirely of phosphates of lime, show a substantial increase of 19,814 tons; 110,375 tons being shipped as compared with 90,561 in 1906.

On the 31st December, 1907, the total population of the island was 1,180, of which 1,110 were males; the Europeans and Eurasians numbered 17 males and seven females. The death-rate per mille per annum was, for all residents of the island 12·27 as compared with 28·5 in 1906 and 19·98 in 1905: the deaths of two members of ships' crews are not included in these calculations. Of the 14 deaths five were due to beri-beri and nine to other causes.

The marked decrease in the mortality from beri-beri reflects great credit on the doctor and hospital staff. The number of cases treated was 269 as against 370 in 1906, and for the first time on record the number of re-admissions has exceeded the number of new cases: this factor, coupled with the diminished death-rate from beri-beri and the consistent use of parboiled rice in the hospital and amongst the Tamil community, who are almost immune from the disease, tends to give rise to hopes that this fatal scourge will eventually be eliminated, and that a difficult problem will find a satisfactory solution. The health of the island shows a satisfactory improvement, and there has been a marked diminution in the number of cases of conjunctivitis and dysentery, which can partially be attributed to the excellent sanitary arrangements and good water supply.

The weather throughout the year was distinctly favourable to loading in comparison with 1906, rain falling on 142 days as against 189 in 1906. The mean monthly temperature was 80·85 (highest 93·7 and lowest 68·4). These favourable climatic conditions facilitated larger shipments of phosphate. The rubber plantations and vegetable garden were extended, and the condition of the coolies is now eminently satisfactory, as they are well housed and enjoy good food, water, and air.

LABUAN.

The Island of Labuan was incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore on January 1st, 1907. The revenue and expenditure are kept distinct from the general revenues of the Colony, and the military defence contribution is levied on the net surplus, if any, of the revenue over the expenditure. The total revenue for the year amounted to $104,659.63 and the total expenditure to $96,835.16, the estimates in both cases being largely exceeded. The excess of actual revenue over expenditure for the year was $7,824.47, but the sum on which the military contribution is assessable is only $3,991.75 as the Imperial contribution of £600 towards the expenses of the Brunei Consulate is not liable to this surtax.

The trade of the island shows a diminution of $596,101 in the value of imports and of $370,193 of exports, amounting in the aggregate to 19 per cent. of the total trade. This decrease is attributed to the present system of direct shipment of goods between North Borneo ports and Singapore and the regular service of steamers by the Norddeutscher Lloyd Company, which has driven away a considerable portion of the coastal trade, formerly carried on between Labuan and North Borneo by sailing vessels.

The comparative values of trade for the years 1906 and 1907 are as follows:—

	1906.	1907.
Merchandise.		
	$	$
Imports	1,470,388 ...	1,223,031
Exports	1,411,303 ...	1,254,542
Total ...	2,881,691 ...	2,477,573
Treasure.		
Imports	319,949 ...	135,035
Exports	140,425 ...	65,791
Total ...	460,374 ...	200,826
Grand Total ...	3,342,065 ...	2,678,399

The value of the trade with ports other than those of the Straits Settlements was:—

	$
Imports	429,975
Exports	524,573

The chief decreases were under the heads of rice and grain, cutch and sago flour.

The export of coal from the Labuan collieries showed an increase of 27 per cent. over 1906. For the first time for some years cargoes were exported, 7,600 tons being despatched to Penang, Hong Kong, Saigon, and Manila.

One hundred and forty-seven merchant vessels entered and cleared with a total tonnage of 159,367, an increase of 11,820 over the figures for the previous year. Minor improvements to buoys, beacons, and lighthouses were made and a new landing pier was erected.

The system of land tenure in the island is in a state of confusion owing to the inaccuracy of the Land Office records, the absence of reliable maps, and the faulty plans endorsed on the old grants. A complete re-survey of the island is necessary and will shortly be undertaken as a prelude to placing the

registration of deeds and the transfers of landed property on a satisfactory basis.

A European district officer supervises the administration of the various sub-districts, twelve in number, through the agency of native headmen.

The island was practically free from crime of a serious description, 191 cases only being tried in the Police Court and none in the Supreme Court, while the total claims in civil litigation amounted to only $5,700.

The health of the population, which was estimated to be 8,286 on the 31st December, was good; there was a marked diminution in the number of beri-beri cases and an absence of any serious epidemic diseases, but the stagnant pools in compounds and the swampy ground near Victoria Town give rise to malarial fever, which was somewhat prominent during the year. Much remains to be done to improve the sanitary condition of the villages and of Coal Point.

The highest recorded temperature was 92° F. and the lowest 71° F., and the total rainfall was 143·03 inches.

The revenue of the Post Office, which amounted to $29,372.59 as compared with an expenditure of $1,152.35, was largely swelled by the demand for stamps on the part of philatelists.

No important public works were undertaken, and the operations of the Public Works Department were principally confined to repairs of buildings and the maintenance of existing roads.

There is a S.P.G. School with an enrolment of about 40 pupils, principally Chinese, and a vernacular school with 51 children was opened in August and housed in a rented building.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Amongst the most memorable events of the year was the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, with Princess Victoria Patricia, in February, all of whom were accorded a loyal and hearty reception at both Singapore and Penang, on the occasion of the Duke's tour of inspection of the local garrisons as Inspector-General of the Forces.

Other distinguished visitors to Singapore were the King of Siam, His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi, and the Governor-General of the Netherland Indies.

Mr. J. K. Birch, who had served with marked ability as Resident Councillor, Penang, for nearly ten years, retired on pension in February.

Mr. C. E. Velge, Registrar of the Supreme Court, after long and meritorious service extending over a period of nearly 33 years, retired on pension at the end of the year. Owing to his wide knowledge of legal matters and experience of local procedure his retirement will be felt as a loss by both Bench and Bar.

Mr. E. C. Hill, Auditor-General of the Straits Settlements since 1897, also retired on pension at the end of the year owing to failing health.

Mr. W. A. Pickering, C.M.G., the first Protector of Chinese, who retired in 1889, but whose eminent services to the Colony are still remembered, died in January.

A Commission was appointed in July to investigate the extent to which opium is used in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and to evolve, if possible, means for its restriction and ultimate elimination. The field of enquiry and the number of issues have proved so intricate and vast that the results of the labours of the Commission will not be available until the latter half of this year.

A Board, similar to that in Penang, to supervise the management of Mohammedan and Hindu endowments was constituted during the year in Singapore, and arrangements were completed for the improved laying out of that portion of the town of Singapore known as the Sultan Ali Lands.

The discussion of the provisions to be added to the Municipal Ordinance for dealing with insanitary areas in towns occupied a considerable part of the time of the Legislative Council, and the amending Ordinance already referred to did not reach its final shape until the end of the year. The Singapore Municipality, in the meantime, was engaged on a complete and thorough revision of the Building By-Laws which have since been confirmed by the Governor in Council and should do much to improve the sanitary conditions under which the native population live.

Among other works in progress affecting the health of the community a reference may be made to the reclamation of a large area of swamp land along the upper reaches of the Singapore River and the construction by the Municipality of an additional large reservoir to supplement the water supply of Singapore Town.

A scheme for the improvement of the municipal water supply at Penang was also sanctioned.

The re-survey of Singapore Island which has been in progress since 1902 is now nearing completion, and when the maps have been published and the boundaries of holdings finally ascertained, under the Boundaries Ordinance it will be possible to introduce in Singapore the additional provisions of the Registration of Deeds Ordinance which have been for

some years in operation in Penang, with the result of greatly facilitating the transfer of land.

It was thought that matters were sufficiently advanced by the latter part of 1907 to take this step, but after a few months actual working of the new provisions it was found that the Survey Office was not able, in spite of an increase of staff, in the absence of the completed maps, to deal with the applications for tracings of lots with sufficient expedition to obviate delay in completing transactions by the public, and the general adoption of these provisions had therefore to be postponed, but they will be applied by degrees as each section of the map is completed.

During the year an important decision was arrived at as to the reduction of Straits Light Dues, and the new rates came into effect at the commencement of 1908.

The Legislative Council also appointed a Committee to consider and report upon the question of the restrictions at present imposed upon Sunday labour in the ports of the Colony.

The vexed question of shipping rings or conferences is awaiting the report of the Royal Commission appointed in England in 1907 to investigate the subject.

A report by a Sub-Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, dated the 10th of July, 1907, answering questions on this subject submitted at the instance of the Royal Commission was forwarded to the Secretary of State, together with a report from Mr. Stuart, the Registrar of Imports and Exports.

This officer at my request has prepared a statement showing the approximate volume of cargo shipped in scale tons during 1907 to the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe, excluding Russia, to which country the influence of the Conference does not extend, and to America, the approximate amount of freights paid thereon, and the average approximate amount that would have been paid yearly on the same cargo at the rates current during the five years previous to the Conferences.

I annex the Registrar's return, which shows approximately the tax on cargo levied by the Straits Homeward and New York Shipping Conferences in 1907, or in other words the amount estimated to have been actually paid in excess of that which the currently-quoted average rates of freight during the respective five years prior to the establishment of these Conferences in 1897 and 1905, respectively, would have entailed.

Statement showing the approximate volume of cargo shipped in scale tons during 1907 *to the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe (excluding Russia), and to America, the approximate amount of freights paid thereon, and the average approximate amount that would have been paid on the same during the five years previous to Conferences.*

United Kingdom and Continent excluding Russia.

Principal Articles and Measurement.	Average Rates of Freight to London in 1892–1896 (5 years).	Average Rates of Freight to London and Continent in 1907, less 10 per cent. Rebate.	Approximate Volume of Cargo exported to United Kingdom and Continent of Europe excluding Russia in scale tons during 1907. ('000 omitted.)	Average Amount of Freight Charges in 1892–1896. ('000 omitted.)	Amount of Freight Charges in 1907. ('000 omitted.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	s. d.	s. d.		£	£
Tin	5 10	23 8	42·5	12·4	50·3
Gambier, bale ..	21 8	29 3	13·7	14·8	20
Sago flour	19 2	22 11	42·4	40·6	48·6
Copra	21 4	21 0	63·9	68·2	67·1
Rattans . ..	19 11	25 2	4·9	4·8	6·2
Black pepper ..	22 0	36 0	13·2	14·5	23·8
Tapioca pearl ..	19 4	38 3	12·2	11·8	23·3
Measurement ..	24 0	41 8	—	—	—
Other Principal Articles, *viz.*:—Rattans dunnage, jelutong, hides, pines, gum copal, tapioca flake, Illipi nuts, sugar, cube gambier, white pepper, gutta and rubbers and oil cakes			192·8	167·1	239·3
			94·9	123·7*	177·2
Total			287·7	290·8	416·5
			Increase .. .. £125·7		

America.

Principal Articles and Measurement.	Average Rates of Freight to New York for the 5 years ended August 1905.	Average Rates of Freight to New York in 1907, less 10 per Cent. Rebate.	Approximate Volume of Cargo exported to America in scale tons during 1907. ('000 omitted.)	Average Amount of Freight Charges during the 5 years ended August 1905. ('000 omitted.)	Amount of Freight Charges in 1907. ('000 omitted.)
(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
	s. d.	s. d.		£	£
Tin	15 0	22 6	9·7	7·3	10·9
Gambier, bale ..	22 5	29 3	11·1	12·3	16·1
Sago flour	22 5	24 9	5·2	5·8	6.4
Jelutong	22 5	27 0	14·9	16·7	20·1
Rattans	22 5	24 9	14·3	16·0	17·7
Black pepper ..	22 5	36 0	9·9	11·1	17·8
Tapioca pearl ..	22 5	38 3	9·2	10·3	17·6
Measurement ..	22 5	41 8	—	—	—
Other Principal Articles, *viz.*:—Hides, pines, gum copal, tapioca flake, cube gambier, white pepper, and gutta and rubbers			74·3	79·5	106·6
			24·2	33·1*	44·4
Total			98·5	112·6	151·0
			Increase .. .. £38·4		

* The Average Amount inserted chargeable as Freight in 1892 to 1896 to the United Kingdom and Continent and in the 5 years ended August 1905 to America for other Principal Articles is based on the differences between the amounts of the Principal Articles in the two periods compared.

Approximate volume of cargo in scale tons exported to the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe (excluding Russia), and America in 1907 = 386,200.

Approximate amount of freights paid on the above in 1907 over the amount that would have been charged prior to Conferences = £164,100 or $1,406,600.

The results for 1907 are approximately as follows:—

Total volume in scale tons of cargo shipped to the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe, excluding America, and to America tons 386,200.

	£
Total freight charged thereon	567,500
Total freights that would have been charged on the same prior to the Conferences	403,400
Difference	£164,100
Secret rebate of 5 per cent. on all freights pooled, paid to certain specially favoured firms	£28,375

The Registrar of Imports and Exports is of opinion that the difference of £164,100 which he shows is for the following reasons an under-estimate:—

(i) The quotations prior to the establishment of Conferences were the asking prices and less was frequently obtained.

(ii) Articles which are shipped as bag goods and measurement have all been reckoned by him at the lower or bag rate.

(iii) Other principal articles on much of which expensive freight is usually charged have been reckoned by him on the basis of the low freights quoted for principal goods which show 43 per cent. of an increase compared with about 80 per cent. for measurement cargo.

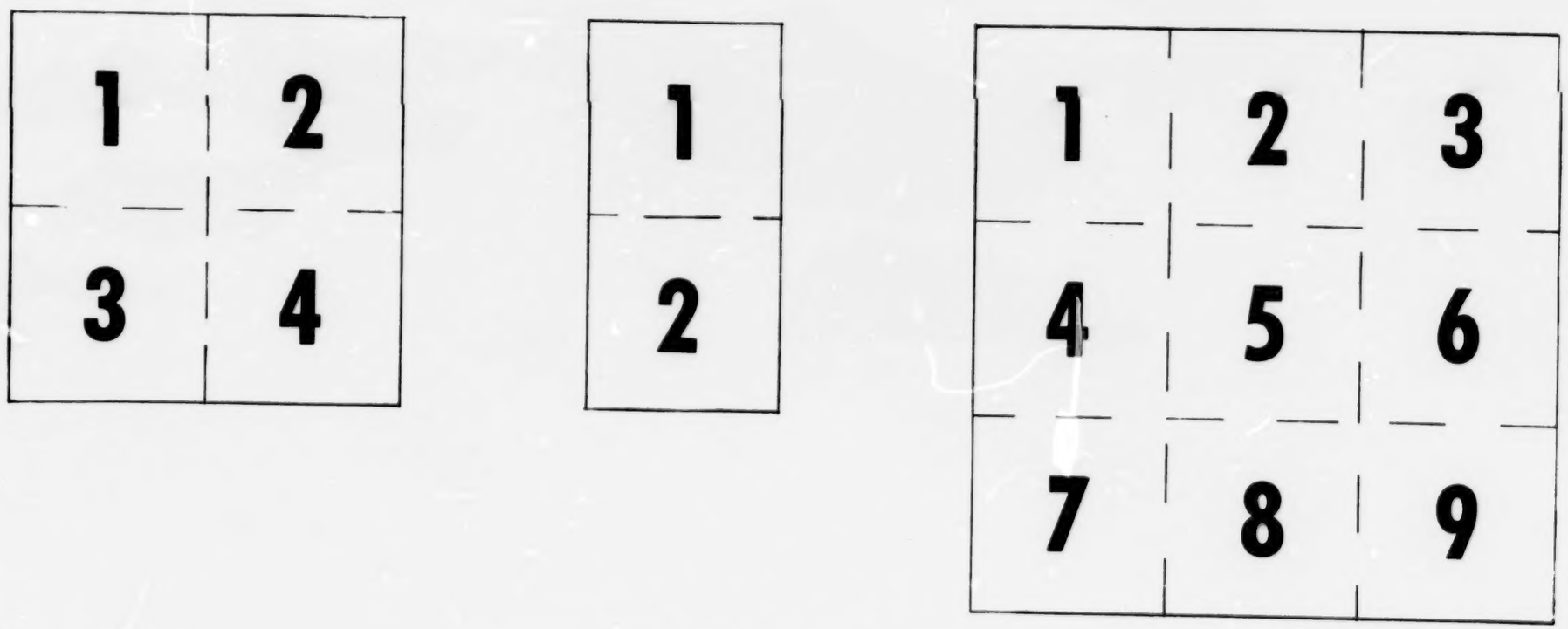
(iv) Other articles such as tapioca flour, pearl sago, canes, certain gums, spices, &c., are not included.

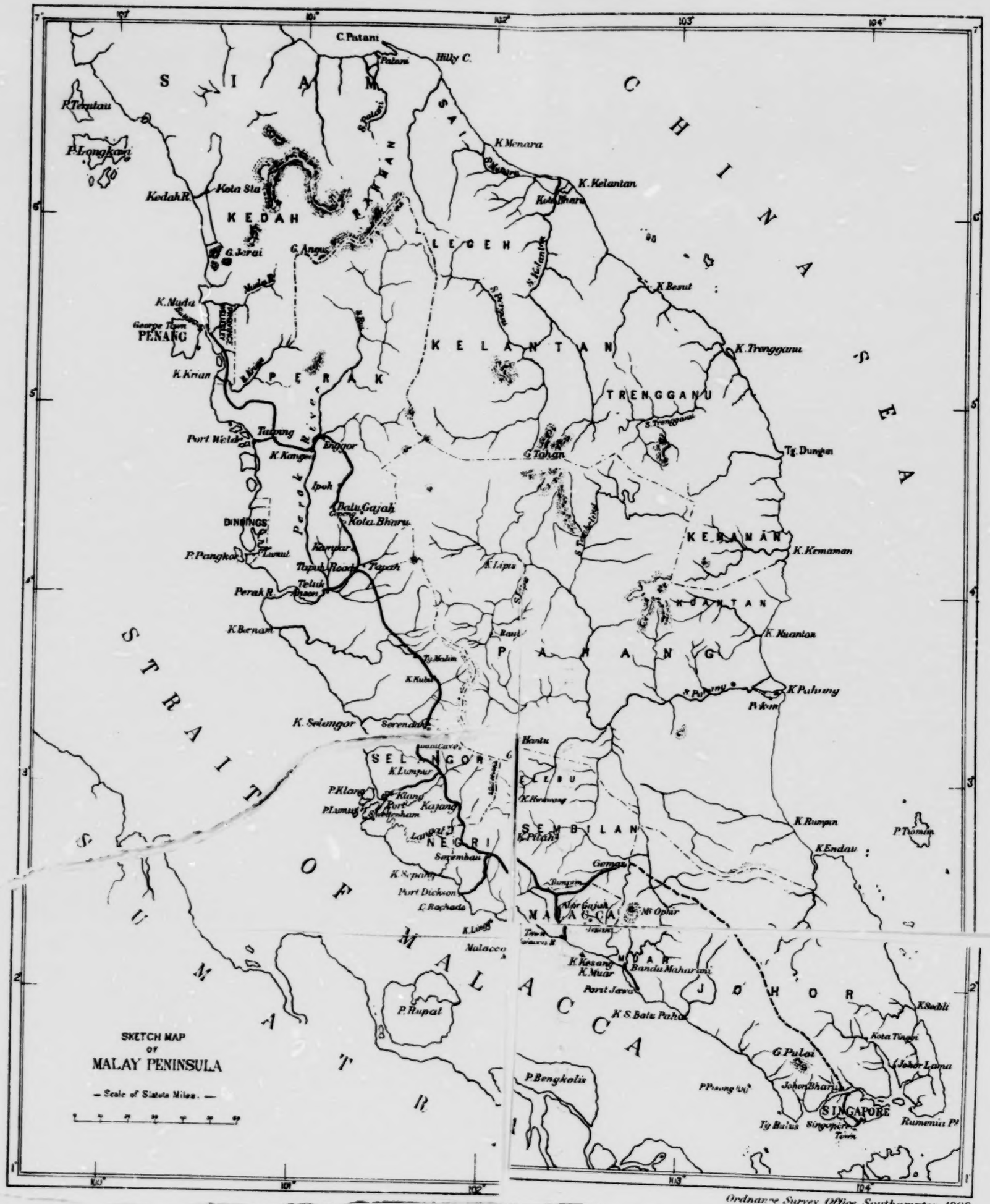
(v) Of rattans one-third of the quantity exported to the United Kingdom and the whole of what went to the Continent have been assumed to have been shipped as "Dunnage" which pays a much reduced rate of freight: the same article to America has been taken at scale ton rate.

In this and other ways favourable consideration has been given so that there may be no ground for any allegation of exaggeration.

The Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Singapore in their report, dated 10th July, 1907, gave figures showing that there was an increase in the volume of shipments of the principal articles of produce (excluding tin) to the United Kingdom, the Continent, and the United States of

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.




SKETCH MAP
OF
MALAY PENINSULA
— Scale of Statute Miles. —
SIAM
CHINA SEA
STRAITS OF MALACCA
SUMATRA
KEDAH
PENANG
PERAK
KELANTAN
TRENGGANU
PAHANG
SELANGOR
NEGRI SEMBILAN
MALACCA
JOHOR
SINGAPORE
C. Patani
Hilly C.
K. Menara
K. Kelantan
K. Besut
K. Trengganu
Tg. Dungun
K. Kemaman
K. Kuantan
K. Pahang
K. Selangor
K. Lumpur
Port Dickson
Malacca
Port Swettenham
Port Weld
Taiping
Ipoh
Kuala Kangsar
Kuala Lipis
Kuala Lumpur
Kuala Pilah
Kuala Rompin
Kuala Endau
Kuala Muar
Kuala Kesang
Bandu Maharani
Port Jawa
Kota Tinggi
Johor Lama
Johor Bharu
Singapore Town
Rumenia Pt
P. Rupat
P. Bengkalis
P. Tioman
P. Langkawi
P. Pangkor
G. Jerai
G. Angus
G. Tahan
G. Pulai
Kedah R.
Perak R.
Pahang R.
Kelantan R.
Trengganu R.
Muda R.
Kinta R.
Kampar R.
Tapah Road
Teluk Anson
Batu Gajah
Kuala Bharu
Kuala Kubu
Serendah
Kuala Lumpur
Kuala Kinta
Kajang
Seremban
Gemas
Bahau
Alor Gajah
Mt. Ophir
Tanjong Malim
Bentong
Raub
Kuala Pahang
Pekan
Kuala Rompin
Kuala Endau
Kuala Sedili
Kuala Tinggi
Tg. Buloh
Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1908.

America in the second five years over the first half of the decade prior to the establishment of Conferences.

The same statement shows that in volume of cargo carried there was an actual loss in the second five years of the decade over the first five years after the formation of the Conference.

The net loss in ten years is placed by the Sub-Committee at 238,512 tons, or a yearly average of 23,851 tons.

Deductions from these figures would appear to indicate that there has been a diversion of trade due to the action of the Conference, and taking into consideration that there has been an enormous expansion of trade throughout the Eastern Archipelago since 1896, of which the Colony in its position hitherto as a main collecting and distributing centre should have derived its full share, the diversion of trade is much greater than is shown by the figures given in the report referred to.

Whether this diversion of trade is due directly to the effects of these Conferences, or whether it has been contributed to by a variety of causes, the fact remains that there has been a diversion of trade so considerable as to make the subject a most serious one for the Colony.

Undoubtedly one effect of these Shipping Conferences has been to eliminate all chance of any sailing vessel obtaining cargo in the Colony for the United Kingdom or Continent of Europe, and the same prohibition has, in effect, been placed upon the economically-run "tramp" steamers, British mainly, which used to participate largely in the important over-seas carrying trade of this Colony.

It seems appropriate to remark specially here that the report of a Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Singapore, referred to above, emphasizes the fact that a practice exists under which the steamship companies comprising these Conferences pay a preferential or so-called "secret" return of 5 per cent. on the total of all freights earned from the Straits by Conference steamers to a limited number of privileged firms or persons—the apportionment among these firms being kept secret. The Sub-Committee (some of the members of which belong to firms who are participants in this special privilege) have placed on record that the privileged firms or persons—among whom are foreigners—who participate in this so-called secret 5 per cent. return are thus placed at an advantage over other merchant shippers of this Colony.

This practice of giving a special preference to a selected few is, I believe, peculiar to this Colony.

ARTHUR YOUNG,

Colonial Secretary.

24th August, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
546	Grenada	1906–1907
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia...	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda...	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas...	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bactariological Work 1907-08.
54	Newfoundland...	Governor's Visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 622.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 582.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1909.

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1909.

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No. 622.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 582.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Singapore,
8th September, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1908.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ANDERSON.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(14609—2.) Wt. 26122—322. 1125. 11/09. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1908.

FINANCIAL.

1. The estimated revenue of the Colony for the year was $9,685,332, and the actual revenue collected was $8,969,015, or $716,317 below the estimate. The following table shows the actual figures for 1907 and 1908:—

—	Revenue 1907.	Revenue 1908.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Land revenue	412,710 13	409,987 82	—	2,722 31
2. Rents exclusive of land	56,470 37	65,713 75	9,243 38	—
3. Licences	6,749,404 60	6,081,751 89	—	667,652 71
4. Stamps	393,924 55	379,676 53	—	14,248 02
5. Port and harbour dues	274,569 86	217,422 95	—	57,146 91
6. Post and telegraphs	620,442 61	525,564 13	—	94,878 48
7. Railway	199,972 96	189,110 66	—	10,862 30
8. Fines and forfeitures	90,739 76	97,650 54	6,910 78	—
9. Fees of office	319,383 78	336,026 85	13,643 07	—
10. Reimbursements	313,256 14	326,449 03	13,192 89	—
11. Sale of Government property	57,807 85	2,466 16	—	55,341 69
12. Interest	113,040 35	119,774 81	6,734 46	—
13. Miscellaneous receipts	180,859 57	161,384 96	—	19,474 61
14. District collections	142,172 43	10,366 03	—	131,806 40
	9,924,754 96	8,920,346 11	49,724 58	1,054,133 43
15. Land sales	98,261 53	48,669 07	—	49,592 46
Total	10,023,016 49	8,969,015 18	49,724 58	1,103,725 89
Net decrease				1,054,001 31

2. The following is a comparative table of the expenditure for the years 1907 and 1908:—

Heads of Service.	1907.	1908.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Charges on account of public debt ..	193,966 79	308,006 51	114,039 72	—
2. Pensions	365,296 42	387,065 70	21,769 28	—
3. Personal emoluments	2,770,484 19	2,893,790 40	123,306 21	—
4. Other charges	1,639,314 27	1,869,743 71	230,429 44	—
5. Charitable allowances	11,312 55	12,275 15	962 60	—
6. Transport	12,115 08	14,582 06	2,466 98	—
7. Exchange	17,333 23	16,028 43	—	1,306 80
8. Interest	4,523 00	2,635 14	—	1,887 86
9. Miscellaneous services	189,193 77	205,938 48	16,744 71	—
10. Military expenditure	1,554,512 20	1,879,182 08	324,669 88	—
11. Expenditure under the Volunteer Ordinance, 1888.	51,805 62	50,090 16	—	1,715 46
12. Land and houses purchased	846,999 43	40,464 35	—	806,535 08
13. Special expenses	5,614 44	27,857 34	22,242 90	—
14. Public works, annually recurrent ..	224,032 19	220,445 47	—	3,586 72
15. Roads, streets, &c., annually recurrent	379,842 83	299,833 87	—	80,008 96
16. Public works, special services	934,974 76	1,348,289 28	413,314 52	—
17. Roads, streets, &c., special services ..	298,372 03	261,397 69	—	36,974 34
Total	9,499,692 80	9,837,623 82	1,269,946 24	932,015 22
Deduct decrease			932,015 22	
Net increase			337,931 02	

The total expenditure of 1908 chargeable to current revenue was $337,931 more than in 1907.

The actual expenditure was $483,089 below the estimate, considerable savings appearing under the heads of Charges on account of the Public Debt, Personal Emoluments, and Other Departmental Charges, Special Services on Works and Buildings, and on Roads, Streets, &c., while Pension Charges, Transport, Miscellaneous Services, Military Expenditure, and Lands and Houses Purchased showed varying increases, generally small in amount.

The total revenue and expenditure have been for the last five years:—

	Revenue	Expenditure.
	$	$
1904	10,746,517	10,848,988
1905	11,657,424	10,976,525
1906	9,618,313	8,747,819
1907	10,023,016	9,499,693
1908	8,969,015	9,837,624

The assets on the 31st December, 1908, were $5,105,749, and the liabilities $2,222,791, there being thus an excess of assets over liabilities of $2,882,958. The following table shows the details of the assets and liabilities at that date:—

Assets.

	$
Cash	1,850,085
Investments	2,477,215
Advances	251,922
Indian Agency Account	394,229
Cash in Transit	323
Suspense Account	131,975
Total	$5,105,749

Liabilities.

	$
Deposits	898,381
Drafts and Remittances	10,307
Loan Account	1,314,103
Credit Balance	2,882,958
Total	$5,105,749

The assets and liabilities of the Currency Commissioners on the same date were:—

Assets.

	$
Cash in Reserve	20,903,866
Investments	9,473,428
Suspense Account	373
Total	$30,377,667

Liabilities.

	$
Deposits	27,073,165
Advances from Loan Account ...	3,304,501
Total	$30,377,667

3. A Loan of £5,000,000 was raised in 1907 under the provisions of the Loan Ordinance (No. IV. of 1907), which authorizes the Colonial Government to borrow a sum not exceeding £7,861,457 for the following services:—

	£
1. Payment of Award and Costs under "The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance 1905" ...	3,390,000
2. Redemption of Outstanding Debentures of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board	151,670
3. Tanjong Pagar Construction Works:—	
(1) Main Wharf, Lagoon Dock, and Graving Dock	2,092,600
(2) Prai River Dock—Improvements to and reconstruction of Wharves	70,000
4. Singapore Harbour Works	1,264,000
5. Singapore Municipal Water Works ...	523,187
6. Penang Pier Extension and General Harbour Improvements and repayment of $600,000 (£70,000) borrowed from the Federated Malay States on account of Penang Pier	200,000
7. Penang Municipal Loan—Improvement of Water Supply and other works	170,000
	£7,861,457

Provision is made for the repayment of this loan by means of a Sinking Fund which will come into operation in 1917, ten years from the date of the first issue of the debentures under the Ordinance. The payment of the award and costs was made on the 1st July, 1907.

The charge on account of Interest on the Public Debt amounted to $677,343 in 1907, and $1,616,298 in 1908.

The total amount in local currency of the debt of the Government of the Colony on 31st December, 1907, was $42,857,143 or 4·78 times the revenue of the Colony for the year but only about 2·83 times the aggregate of the Government and Tanjong Pagar revenues.

4. There were considerable fluctuations in the rate of exchange during the early part of the year, the minimum demand rate being 2*s*. 3⅝*d*. in February, and the maximum 2*s*. 3 13/16*d*. in May. It reached 2*s*. 3 15/16*d*. in June and 2*s*. 4*d*. in June and July, and continued firm till the end of the year, the minimum demand rate being 2*s*. 3⅞*d*.

5. The total number of new dollars received at the end of the year was $17,697,000, showing a surplus of $3,442,026 over the amount sent for re-minting. The total number of old Straits dollars withdrawn from circulation at the end of the year and held by the Government Treasuries and Banks amounted to a little over twelve millions.

At the beginning of the year gold amounting to £180,507 was in the vault of the Commissioners, and during the year the receipts of gold were £90,322 and issues £266,169, leaving a balance of £4,740 at the close of the year. Telegraphic transfers payable by the Crown Agents were sold to the value of £383,793 during the early part of the year, bringing the total to £967,345.

The new issue of $1 notes was received and put into circulation during the year. This note will in future be printed on red paper to render it more easily distinguishable from the small $5 note.

At the beginning of the year the dollars and notes in circulation, including the stocks held by the Banks and the Treasuries in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, amounted to $42,774,626, of which a sum of $22,444,970 was in Government Currency Notes, $1,599,692 in Bank notes, and the rest in Straits dollars. At the end of the year the corresponding figures were $43,540,907, $25,670,505, and $999,255 respectively.

The excess of imports of dollars over the quantity of that coin exported was $3,817,885 for Singapore; as regards Penang an excess of $205,515 in exports over imports was recorded, the net excess of imports over exports being thus $3,612,370, as against an excess of exports over imports of $868,982 in the previous year. No account can, of course, be taken of the numbers of dollars carried out of or into the Colony by passengers.

The Straits dollar and subsidiary coinage ceased to be legal tender in Sumatra at the end of April, and $1,938,398 (in dollars and half-dollars) and $323,648 (in subsidiary silver coins) were returned to the Colony in the year for this reason.

The circulation of subsidiary silver coin was still further reduced during the year by the withdrawal of such coin to the value of $640,761, and the amount in circulation now is not in excess of public requirements.

Sixty-five thousand dollars worth of copper coin was received from the Calcutta Mint. This was part of the British Borneo

copper coin re-minted, the remainder of such coin being sold at its value as copper.

The average bank-note circulation was in 1908 $1,277,340, as compared with $1,825,089 in 1907. The average amount of Government Currency Notes in circulation for each month of the year was:—

	$
January	22,581,873
February	22,236,487
March	21,203,973
April	21,133,345
May	21,121,402
June	21,564,722
July	21,884,215
August	22,379,434
September	22,322,772
October	22,703,247
November	23,228,072
December	24,992,182

7. The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $3,524,494, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $3,311,960. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure, and of the debts of the Boards, showing the provision made for repayment, appear below:—

Revenue.

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore	2,074,526	2,149,951	2,224,354	2,306,749	2,429,892
Penang	751,288	819,531	892,431	906,139	1,002,057
Malacca	37,459	39,717	89,408	88,416	92,545
Total ...	2,863,273	3,009,199	3,206,193	3,301,304	3,524,494

Expenditure.

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore	1,960,065*	2,158,645	2,168,528	2,245,623	2,286,071
Penang	709,501	1,191,142	945,187	872,223	933,807
Malacca	34,349	41,780	80,335	100,176	92,082
Total ...	2,703,915	3,391,567	3,194,050	3,218,022	3,311,960

* Exclusive of sums expended on Loan Works.

Debts of Municipalities and Provisions for Repayment.

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 at 5 per cent...	..	400,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1890 at 6 per cent...	..	400,000	
" " 1893 at 5 per cent...	280,000		
Redeemed..	202,000		
		78,000	
" " 1897 at 4 per cent...	500,000		
Unissued	75,500		
	424,500		
Redeemed..	106,000		
		318,500	Annual drawings of 2½ per cent. of Loan.
" " 1898 at 4 per cent...	500,000		
Unissued	472,000		
		28,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1899 at 4 per cent...	400,000		
Redeemed..	272,000		
		128,000	
" " 1901 at 5 per cent...	..	1,000,000	
" " 1902 at 5 per cent...	..	400,000	
" " 1907 at 4½ per cent.	..	1,600,000	
Government Loan at 4½ per cent.	..	1,600,000	
		5,952,500	
Penang—			
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock 1889 ..	..	250,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent. per annum on amount of loan.
" " 6 per cent. " " 1891 ..	..	100,000	
" " 5 per cent. " " 1901 ..	..	500,000	
" " 5 per cent. " " 1904 ..	..	600,000	
" " 4 per cent. Tramway Loan 1904 ..	..	400,000	Annual Repayments of $20,000.
" " 4½ per cent. from Colonial Government 1907 (Part).	..	500,000	Sinking Fund at 2 per cent. per annum on amount of Loan ($1,500,000) commencing in 1917.
		2,350,000	
Malacca—			
1885 Loan by Government, $25,000 at 3 per cent.	..	15,000	Annual repayments of $500.
1908 Loan by Government $50,000	..	50,000	" " " $2,000.

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK BOARD.

8. The Board, on behalf of the Government, undertook charge of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company's business and property after expropriation on July 1st, 1905.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	$	c.	$	c.
1904	5,409,486	56	3,870,669	72
1905	5,420,354	26	4,072,004	79
1906	5,617,784	92	4,097,428	62
1907	6,145,579	25	4,484,476	20
1908	5,822,811	69	4,271,715	37

The Board is liable for the repayment of $1,300,000 in debenture stock. The balance outstanding, viz., $1,050,000 was due for repayment on the 30th June, 1909.

The capital cost of the undertaking as represented by the award, and including Government costs is the sum of

$29,003,149·45 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. per annum out of revenue.

In addition, under the provisions of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance, the Board is responsible to Government for the interest, sinking fund, management, and redemption of such loans as will be required to carry out the new construction works, towards which £2,092,600 has been allocated in the Loan Ordinance of 1907 for the Main Wharf, Lagoon Dock, and Graving Dock, and £70,000 for the improvements to and reconstruction of the wharves at Prai River Dock.

The following figures are taken from the Wharf Tonnage Returns:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Number of vessels	2,356	2,315	2,470	2,556	2,364
Tonnage	4,445,558	4,491,351	4,701,004	4,747,210	4,590,474
Coal inwards and outwards.	1,098,052	1,139,042	1,205,580	1,111,682	1,145,435
Cargo inwards and outwards	1,170,021	1,115,654	1,150,527	1,270,285	1,088,527

The falling off in vessels and their tonnage and in cargo handled was due to the commercial depression, and was more marked in the second half-year than it was in the first.

TRADE.

9. The sterling value of merchandise imported into the Colony was £34,604,820, a decrease of £3,812,000, or nearly 10 per cent. Similarly exports from the Colony diminished from £32,921,000 to £30,620,228, or nearly 8 per cent.

The figures for the last eight years were, in millions of dollars:—

—	Average for 1901–1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Merchandise—	$	$	$	$
Imports	315·5	317·8	322·9	296·6
Exports	262·4	281·3	282·2	262·5
Total	577·9	599·1	605·1	559·1
Treasure—				
Imports	35·1	21·5	27·7	19·8
Exports	35·3	29·7	23·1	11·4
Total	70·4	51·2	50·8	31·2
Aggregate Total	648·3	650·3	655·9	590·3

Of the imports from foreign countries, Singapore and Labuan accounted between them for $225,653,488, Penang for $89,665,410, and Malacca for $1,077,041. The exports from these Settlements to foreign countries were, respectively, $184,526,823, $87,545,100, and $1,746,201. In imports a decrease was shown in each case, and in the case of exports Malacca alone exhibited an increase.

Imports of merchandise from the United Kingdom fell from $35,635,514 to $30,635,801, from other British possessions from $164,793,596 to $141,281,920, but from foreign countries the decline was less marked, the totals for 1908 and 1907 being $124,695,023 and $128,454,559 respectively.

Exports of merchandise to the United Kingdom were $62,546,937 as against $67,711,950, to other British Possessions, $80,596,838 as against $92,213,385, and to foreign countries $119,043,830 as against $135,847,663.

The trade for the past seven years with the United Kingdom (including all British possessions) and with foreign countries is shown in the following table:—

—	Imports.			Exports.		
	Average 1902-1906.	1907.	1908.	Average 1902-1906.	1907.	1908.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ..	230,664,724	226,911,864	187,855,386	150,149,625	166,366,980	151,004,850
Foreign Countries ..	125,265,395	129,664,621	128,540,553	155,241,917	142,342,929	122,541,779

For the two decennial periods, 1889-1898, and 1899-1908, the following tables give the values of imports in millions of dollars:—

	United Kingdom.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
1889 to 1898	198·3	85·4	283·7
1899 to 1908	319·7	190·9	510·7
Increase ...	121·4	105·5	226·9

From the above it will be seen that while the total imports of the second period were $226,900,000 in excess of the decade 1889 to 1898, almost one-half of the additional trade has come from foreign countries. In fact, the imports derived from foreign sources have risen by 123 per cent., while those from the United Kingdom and British possessions have risen by less than 62 per cent.; in other words, foreign countries have in their competition with British countries in this market succeeded in increasing their business at twice the rate at which British trade has advanced. In the past year this feature was again noticeable, the proportion of British imports being 62½ per cent. of the total, while it had been in 1907 nearly 70 per cent.

The Registrar of Imports and Exports continued to correspond direct with the Board of Trade and with British manufacturers and merchants. Enquiries were received and answered regarding local markets for the following commodities, viz., tapioca and sago, tools, steel, electrical goods, rattans, spirits, bolts, ore, oils, wheat flour, hats, salts, fruits, fish, japanware, fertilizers, coal, motor and cycle accessories, silks, shells, plaitings, sandalwood, monuments, tin, lace, sewing machines, paints, varnishes, and colours, coconut fibre, oil-cakes, machinery, malt liquors, ship's lamps, blocks, spices, tar, turpentine, disinfectants, isinglass, mother-o'-pearl shells, copra, water paints, and powder.

The trade of the Straits Settlements suffered throughout the year 1908 a severe and constant depression, for, although the volume of exports was greater than in 1907, prices were extremely poor and unremunerative. As a result the consumption of imported goods also declined, and the important business done in the Colony in piece goods was smaller and less profitable even than in 1907, a year which also showed a falling off from previous years. If anything the second half of the year was less favourable than the first, the speculative element being entirely absent, and credit to outport customers being greatly curtailed, with the result that the indents of the latter were confined to the supply of their immediate requirements. Stocks of piece goods were freely drawn upon, and though these still stood at the close of the year at a figure above that shown at the end of 1905, they were much below the average of the last two years. Bangkok, the Federated Malay States, Sumatra, and Borneo all weakened in their demand for piece goods, dyed cottons showing the greatest falling off.

Expensive stocks were disposed of on a falling market, as will readily be seen from the following table of prices:—

	January, 1908.	July, 1908.	December, 1908.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Grey shirtings, 8¼ lbs. ...	8 8¼	7 11	7 4
Cloths, 6 lbs.	5 10½	5 6	5 3
Yarns, 40's	12	10¾	8¼
Cotton (Orleans)	6·18	6·43	4·99
Silver, per oz.	24⅞	24 11/16	23⅛

Some of the principal British firms combined to insist on credits being limited to 60 days, and on deliveries being made within the same period, and hope to be able to give effect to this in 1909.

Thirty-one dealers suspended payment in Singapore, with liabilities amounting to $1,080,000. The gross amount of failures in 1907 was $1,600,000.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

10. The planting of Para rubber in the Colony continued to increase, but there are still considerable areas of waste land in Singapore where this tree might well be planted. Rubber from the Colony was sent to the International Exhibition in London, and was considered to be of high quality. Samples of rubber trees, showing the tapping of live plants, &c., were also sent from the Botanic Gardens to the Exhibition.

The cultivation of indigo in Singapore showed an increase, as also did that of vegetables for local consumption, and the output of ground-nuts improved. The few acres of soy-beans did not give the good returns which were anticipated. The crop of pineapples was very large, and the importation of quantities of this fruit from the Dutch Islands so lowered prices that little, if any, profit was gained. It is probable that the selling prices of pineapples has never been so low as it was in 1908.

Lemongrass was less cultivated, the acreage remaining being now small, but citronella increased. Coconuts were strong, and the demand for copra was good. The high prices which ruled, however, had the effect of inducing the importation into Singapore of great quantities of inferior copra made in Muar and Malacca. Betelnuts were scarcer, and commanded high prices; the cultivation of this nut appears to have fallen in recent years, and comparatively few trees seem to be planted now.

No new rubber estates were opened in Penang or Province Wellesley during the year, but the acreage under rubber has increased on existing estates, a result due, no doubt, to the sharp recovery in price from 3*s*. 2*d*. per pound in February to 6*s*. in November. The manicoba plants at Tasek Glugor have so far made only moderate progress; a fresh batch of seeds has been received, and these will be planted in various soils for test purposes.

The price of tapioca has dropped at least 40 per cent. in the last 18 months, but exports remain at about the same figures as before. The trade in coconuts and copra has been fairly brisk, especially in the latter, prices being higher, and the amounts exported rising from 298,819 pikuls in 1907 to 332,162 in 1908.

Basket sugar, the main product of the province, again fell away from previous figures, the production being 87,363 pikuls as against 188,269 in 1907. The area lost to sugar cultivation, however, is now under rubber. Pepper of the Trang and Acheen varieties was produced in about the same quantities as in the previous year, but prices fell considerably; of other spices, cloves were produced to the extent of 1,519 pikuls as against only 713 pikuls in 1907, but the output of nutmegs decreased from 2,864 pikuls in 1907 to 2,330 in 1908, while the price fell, being influenced by a considerable increase in West Indian production.

Rice crops were good in province Wellesley, and averaged about 47 bushels to the acre.

11. The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of statutory grants issued, and the premia paid for the same during the last five years are as follows:—

Singapore.

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Area granted	a. r. p. 469 0 37 sq. ft. 284,768	a. r. p. 169 2 34 sq. ft. 46,451	a. r. p. 5,895 0 23 sq. ft. 805,636	a. r. p. 119 3 28 sq. ft. 327,687	a. r. p. 419 3 12 sq. ft. 183,543
Number of statutory grants issued	77	97	237	63	144
Premia paid	$35,035·50	$165·60	$69,506·30	$12,623·00	$6,715·00

Penang.

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Area granted	a. r. p. 2,293 3 36 sq. ft. 5,450	a. r. p. 1,102 2 31	a. r. p. 1,487 0 20	a. r. p. 6,927 3 35 sq. ft. 300,916	a. r. p. 663 1 08 sq. ft. 232,191
Number of statutory grants issued	295	470	301	352	63
Premia paid	$1,654·26	$932·25	$2,279·70	$10,532·66	$3,113·85

Malacca.

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Area granted	a. r. p. 3,230 1 24 sq. ft. 2,433	a. r. p. 4,137 3 25	a. r. p. 3,249 0 34½	a. r. p. 10,451 1 16 sq. ft. 9,159	a. r. p. 7,897 0 10 sq. ft. 82,797
Number of statutory grants issued	156	113	93	270*	341†
Premia paid	$13,200	$15,233·05	$45,042·75	$51,774·70	$32,274·55

* 249 Statutory Grants. 21 Mining Leases.
† 334 Statutory Grants 5 mining leases and 2 leases for 99 and 999 years respectively.

SHIPPING.

12. The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 21,750,245 as compared with 20,328,760 in 1907. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table:—

Statement showing Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels during the Years 1907 *and* 1908.

Nationality.	1907.					1908.				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
American ...	4,144	—	—	—	4,144	662	1,324	—	—	1,986
Austrian ...	234,527	194,646	—	4,674	433,847	201,554	191,648	—	—	393,202
British	7,120,883	3,968,438	554,762	100,648	11,744,731	7,276,137	4,916,223	660,596	117,202	12,970,158
Belgian... ...	—	—	—	—	—	5,806	—	—	—	5,806
Chinese ...	2,856	—	—	—	2,856	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	48,622	13,086	—	—	61,708	125,982	33,262	—	—	159,244
Dutch	1,484,577	233,178	13,016	—	1,730,771	1,482,715	208,124	—	1,378	1,692,217
French	904,268	24,278	—	—	928,546	822,907	6,884	—	—	829,701
German ...	1,836,444	1,005,156	—	135,734	2,977,334	1,882,028	1,038,657	1,286	132,000	3,053,971
Italian	126,684	68,844	—	—	195,528	126,822	114,396	—	—	241,218
Japanese ...	861,747	293,880	—	4,078	1,159,705	927,371	251,352	—	—	1,178,723
Norwegian ...	366,983	80,462	—	27,308	474,753	436,204	74,974	—	41,450	552,628
Russian ...	313,000	22,038	—	—	335,038	338,550	15,166	—	—	353,716
Sarawak ...	95,768	—	—	444	96,212	95,396	—	—	280	95,676
Siamese ...	39,523	—	—	—	39,523	48,559	—	—	—	48,559
Spanish ...	133,366	—	—	—	133,366	134,630	—	—	—	134,630
Swedish ...	6,338	4,360	—	—	10,698	27,882	10,838	—	—	38,720
Total ...	13,579,730	5,908,366	567,778	272,886	20,328,760	13,933,205	6,862,848	661,882	292,310	21,750,245

From the above comparative table it will be seen that the following countries show an increased tonnage, entered and cleared, in 1908 as compared with 1907: Britain, 1,225,427; Denmark, 97,536; Norway, 77,875; Germany, 76,637; Italy, 45,690; Sweden, 28,022; Japan, 19,018; Russia, 18,678; Siam, 9,036; Belgium, 5,806; Spain, 1,264.

The following countries show a decrease:—

France, 98,755; Austria, 40,645; Holland, 38,554; China, 2,856; America, 2,158; Sarawak, 536.

Comparative Statement of Merchant Vessels Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

—	1904.*	1905.*	1906.*	1907.	1908.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	18,267,499	18,890,600	19,711,198	20,328,760	21,750,245

* Labuan not included.

It will thus be seen that the tonnage, as compared with 1904, has increased by 3,482,746.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 tons.

—	1907.		1908.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Arrivals	16,808	726,104	17,747	723,536
Departures	16,977	737,944	17,882	731,900
Total	33,785	1,464,048	35,629	1,455,436

The decrease, as compared with 1907, is 8,612 tons.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamers under 50 tons, Entered and Cleared, for the last Five Years.

—	1904.*	1905.*	1906.*	1907.	1908.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	1,566,976	1,544,284	1,484,801	1,464,048	1,455,436

* Labuan not included.

As compared with 1904 this native craft tonnage has decreased by 111,540 tons. This decrease is probably due to the fact that

steamers of medium tonnage now call at ports which were not visited formerly.

The amount realised by Light Dues was $142,874·77.

The total collections under this head for the last five years are as follows:—

	$	c.
1904	213,203	90
1905	222,997	61
1906	223,387	94
1907	221,482	85
1908	142,874	77

The reduction in 1908 is due to the operation of an Order by the Governor in Council, dated the 23rd October, 1907, by which the Light Dues were reduced by about one-half.

In Singapore, during the year, six new steamers, with a tonnage of 1,906 tons gross, and 19 sailing vessels of 1,899 tons were registered under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Eight new sailing vessels of 819 tons were registered under Ordinance V. of 1883; also 754 of 6,625 tons under Ordinance VIII. of 1872.

LEGISLATION.

15. Twenty-seven Ordinances passed the Legislative Council in 1908, of which 18 amended and, in some important cases, consolidated Ordinances already on the Statute Book.

The principal Ordinances passed were the following:—Netherlands India Labourers Protection, Petroleum, Forests, Muhammadan Marriage, and Currency Note Ordinance Amendment. Of these the first was considered necessary in view of the increasing numbers of natives of Netherlands India employed in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and provides for their protection to the satisfaction of the Netherlands Indian Government. The Petroleum Ordinance embodies a large number of amendments found necessary to the Ordinances of 1896 and 1903, which it repeals. It also settles the respective limits of the responsibility of the Government and municipalities with regard to the landing, transport, and storage of petroleum.

The Forests Ordinance follows the lines of the legislation in force in Burma with regard to Crown Forests and Reserves; this had hitherto only been dealt with by rules under the Crown Lands Ordinance. The Muhammadan Marriage Ordinance repealed the Mahomedan Marriage Ordinance, 1880, except for Section 27 (the effect of marriage on property). The Currency Note Ordinance Amendment Ordinance embodied in the law a considerable number of amendments which experience had shown to be desirable, and provided for keeping a gold reserve in London. Of these only the Muhammadan Marriage Ordinance has so far come into operation.

The Tamil Immigration Fund Ordinance was re-enacted with some amendments, and provision was made for loans to small agriculturists (by the Agricultural Loans Ordinance), and for the control by the military authorities of firing areas to seaward (Ordinance XII. of 1908). An Ordinance to provide for the temporary detention of foreign offenders was also passed. The Sunday Labour Ordinance of 1892 was re-enacted with amendments. The prohibited hours of labour were reduced, and a fee was imposed for the issue of permits, the money so collected to be paid into a fund for the relief of destitute seamen. The remaining Ordinances for the most part effected small amendments in existing Ordinances, and call for no remark.

EDUCATION.

16. Nearly all the schools of the Colony are vernacular schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools, which are 175 in number, are defrayed by Government, and they provide free tuition in Malay to some 11,824 pupils. The remaining schools are, with the exception of six which are controlled and financed by Government, aided-schools managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Government.

The net expenditure on Government English Schools was $63,708.14, on Aided-Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese) $95,447, and on Government Vernacular Schools, $86,872.10.

In addition to this, special grants, amounting in all to $31,794.02, were made to certain Aided-Schools in Penang for building purposes.

The cost of the Malacca Training College for Malay teachers during the year under review was $7,780.83. The value of this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the Vernacular Schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before the schools in these Settlements are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The Commercial and Science Classes at the Raffles Institution have made satisfactory progress during the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

17. Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, and those maintained on estates are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to hospitals, exclusive of the Lunatic Asylum, was 31,291, as against 26,196 in 1907. In Singapore 212 patients were admitted into the Lunatic Asylum, as against 197 in 1907. This asylum is now very crowded.

The numbers of patients treated in the hospitals was 32,805, of whom 974 were Europeans. In 1907 the corresponding numbers were 28,708 and 1,193 respectively. Deaths numbered 3,869 (62 being Europeans), as against 3,688 and 74 in 1907. The rate of mortality was thus 11·8 per cent. of the total treated, as against 12·85 per cent. in the previous year.

Four hundred and seventeen persons remained in the Colonial Leper Asylums at the end of the year, as compared with 389 on the 31st December, 1907. One hundred and eighteen deaths occurred, as against 135.

Sixty-five boys remained in the Reformatory on the 31st December, and the average daily muster was 65·26. The health of the inmates was good. They are taught English and Romanized Malay, and in workshops carpentering, tailoring, and shoemaking. The boys now make their own bread and grow their own vegetables. The Reformatory cost $9,418, as against $9,105, exclusive of the salaries of the superintendent and warders.

The transactions of the Savings Bank were: Deposits, $447,892, and withdrawals, $417,217, the 1907 figures being $415,926 and $416,442 respectively. Depositors had a sum of $646,470 standing to their credit at the close of the year (in 1907 the balance was $598,882). The value of the investments stood at $636,783 on the 31st December, the corresponding balance in 1907 being $618,620. They were made up as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	368,833
Singapore Municipal Bonds at 5 per cent. ...	59,450
Do. do. at 4 per cent. ...	76,117
Fixed Deposits in Banks	80,000
Various 3 per cent. Colonial Guaranteed and Corporation Stocks	52,383
Total	**$636,783**

POLICE.

18. The Police Force numbers over 2,400 men, of whom rather more than 300 are Sikhs.

Seventy-four boys have passed through the training depôt at Malacca for the instruction of recruits during 1908.

PRISONS.

19. The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons during 1907 and 1908 were as follows:—

			1907.	1908.
Singapore ...	Criminal	...	852·00	877·00
	Civil	...	53·35	76·96
Penang ...	Criminal	...	208·81	229·43
	Civil	...	18·58	23·83
Malacca ...	Criminal	...	24·98	23·39
	Civil	...	11·65	11·81

The practice of banishing habitual criminals (456 in 1908) has been continued.

The health of the prisoners was uniformly good, the number of deaths being: at Singapore 34, at Penang 10, and at Malacca 1.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

20. Twenty-five murders and seventy-two gang robberies were reported during the year; of the latter 29 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

There was on the whole less serious crime than in 1907, and this is attributed in a great measure to the continued banishment of habitual criminals.

One hundred and fifty-four persons, as against 164 in 1907, were tried before the Supreme Court. Gang robbery and murder, and counterfeiting coin, forgery and using as genuine forged documents, were the principal crimes. Seventeen persons were convicted of returning from banishment. The lower Courts had, however, to deal with a larger number of cases as compared with the previous year, chiefly for minor offences. The total number so disposed of was 23,202, an increase of 4,301 over the figures for 1907. The increase was entirely in Singapore, the other Settlements being normal. There were 1,882 more cases under the Minor Offences Ordinance, 632 more under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, and 507 more of petty thefts.

VITAL STATISTICS.

21. The estimated population of the Colony was 628,016, the figures given by the census of 1901 being 572,249. 18,074 births and 27,041 deaths were registered as against 16,118 and 24,220, respectively, in 1906.

The death-rate was 43·06 per mille of the population. The rate in 1907 was 39·07.

The birth-rate was 28·75 per mille as compared with 26·11 in 1907.

The deaths due to the more important infectious diseases in 1908, excluding imported cases, were as follows:—

Small-pox: 12 as compared with 10 in 1907.
Cholera: 178 as compared with 182 in 1907.
Plague: 12 as compared with 15 in 1907.

The stringent quarantine regulations and the vigilance of the medical and municipal authorities have hitherto prevented these scourges from finding a permanent home in the Colony.

Of other important specific diseases beri-beri accounted for 1,900 deaths and phthisis for 2,988, as against 1,626 and 2,820, respectively, in 1907.

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the municipality and in the several districts of Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca by Rural Boards with power under the Municipal Ordinance.

The mean temperature of the air at Singapore was 80·7° F. (maximum 89·3° and minimum 72·6°); Labuan, 84·1° (maximum 89·5°, minimum 74·8°); Penang, 81·7° (maximum 97°, minimum 70·4°); Malacca, 80·3° (maximum 90°, minimum 71°).

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 85·44 inches; in Labuan, 65·07 inches; in Penang, 111·26 inches; in Province Wellesley, 172·88 inches; and in Malacca, 72·2 inches.

In spite of the high death-rate the climate in the towns and in the country which has long been opened up cannot be considered unhealthy for Europeans, who, if they take ordinary precautions, can, with their higher and more sanitary mode of life, to a great extent avoid the malarial and other tropical fevers and dysentery which attack the Oriental inhabitants of the peninsula.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

22. Over 19,000,000 articles passed through the Post Office, of which over 703,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to $609,597 as against $624,845 in 1907. The expenditure was $479,042, an increase of $30,767 as compared with that of the preceding year. The money order transactions showed an increase of about $200,000, the aggregate being $2,173,145 as against $1,964,139 in 1907 and $1,776,600 in 1906.

The decrease in postal revenue is due to the fact that a considerable number of stamps purchased at the Post Office is used for

revenue purposes and a sum of $79,185.02 received for stamps has therefore been credited as stamp revenue and not under postal revenue.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system of the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company. This company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government offices and police stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The telephone lines in Penang and Province Wellesley, 895 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the metallic circuit in Penang, but in Province Wellesley earth returns are used. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was 371, and there were in addition 94 service lines.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 223 miles of service lines.

MILITARY.

The defence contribution paid by the Colony was $1,879,182.02.

IMMIGRATION.

(I.)—Chinese.

24. The number of immigrants from China, viz., 153,452, is the lowest on record since the year 1900, and represents a decrease of 32·5 per cent. upon the number for 1907. The number of female immigrants shows a decrease of 20·7 per cent. upon the number for the previous year, but the proportion of female to male immigrants has risen to 9·9 per cent. The total number of infants of one year of age and under continues to be large: deducting those reported as leaving for other ports, 441 males and 403 female infants were added to the population of the Colony. The number of "unpaid passengers," *i.e.*, of coolies who obtain free passages from China in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony, shows a considerable decrease, viz., 43·5 per cent. on the number for the previous year, and is the lowest number on record for many years. These "unpaid passengers" formed 8·8 per cent. of the total arrivals.

The heavy decrease in the number of immigrants is due in some measure to quarantine restrictions imposed during the year.

Small-pox in an epidemic form having broken out in Hong Kong, Swatow, and Amony, 14 days' quarantine was imposed upon all immigrants arriving from these ports during the months of April, May, and June. Hong Kong being still infected with plague 10 days' quarantine against arrivals from this port continued till the middle of September.

The totals for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1904	179,650	14,395	10,751	204,796
1905	148,869	13,714	10,548	173,131
1906	153,624	12,478	10,485	176,587
1907	197,284	16,265	13,793*	227,342
1908	129,913	12,909	10,630†	153,452

* Boys, 10,377; Girls, 3,416. † Boys, 7,767; Girls, 2,863.

(II.)—INDIAN.

The figures for the last five years are appended:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
1. Statute Immigrants ...	2,721	4,823	3,674	5,499	5,456
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets).	3,556	7,687	20,215	24,709	20,049
3. Other Immigrants... ...	24,475	27,030	28,152	31,922	29,017

The figures for 1908 include 3,030 children.

29,774 adults and 1,146 children left the Colony for Southern India.

The number of immigrants from South India shows a decrease of 10 per cent. on the figures for 1907; this decrease was due to the temporary drop in the price of rubber, which caused a check in the development of planting, with the result that fewer coolies were required than it was anticipated would be taken. Of the 25,505 agricultural labourers who came over about 15 per cent. were females.

PUBLIC WORKS.

25. In Singapore the most important works undertaken and completed during the year were the new Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the Pathological Laboratory, rebuilding the Lunatic Asylum at Pasir Panjang, the new Maternity Hospital, converting Pearl's Hill Barracks into quarters for 30 European police, &c., recon-

structing one ward at the Poh Leung Kuk Buildings, building a public morgue, also quarters for two dressers at St. John's Island, and a dhobi shed and two quarters for Government officials at Sepoy Lines.

The new road, 3·2 miles in length, connecting Kranji Road with the ferry at Woodlands, was completed at a total cost of $73,149.03, of which $13,844.86 was spent in 1908.

The country roads were maintained in good order throughout the year.

In Penang the principal works taken in hand and completed were the new convalescent bungalow, eating-stalls for natives, the Eye Hospital, two goods sheds with three electric cranes, barracks at magazine police station, quarters for cadets and unmarried officers, and a contagious ward for Europeans at Jelutong Quarantine Camp.

The Batu Feringgi Road was further extended and several decayed timber bridges were renewed in iron and masonry.

In Province Wellesley, five additional quarters for clerks and a new office and dispensary for Bukit Mertajam Hospital were built at Bukit Mertajam. Cooly lines were erected at Sungai Acheh, Bukit Tambun, Telok Ipil, Kubang Semang, and Tasek Glugor. A new vernacular school was erected at Cherok To Kun.

In Malacca the road deviation at Rim was commenced in July last and $17,000 expended to end of the year. The sum of $23,000, of which $3,000 is a re-vote, appears in the estimates for 1909 to complete the work.

Another road deviation was constructed during the year between 16¼ and 16¾ milestone Bemban-Jasin at a cost of $4,508.

The total expenditure on the vote "Gradients of Country Roads, Improvements to" was $5,999.13 out of a vote of $6,000.

A sum of $67,030 was expended on the maintenance of 198 miles of roads, giving an average of $338.53 per mile.

The new masonry and steel bridge over the Malacca River was completed about the end of the year at a cost of $22,496 out of a vote of $22,500.

Two bridges of 15 feet span of masonry and steel were constructed at Pengkalan Balak and Paya Lebar at a cost of $2,783, also 19 small bridges and 10 culverts in masonry at a cost of $7,760 out of two separate votes of $10,000 and $3,000, respectively.

The channel at the entrance to the Malacca River was deepened by means of a grab dredger. The quantity dredged during the year was 17,744·40 tons, at an average cost of 34·94 cents. The dredgings were deposited on the Western Reclamation.

Total length dredged, 960 feet by 20 feet wide. The expenditure for the year was $9,359.36 out of a vote of $12,000. $2,000 from this vote was transferred to reclamation work.

A sum of $6,499.28 was expended for constructing rough-packed coral shield walls to protect reclaimed areas. The sum

voted for this work was $9,000, but $2,500 was transferred for a retaining wall on the reclamation near the Malacca River.

The sum of $9,998.48 out of a vote of $10,000 was expended for raising the north and south groynes to three feet above H.W.O.S.T.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

26. Good progress was made during the year of 1908 with the harbour works.

The contractor's yard was completed: concrete-making machinery was erected and in working order for the making of the rings of concrete for forming the cylinder foundations: a stock of 1,643 rings was in the yard at the end of the year.

A commencement was made with sinking the cylinders in June, and at the end of the year there was a length of 290 feet of cylinder foundations at the northern end by Johnston's Pier, either completed or in course of sinking. At the southern end, opposite Malay Point, a length of 590 feet of foundations was completed or in course of sinking.

In December, 1908, a commencement was made with the granite ashlar work on top of the cylinders at the southern end.

Pulau Ubin quarry was opened out, and up to the end of the year a total of 36,912 tons of granite rubble had been deposited in the Inner South and West Moles from this quarry.

A total of £45,934 (the equivalent of $393,654.38) was paid to the contractors during the year, on certificates for work done during 1908.

The average number of men employed at the end of 1908 were:—at the Pulau Ubin quarry—551, and on the Quay Wall and Reclamation—837, making a total of 1,388. These figures include 130 Europeans.

Progress was made during the year with the new Lagoon Dock and the reconstruction of the wharves at Tanjong Pagar. Tenders for this work were received in 1907, and Messrs. John Aird & Co.'s tender of £998,700 was accepted. The wet dock is to have an area of 24½ acres, providing 3,837 feet of additional quay wall with a minimum depth alongside of 30 feet. The main wharf reconstruction scheme provides for the renewal in concrete blockwork of 3,144 feet and in wrought-iron cylinder construction of 1,431½ feet, giving a minimum depth at all states of the tide of 33 feet alongside.

The cofferdam was successfully closed and the tidal area was pumped out early in September; the excavation necessary was forthwith put in hand, and the formation of the embankments for the diversion of Keppel Road, together with the subsidiary works, were practically completed by the end of the year.

The reconstruction of the main wharf, Sections A and B, was begun, and dredging operations, which involved subaqueous drilling and blasting, were pushed forward. 10,700 cubic yards of blockwork were cast by the 31st December.

The plant and appliances provided by the contractors are most complete and leave nothing to be desired, and it is expected that the rate of completion of the permanent works will increase rapidly.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

27. The revenue collected locally was $735.91 as against $861.53 in 1907. These figures are exclusive of postage stamps, of which the District Officer buys a stock from the Postmaster-General for re-sale. Payments made locally amounted to $8,883.30.

Royalty on phosphate, paid in London in 1909 in respect of phosphate exported in 1908, amounted to £10,482 12*s*. against £8,411 16*s*. 2*d*. for 1907 and £7,153 8*s*. 10*d*. for 1906. The total expenditure of the District Office was $15,799 as against $16,721 in the previous year.

Crime decreased, 121 cases occurring as compared with 190 in the previous year.

The tonnage of shipping cleared from Christmas Island in 1908 was 50,738 (49,753 in 1907); the British tonnage was 39,435, Norwegian 4,789, Swedish 4,129, and German 2,385. Nine cargoes were cleared for Japanese ports and eight to Europe.

Imports were valued at $52,509, and consisted almost exclusively of machinery for the phosphate works. Exports consisted of phosphate of lime only to the amount of 109,097 tons (110,375 tons in 1907). The decrease is attributed to a weakened demand in the European markets.

The population on the 31st December was 1,101, and comprised 28 Europeans and Eurasians, 990 Chinese, 10 Japanese, 35 Sikhs, and 38 Malays and other nationalities. The death-rate was 14·93 per mille per annum as compared with 12·27 in 1907 and 28·5 in 1906. The public health was good and beri-beri continues to decrease, there having been only 101 new cases and 7 deaths. Comparison of these figures with those for 1901, when no less than 229 deaths occurred from beri-beri alone, shows what good progress has been made in a few years by means of scientific attention to matters of housing, sanitation, food, and water supply. The only other disease which shows a tendency to appear in epidemic form is conjunctivitis, of which there were in 1908 61 cases (132 in 1907). There are no anopheles mosquitos on the Island and malaria is unknown.

The facilities for getting and loading phosphate have been extended considerably by the erection of two steel loading piers, the construction of new tramways, and other works.

The mean temperature was 97·99° F., and the rainfall was 105·54 inches, or 32·02 more than in 1907.

LABUAN.

28. The Island of Labuan, until 1907 a separate Colony, was on the 1st January in that year incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The revenue and expenditure of the Island are kept distinct from that of the rest of the Colony, and defence contribution is payable only on the net revenue derived from Labuan, which in 1908 was *nil*, the revenue assessable to defence contribution being $65,891.91, and the expenditure $122,979.44.

The trade of the Island was, in sympathy with the general depression, again smaller than in the previous year, the gross value of imports and exports being $2,275,605 as against $2,678,399 in 1907 and $3,342,065 in 1906.

The comparative values of the trade of the Island in the past three years were as follows:—

	1906.	1907.	1908.
	$	$	$
Imports	1,790,337	1,358,066	1,129,278
Exports	1,551,728	1,320,333	1,146,327
Total ...	3,342,065	2,678,399	2,275,605

The imports and exports from and to ports other than those of the Straits Settlements were:—

	1908.	1907
	$	$
Imports	438,156	429,975
Exports	729,263	524,573

Coal exported as cargo declined by 800 tons, the gross tonnage sold being over 38,000, of which all but 7,000 tons was for bunkering purposes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

29. The anticipation, made in last year's Report, that the work of the Opium Commission would not be finished till the latter half of the year, was fully justified. The Commissioners, who were all gentlemen not only independent and representative but also qualified for the task by long residence in the East and personal knowledge and experience of local conditions, were the Honourable John Anderson, M.L.C. (Chairman), the Honourable Tan Jiak Kim, M.L.C., the Honourable D. J. Galloway, M.L.C., the Rev. W. F. Oldham, D.D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. W. R. C. Middleton, Municipal Health Officer, Singapore, and Mr. E. F. H. Edlin, Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements, and they were asked to enquire into and report upon the extent to which excessive indulgence in the smoking of opium prevailed,

whether in the Colony the smoking of opium (*a*) in moderation (*b*) in excess had increased in the Colony and the steps to be taken by Government to minimize and eventually to eradicate the evils arising from the practice.

The meetings of the Commission numbered 54 and a great amount of evidence was given before it. The issues involved, on account of their number and importance, caused the report to be awaited with eagerness, the standing of the members of the Commission being a guarantee that its work would be thoroughly done.

When the report was at length received towards the end of the year it was found to be a very valuable document; and the mass of information which it contains cannot but prove to be of great assistance in whatever direction attempts are made to deal with the opium traffic.

The thanks of the Government have been given to the President and Members of the Commission for the able and exhaustive manner in which they fulfilled the task before them at great inconvenience to themselves.

The Commissioners found that there had been no increase in the prevalence of the habit and made certain specific recommendations, the chief of which were that the Government should itself administer the opium monopoly, that the arrangements of the existing opium smoking shops should be improved, the use of opium in brothels suppressed, and the sale of chandu to women or to persons under the age of 18 be made penal. The first of these will be carried into effect in Singapore and Malacca in 1910, and, it is hoped, in Penang in 1911. Efforts have been made to enforce the law as regards sale of opium in brothels and the question of improved regulation of opium shops is receiving attention. Opportunity will be taken in the new Ordinance which will be required in view of the abolition of the Farm system to insert the provision as to sale to women and children suggested by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners also visited the Federated Malay States and in their report recommended that the price of chandu there should be raised gradually to that obtaining in the Colony. In December in view of this recommendation the import duty on raw opium in the Federated Malay States was raised.

The Right Revd. Bishop G. F. Hose, D.D., Anglican Bishop of Singapore and Sarawak, resigned on the 17th November. He had been over 40 years connected with the diocese, having been appointed Colonial Chaplain Malacca in 1867, Archdeacon of Singapore in 1874 and Bishop in 1882 and enjoyed the cordial respect and esteem of all sections of the community.

In view of his approaching retirement a movement was set on foot to divide the diocese, which included the Malay Peninsula and Borneo, into two, and to constitute Singapore, Penang, Malacca and the Native States of the Peninsula a distinct diocese to be called the diocese of Singapore. Arrangements have since been completed and a new Bishop of Singapore has been appointed.

The small stipend paid from Colonial revenues to Bishop Hose ceased on his retirement and the new Bishop will not draw any stipend from Government, but the sum will for the present continue to be paid as an annual contribution to the Bishopric fund.

The extensive works being carried out for the improvement of Singapore Harbour and the construction of a Lagoon Dock and the reconstruction of the main Wharf at Tanjong Pagar were proceeded with and the contract for a Graving Dock and other connected works at Keppel Harbour was signed on the 1st January, 1909.

The contract price is £342,793 and the work is to be finished by November, 1912. The dimensions of the dock are to be 852 feet in length by 128 feet broad between copings, with an entrance of 100 feet and a depth on the sill of 24 feet, thus allowing 34 feet of water at H.W.O.S.T. Provision is also made for dividing the dock into two compartments by means of an intermediate caisson. These compartments will be 486 feet and 325 feet long respectively.

Three of the most prominent contracting firms in the world are now at work in Singapore under contract with Government, viz., Sir John Jackson, Limited, John Aird and Company, and Messrs. Topham, Jones, and Railton; and the Westminster Construction Company is also carrying out contracts with the Singapore Municipality for the construction of a new reservoir at Kalang, Filter Beds and a Clear Water Tank at Woodleigh, and have completed their contract for the abutments of the new bridge at the mouth of the Singapore River.

In Penang the management of the Goods Sheds and Swettenham Pier was handed over on the 1st July to the control of a Committee of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board under the Presidency of the Chairman of the Board with the Resident Councillor of Penang as the official member and Deputy Chairman. The undertaking is now known as "The Government Wharves, Penang," The results have been found satisfactory to the trading and shipping interests of the port.

The country districts of Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca outside Municipal limits were placed under the administration of Rural Boards, one for Singapore Island, one for Penang Island, one for Province Wellesley, and one for Malacca. The Boards consist of both official and unofficial members nominated by the Governor. They collect rate and taxes within their respective districts and have the supervision of conservancy, sanitation, and the maintenance of roads and communications. For the present they receive from Colonial Funds substantial grants-in-aid. The creation of these Boards has stimulated an increased interest on the part of the unofficial community in questions of rural administration and may be expected to result in considerable improvement in the condition of outlying districts.

The year under review was an exceptionally bad one for the trade of the Colony; not only was the depression throughout the world felt here, but as pointed out by both the Chairmen of the

Chambers of Commerce of Singapore and Penang the depression was accentuated by the fact that many of the Chinese firms who had speculated in tin and exchange by the means of "long credit" were unable to weather the depression; the results were disastrous, the loss in Singapore alone being estimated at four to five million dollars.

The trading community has received an object lesson in giving credit beyond what is required for legitimate business and the disastrous year of 1908 makes it apparent that the Colony has large resources and men who are not deterred by consecutive years of depression, but have grasped the lessons to be learnt by those years, and by whose efforts the Colony may rely on every advantage being taken to maintain the position of the ports of the Colony as entrepôts for the trade of the surrounding countries.

I referred in my report for the year 1907 to the Shipping Conference in force here, and the effect of the control by that Conference of the freight rates in practically precluding any sailing vessel from obtaining cargo in the Colony, and placing a like embargo upon the economically run "tramp" steamers, British mainly, which used to participate largely in the important over-seas carrying trade.

I also referred to the report of a Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, Singapore, which emphasized the fact that a practice exists under which these Conferences pay a preferential or so-called "secret" return of 5 per cent. on the total of all freights earned from the Straits by Conference steamers to a limited number of privileged firms or persons, and mentioned that this Sub-Committee had placed on record that these privileged firms, among whom are foreign firms, were placed at an advantage over other merchant shippers in the Colony.

The Royal Commission on Shipping Rings has since made its report and the majority have advised that it is inexpedient that the system of deferred rebates be prohibited by law, but adopt as their main recommendation that if the Conference system is abused the shippers and merchants in a given trade should form themselves into an association so that they might be able to present a united front to the Conference when any controversy arose.

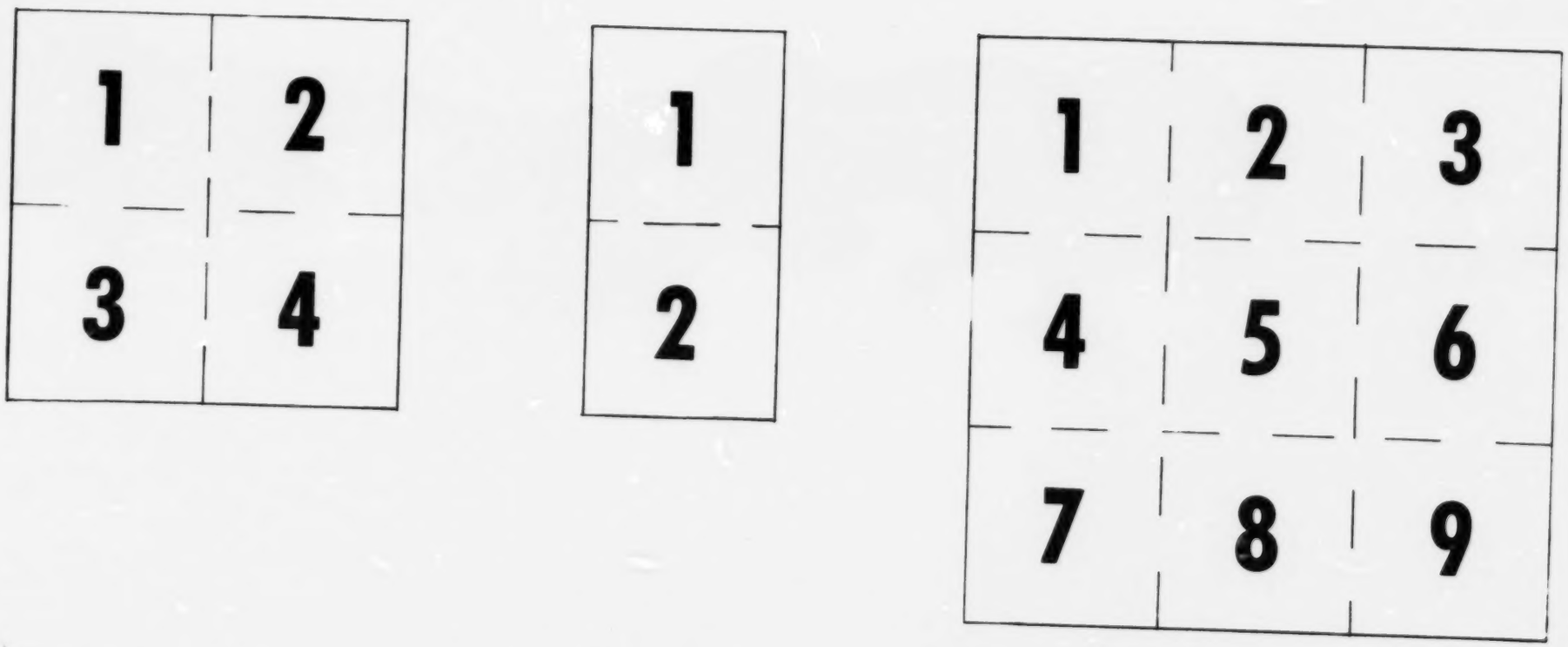
The merchants and shippers of this Colony act in a large number of cases also as agents for ship-owners and it remains to be seen how far this recommendation can be adopted here.

ARTHUR YOUNG,

Colonial Secretary.

17th August, 1909.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



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589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate...	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	"
599	Falkland Islands	"
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601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
603	Ashanti	"
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613	Gold Coast	"
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56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
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59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906-7.
60	Nyasaland Protectorate	" " 1907–8.
61	South Africa	Agriculture and Viticulture.
62	Uganda Protectorate	Cotton Industry.

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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 622.)

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1909.

FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

1. The estimated revenue of the Colony was, for the year 1909, $9,212,384, but the sums actually collected amounted to $8,795,001 only, or $417,383 below the estimate. The actual figures for 1908 and 1909 are shown in the following statement :—

	Revenue 1908.	*Revenue 1909.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Land Revenue ...	409,988	420,697	10,709	...
2. Rents exclusive of Land	65,714	57,170		8,544
3. Licences	6,081,752	5,662,239	...	419,513
4. Stamps	379,676	539,417	159,741	...
5. Port and Harbour Dues	217,423	202,669	...	14,754
6. Posts and Telegraphs ...	525,564	516,643	...	8,921
7. Railway	189,111	243,041	53,930	...
8. Fines and Forfeitures ...	97,650	81,746	...	15,904
9. Fees of Office ...	333,027	327,004	...	6,023
10. Reimbursements ...	326,449	319,141	...	7,308
11. Sale of Govt. Property ...	2,466	5,634	3,168	...
12. Interest	119,775	140,431	20,656	...
13. Miscellaneous ...	161,385	193,111	31,726	...
14. District Collections ...	10,366	...	...	10,366
	$8,920,346	8,708,943	279,930	491,333
15. Land Sales	48,669	86,058	37,389	...
TOTAL ...	$8,969,015	8,795,001	317,319	491,333
		Net decrease ...	$174,014	

The expenditure for the year, as compared with that of 1908, is given below:—

	1908.	*1909.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	308,007	215,833	...	92,174
2. Pensions, etc. ...	387,066	406,137	19,071	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	12,275	11,642	...	633
4. The Governor ...	75,820	74,665	...	1,155
5. Colonial Secretary, etc.	124,909	136,937	12,028	...
6. Government Printing Office	89,050	66,859	...	22,191
7. Land and District Offices	222,618	221,799	...	819
8. Forests	28,877	29,466	589	...
9 Chinese and Indian Immigration ...	94,594	95,023	429	...
10. Treasury	82,071	80,972	...	1,099
11. Audit	40,683	44,204	3,521	...
12. Marine	343,927	291,223	...	52,704
13. Legal	336,802	349,128	12,326	...
14. Police	731,843	753,174	21,331	...
15. Prisons	194,957	200,592	5,635	...
16. Medical ... 17. Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	593,270	608,537	15,267	...
18. Education	406,097	399,662	...	6,435
19. Ecclesiastical ...	19,279	18,306	...	973
20. Transport	14,582	16,190	1,608	...
21. Military Expenditure ...	1,929,272	1,636,505	...	292,767
22. Miscellaneous Services ...	437,331	319,874	...	117,457
23. Post Office	441,982	421,392	...	20,590
24. Railway	451,554	558,124	106,570	...
25. Government Monopolies	...	...	...	...
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	40,736	43,133	2,397	...
27. Public Works Department	300,056	287,946	...	12,110
28. Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	520,279	461,499	...	58,780
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	1,609,687	793,909	...	815,778
TOTAL ...	$9,837,624	8,542,731	200,772	1,495 665
Net decrease ...			$1,294,893	

The sums expended on Personal Emoluments and Other Charges in the two years were:—

	1908.	*1909.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
Personal Emoluments ...	2,893,790	3,005,509	111,719	...
Other Charges	1,869,744	1,809,466	...	60,278

The actual expenditure in 1909 was $845,366 below the estimate, which was $9,388,097. The savings appear mainly in Public Works, Special Services, $380,092, Personal Emoluments, $180,176, Other Charges, $177,782, and Military Expenditure, $123,311. Charges on account of Public Debt exceeded the estimate by $115,833.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1905	...	11,657,424	10,976,525
1906	...	9,618,313	8,747,819
1907	...	10,023,016	9,499,693
1908	...	8,969,015	9,837,624
1909	...	8,795,001	8,542,731

The following statement shows the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at the 31st December, 1909:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Loan Account...	...	1,584,708	Indian Agency Account	...	272,178
Drafts and Remittances	...	2,515	Investments ...	...	2,209,895
Cash in Transit	...	286	Advances ...	...	924,101
Deposits ...	...	994,503	Suspense ...	...	1,214,527
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	...	3,135,228	Cash ...	...	1,096,539
TOTAL	...	$5,717,240	TOTAL	...	$5,717,240

At the same date the Assets and Liabilities of the Currency Commissioners were:—

Liabilites.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits ...	...	31,464,001	Cash in Reserve	...	22,902,294
Advances from Loan Acct.		545,145	Investments ...	...	9,106,852
TOTAL	...	$32,009,146	TOTAL	...	$32,009,146

PUBLIC DEBT.

A Loan of £5,000,000 was raised in 1907 under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907. The position of the loan on the 31st December, 1909, was as follows:—

	£
3½ per cent S. S. Inscribed Stock ...	4,027,763
4 per cent Debentures	1,161,800

Advances were made from Loan Funds as follows:—

	$
Tanjong Pagar Dock Board ...	33,503,392
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	2,000,000
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...	800,000
Government Harbour Works ...	2,832,224
	39,135,616
Expenses of Issue ...	943,688
Total ...	$40,079,304

Of the loan of £5,000,000 raised in 1907 the sum of £4,675,918 has now been expended and it will probably be necessary to raise a further sum of £2,750,000 in 1910. The Ordinance under which the raising of the loan was authorized provided for the raising of £7,861,457, but it is anticipated that a total of £7,750,000 will suffice.

Provision is made for the repayment of this loan by a Sinking Fund which will come into operation in 1917, ten years from the date of the first issue of debentures.

The charge on account of interest on the public debt was $1,614,307 in 1909, as against $1,616,298 in 1908. The great portion of this charge is, however, borne by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The actual sums paid by the Colonial Government in 1908 and 1909, respectively, were $308,007 and $215,833.

In local currency the total amount of the debt stood at $44,481,969 on the 31st December, 1909, which was more than five times the revenue of the Colony but only about three times the revenue of the Colony and the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board together.

EXCHANGE.

The minimum demand rate during the first six months of the year was 2/3$\frac{7}{8}$, the maximum being 2/3$\frac{31}{32}$. The rate improved in July and August, and in September the minimum demand rate was 2/4$\frac{1}{8}$, the maximum being 2/4$\frac{3}{16}$. This rate continued firm until the end of the year.

CURRENCY.

During the year sums amounting to £277,220.19.3 paid by JOHN AIRD & Co. and others to the Crown Agents were paid to their agents in Singapore by the Currency Commissioners at 2/4, the money received in London being applied in redemption of the debt of the Currency Commissioners to the Loan Account, and any profit and loss due to exchange being transferred to the Gold Standard Reserve.

The gold held by the Commissioners in Singapore at the beginning of the year amounted to £4,740. During the year gold to the value of £112,180 was received and issues of £115,990 were made, leaving a balance of £930 in the vault on the 31st December. In addition sums aggregating £140,000 were remitted to the Crown Agents to be held in gold in London.

The large $5 note and the first issue $1 note are being gradually withdrawn from circulation, all such notes being cancelled on their return to the Commissioners.

The currency of the Colony, in circulation exclusive of subsidiary coins, consisted of $29,878,505 in Government currency notes, $555,515 in bank notes issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australasia and China, and $6,713,248.50 in dollars and half-dollars. The above amounts include stocks held by the Banks and the Treasuries of the Colony and the Federated Malay States, but do not include unissued currency notes still in the hands of the Currency Commissioners.

Subsidiary silver coin of the face value of $1,740,639.80 (including $1,000 old Straits dollars and $639.80 assorted dollars) was sent to Bombay during the year to be reminted. The new coins are of a fineness of 600. The profits from reminting this coin will be credited to the Gold Standard Reserve. In the month of December $400,000 worth of the new coins were received from Bombay.

The average bank-note circulation in 1909 was $750,232, as compared with $1,277,340 in 1908. The average amount of Government currency notes in circulation in 1909 was for each month:—

	$		$
January ...	25,860,892	July ...	26,891,537
February ...	26,160,612	August ...	26,940,187
March ...	26,813,441	September ...	27,795,298
April ...	27,202,005	October ...	28,854,164
May ...	27,433,924	November ...	29,238,580
June ...	27,386,538	December ...	29,841,344

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $3,519,298, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $3,279,513. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure, and of the debts of the Boards, showing the provision made for repayment, appear below.

REVENUE.

	1905.	*1906.*	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,149,951	2,224,354	2,306,749	2,429,892	2,448,179
Penang ...	819,531	892,431	906,139	1,002,057	1,002,472
Malacca ...	39,717	89,408	88,416	92,545	68,647
TOTAL ...	$3,009,199	3,206,193	3,301,304	3,524,494	3,519,298

EXPENDITURE.

	1905.	*1906.*	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,158,645	2,168,528	2,245,623	2,286,071	2,191,299
Penang ...	1,191,142	945,187	872,223	933,807	1,026,676
Malacca ...	41,780	80,335	100,176	92,082	61,538
TOTAL ...	$3,391,567	3,194,050	3,218,022	3,311,960	3,279,513

DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVISIONS FOR REPAYMENT.

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 @ 5%	...	400,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
„ „ 1890 @ 6%	...	400,000	
„ „ 1893 @ 5%	280,000		
Redeemed ...	202,000		
		78,000	
„ „ 1897 @ 4%	500,000		...
Unissued	75,500		
	424,500		...
Redeemed ...	116,600		
		307,900	Annual drawings of 2½% of Loan.
„ „ 1898 @ 4%	500,000		
Unissued	472,000		
		28,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
„ „ 1899 @ 4%	400,000		
Redeemed ...	304,000		
		96,000	
„ „ 1901 @ 5%	...	1,000,000	
„ „ 1902 @ 5%	...	400,000	
„ „ 1907 @ 4½%	...	1,600,000	
„ „ 1909 @ 4½%	...	1,000,000	
Government Loan @ 4½% ...	...	2,000,000	
		7,309,900	
Penang—			
Loan @ 5% Debenture Stock 1889	...	250,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of loan.
„ @ 6% do. 1891	...	100,000	
„ @ 5% do. 1901	...	500,000	
„ @ 5% do. 1904	...	600,000	
„ @ 4% Tramway Loan 1904	...	400,000	Annual Repayments of $20,000.
„ @ 4½% from Colonial Government 1907 (Part) ...	...	800,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of Loan ($1,500,000) commencing in 1917.
		2,650,000	
Malacca—			
1885 Loan by Government $25,000 @ 3%	...	14,500	Annual repayments of $500.
1908 Do. $50,000 @ 4½%	...	48,500	Annual repayments of $2,000.
1909 Do. $14,000 @ 4½%	...	14,000	22 Annual repayments of $600 & 1 of $800.
		77,000	

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, established to carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

		Singapore.	*Penang.*	*Province Wellesley.*	*Malacca.*
		$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Revenue	...	13,828.07	45,934.21	140,180.99	60,322.32
Expenditure *	...	71,368.70	49,996.80	168,159.45	131,039.67

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK BOARD.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

		Revenue.		*Expenditure.*	
		$	c.	$	c.
1905	...	5,420,354	26	4,072,004	79
1906	...	5,617,784	92	4,097,428	62
1907	...	6,145,579	25	4,484,476	20
1908	...	5,822,811	69	4,271,715	37
1909	...	5,849,063	00	4,267,797	27

The Board have during the year paid off debentures to a total of $1,050,000 and loans at call amounting to $30,400. The funds for this redemption were provided from the loan issue in pursuance of "The Loan Ordinance 1907." The whole of the debenture issues taken over from the late Tanjong Pagar Dock Company have now been redeemed by the Board, as to $1,300,000 by loan funds, and as to $315,500 from the surplus revenue fund.

The capital debt due to Government including an estimated amount of $29,003,149.45 for initial cost now stands at $33,607,514.62 on which the Board pay interest at 4 per cent. It is intended to fix the capital debt by Ordinance at an early date.

In addition to the above-mentioned capital the Board have also expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,474,819.27 from surplus revenue or reserve fund under Section 31 (2) of "The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance 1905."

Work has progressed throughout the year on reconstruction of the wharves and construction of the new wet dock at Tanjong Pagar and the new dry dock at Keppel Harbour, the expenditure to the end of the year being on the former $2,551,295.88 and on the latter $325,443.68.

* Excess of Expenditure over Revenue made good in each case by contributions from Government.

The following figures are taken from the Wharf Tonnage returns:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Number of vessels ...	2,315	2,470	2,556	2,364	2,366
Tonnage ...	4,491,351	4,701,004	4,747,210	4,590,474	4,433,105
Coal inwards and outwards ...	1,139,042	1,205,580	1,111,682	1,145,435	1,160,711
Cargo inwards and outwards ...	1,115,654	1,150,527	1,270,285	1,088,527	974,016

GOVERNMENT WHARVES, PENANG.

During the year the Northern end of Swettenham Pier Extension (345 feet) has been almost completed and the Southern Arm Extension (255 feet) is being pushed forward rapidly. This, when completed, will provide a total length of 1,200 feet—sufficient to accommodate two of the largest mail steamers.

The removal of Victoria Pier has been deferred, as the matter does not appear to be of such urgent necessity as to warrant a large expenditure.

The present fleet of Lighters numbers 91 but about 25 per cent of these are likely to be condemned during the coming year.

The profit on revenue account at Prai Dock for the year 1909 was $5,392.

The profit on revenue account of Government Wharves, Penang, for the year was $65,258.

TRADE.

The trade shows improvement.

The value of merchandise imported into the Colony was $301,313,799 as against $296,612,744, an increase of $4,701,055 or 1·6 per cent. Exports from the Colony amounted to $267,497,556 as against $262,459,100, an increase of $5,038,456 or 1·9 per cent.

The figures for the last nine years were, in millions of dollars:—

	Average for 1901-1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
	$	$	$	$	$
Merchandise:—					
Imports	315·5	317·8	322·9	296·6	301·3
Exports	262·4	281·3	282·2	262·5	267·5
TOTAL ...	577·9	599·1	605·1	559·1	568·8

Treasure :—					
Imports	35·1	21·5	27·7	19·8	12·0
Exports	35·3	29·7	23·1	11·4	13·7
TOTAL ...	70·4	51·2	50·8	31·2	25·7
Aggregate Total ...	648·3	650·3	655·9	590·3	594·5

Merchandise imported from the United Kingdom increased from $30,635,801 to $32,021,011 or 4·5 per cent, but from the British Possessions and Protectorates there was a decrease from $141,281,920 to $140,440,769 or ·6 per cent. Foreign countries, however, showed an increase from $124,695,023 to $128,852,019 or 3·3 per cent. Exports of merchandise to the United Kingdom decreased from $62,546,937 to $59,546,377 or 4·8 per cent; to British Possessions and Protectorates there was also a falling off from $80,596,838 to $78,883,589 or 2·1 per cent. To foreign countries the exports increased from $119,315,325 (including countries not distinguished) to $129,067,590 or 8·2 per cent.

The trade for the past eight years with the United Kingdom (including all British Possessions) and with foreign countries is shown in the following table :—

IMPORTS.

	Average 1902-1906.	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	230,664,724	226,911,864	187,855,386	183,126,371
Foreign Countries ...	125,265,395	129,664,621	128,540,553	130,232,056

EXPORTS.

	Average 1902-1906.	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	150,149,625	166,366,980	151,004,850	149,578,582
Foreign Countries ...	155,241,917	142,342,929	122,541,779	131,604,439

A comparison of Settlements Trade shows the following proportion of merchandise imported into the Colony, viz. :—

Singapore 71·2 per cent, an increase of 1·2 per cent in value.

Penang 28·3 per cent, a decline of 1·2 per cent.

Malacca ·3 per cent.

Labuan ·2 per cent.

the last two places being the same as they were in 1908.

In exports the figures are as follows, viz.:—

Singapore 67 per cent, an increase of ·8 per cent.
Penang 32·1 per cent, a fall of ·7 per cent.
Malacca ·6 per cent, a decline of ·1 per cent and
Labuan ·3 per cent, as it was in 1908.

The combined action of certain British firms in insisting on credits being limited to 60 days and on deliveries being effected within the same time has tended to place the trade on a sounder basis which is borne out by the fact that in 1909 the number of failures was only nine with a total liability of $184,000 as against thirty-one in 1908 with a total liability of $1,080,000.

The absence of speculative trade and the greater caution exercised by native dealers have resulted in the improvement of their financial status thereby contributing towards the sound state of the market.

The produce trade shows considerable advancement in prices.

Piece goods also shew improvement. The high price of raw cotton, which stood at 8·5*d*. per lb. on the last day of the year, an unusually high quotation compared with previous years, would tend to a reduction in stocks when enhanced prices may be expected.

The latter part of the year shows an expansion in the trade in rough goods, there being a good demand especially for rubber estates' requirements owing to the development of the rubber industry.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

SINGAPORE.

The increase of para rubber planting in the Colony during the past year has been phenomenal. Considerable areas of waste land have been put under rubber, which is also planted through the old pineapple fields. In Singapore most of this cultivation is under Chinese control but there are three European-owned estates. It is very gratifying to see so much waste land which has been unused for many years, since the abandonment of the gambier and pepper cultivation, at last under cultivation again. An extensive nursery of young para rubber seedlings along the Orchard Road, and the shipping of tongkang loads of seed from the Federated Malay States for planting here, shows the great strides that this industry is making in the Colony. When it is considered that only one-third of the island is cultivated and

that the rest, excluding the town, consists almost exclusively of abandoned secondary scrub, it is satisfactory to record the increase of a permanent cultivation on this waste land. There has been a slight increase in coconut planting, but there is some tendency, among the Chinese especially, to substitute rubber for coconuts, which is not an advisable policy.

Pepper and gambier show signs of a return. Both these plants had almost completely disappeared from cultivation in the island. Several new plantations have been formed in the year. There has also been a small increase in indigo, citronella grass, ginger and ground-nuts. Vegetable cultivation in the other hand has decreased considerably, and there is a marked decrease in pineapple cultivation, as was to be expected. There seems also to be an increase in flower cultivation, and in one place the Chinese have several acres under Jasmine, the flowers of which are sold in town. The Soy-bean cultivation failed entirely and has been abandoned.

Penang and Province Wellesley.

Rubber.—The conversion of Batu Kawan Estate (5,000 acres), of which 1,500 were formerly under sugar and coconuts, into a rubber estate and the gradual conversion of Prai Estate (also sugar and coconuts) into rubber add very largely to the total acreage under this product. Doubtless the increasing prices paid for plantation rubber during the year were primarily the cause of this. The planting and cultivation of para rubber was also extended on the "Caledonia" group of estates, the Bertam Estate, the Malakoff Estate, the Val d'Or Estate, the Bakap Estates, the Juru Estate and the Alma Estate, all in Province Wellesley.

In January, 1909, the price per pound was 5/4 and by a gradual rise reached what was at that time the highest figure ever paid, viz., 9/8½ in November; December, however, saw a drop to 8/0¾.

Tapioca.—Notwithstanding that prices showed a further decline, the total exports slightly exceeded those of 1908.

Copra and Coconuts.—The exports of the former fell from 331,000 pikuls in 1908 to 281,000 pikuls in 1909. Prices in consequence improved considerably. The cultivation of coconuts is extending, and a bigger trade was done in 1909 than in the previous year, probably owing to the decreased output of copra.

Native or Basket Sugar.—The cultivation of this product is almost extinct, chiefly on account of native cultivations having been sold to Europeans as rubber plantations. The exports fell from 87,000 pikuls in 1908 to 23,000 in 1909.

Spices.—Nutmegs showed an increase from 2,330 pikuls in 1908 to 3,030 in 1909. Prices were, however, almost unremunerative. Cloves dropped from 1,519 pikuls in 1908 to 750 pikuls in 1909, prices showing no material difference.

Rice.—The padi crops in Province Wellesley were much better in 1909 than in the previous year, averaging between 50 and 60 bushels per acre.

The Agricultural Show of the Colony and Federated Malay States was held in Penang in August and proved very successful. The quality of the exhibits, especially in the staple articles of rubber, coconuts, copra, tapioca, etc., reached a high standard.

MALACCA.

The planting of para rubber received a great impulse during the latter part of the year and applications for large areas were made which could not all be finally dealt with. The high price of rubber has caused owners to start tapping whenever possible and the export figures have gone up rapidly. Few signs of disease have been seen and the trees, though they do not show such rapid growth as elsewhere, owing to catch crops of tapioca and gambier being planted, are generally speaking very healthy. Owing to the fact that most of the estates are on land which was cleared for tapioca twenty or thirty years ago, the quantity of dead and decaying timber on them is but small.

There are still considerable areas under tapioca, but as it is no longer allowed to be planted except as a catch crop in young rubber, this form of cultivation will gradually pass away. Gambier has shown itself a very successful catch crop on small areas of rubber and has paid well. There are signs of attention being paid to coconut planting but so long as rubber holds its present position it is not likely that much will be done.

LAND GRANTS.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued and the premia paid for the same during the last five years are as follows:—

SINGAPORE.

	1905.	*1906.*	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P
Area granted	169 2 34	5,895 0 23	119 3 28	419 3 12	338 2 14
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	46,451	805,636	327,687	183,543	45,514
Number of Statutory Grants issued	97	237	63	144	33
Premia paid	$165.60	$69,506.30	$12,623.00	$6,715.00	$13,202.90

PENANG.

	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	1,102 2 31	1,487 0 20	6,927 3 35	663 1 08	723 1 05
			sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
			300,916	232,191	7,535
Number of Statutory Grants issued	470	301	352	63	102
Premia paid	$932.25	$2,279.70	$10,532.66	$3,113.85	$4,890.75

MALACCA.

	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	4,137 3 25	3,249 0 34½	10,451 1 16	7,897 0 10	4,025 1 21
			sq. ft.	sq. ft.	
			9,159	82,797	
Number of Statutory Grants issued	113	92	*270	341	†270
Premia paid	$15,233.95	$45,042.75	$51,774.70	$32,274.55	$42,895.40

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 22,192,354 as compared with 21,750,245 in 1908. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

* 249 Statutory Grants, 21 Mining Leases. † 265 Statutory Grants, 4 Mining Leases and one Freehold Grant.

Statement showing Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels during the Years 1908 and 1909.

Nationality.	1908.					1909.				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
American	662	1,324	...	...	1,986	...	...	...	2,430	2,430
Austrian	201,554	191,648	...	...	393,202	197,722	185,878	...	...	383,600
British	7,276,137	4,916,223	660,596	117,202	12,970,158	7,193,003	4,931,638	733,562	137,706	12,995,909
Belgian	5,806	...	...	...	5,806	...	...	...	...	...
Danish	125,982	33,262	...	...	159,244	78,309	47,746	...	...	126,055
Dutch	1,482,715	208,124	...	1,378	1,692,217	1,692,321	250,757	...	...	1,943,078
French	822,907	6,884	...	...	829,791	748,339	...	...	2,598	750,937
German	1,882,028	1,038,657	1,286	132,000	3,053,971	1,880,583	1,101,130	...	163,192	3,144,905
Italian	126,822	114,396	...	...	241,218	115,740	108,468	...	...	224,208
Japanese	927,371	251,352	...	...	1,178,723	1,162,112	315,315	...	...	1,477,427
Norwegian	436,204	74,974	...	41,450	552,628	389,434	45,315	...	21,748	456,497
Russian	338,550	15,166	...	...	353,716	264,957	...	...	...	264,957
Sarawak	95,396	...	...	280	95,676	95,310	..	...	378	95,688
Siamese	48,559	...	...	...	48,559	103,531	4,468	...	...	107,999
Spanish	134,630	...	...	...	134,630	127,210	...	...	...	127,210
Swedish	27,882	10,838	...	...	38,720	65,552	25,902	...	...	91,454
	13,933,205	6,862,848	661,882	292,310	21,750,245	14,114,123	7,016,617	733,562	328,052	22,192,354

From the above comparative table it will be seen that the following countries show an increased tonnage, entered and cleared, in 1909 as compared with 1908. Britain 25,751; Japan 298,704; Holland 250,861; Germany 90,934; Siam 59,440, and Sweden 52,734.

The following countries show a decrease:—

Norway 96,131; Russia 88,759; France 78,854; Denmark 33,189; Italy 17,010; Austria 9,602; Spain 7,420, and Belgium 5,806.

Comparative Statement of Merchant Vessels Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

	*1905.**	*1906.**	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	18,890,600	19,711,498	20,328,760	21,750,245	22,192,354

It will thus be seen that the tonnage as compared with 1905 has increased by 3,301,754.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

	1908.		*1909.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Arrivals ...	17,747	723,536	17,505	675,762
Departures ...	17,882	731,900	17,512	671,439
Total ...	35,629	1,455,436	35,017	1,347,201

The decrease as compared with 1908 is 108,235 tons.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons Entered and Cleared, for last Five Years.

	*1905.**	*1906.**	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	1,544,284	1,484,801	1,464,048	1,455,436	1,347,201

As compared with 1905 this native craft tonnage has decreased by 197,083 tons. This decrease is probably due to the fact that steamers of medium tonnage now call at ports which were not visited formerly.

* Labuan not included.

In Singapore during the year one new steamer with a tonnage of 175 tons gross and 13 sailing vessels of 1,391 tons were registered under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Twelve new sailing vessels of 898 tons were registered under Ordinance V of 1883; also 802 of 5,928 tons under Ordinance VIII of 1872.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances, of which twelve were principal and twelve amending Ordinances, passed the Legislative Council.

The principal Ordinances are of considerable importance. They include the Chandu and Liquors Ordinances which were rendered necessary by the abolition of the Opium and Spirit farms, and advantage was taken of the opportunity offered by their introduction to render more stringent the regulations relating to the importation and consumption of opium in the Colony. The abandonment of the Excise Farm system and the decrease in revenue consequent thereon made other taxation necessary and an Ordinance imposing a duty on petroleum was introduced and passed in November.

The Societies Ordinance repealed the Societies Ordinances of 1889 and 1893 and re-enacted them with some additions which experience of the old Ordinances had proved to be desirable.

The Civil Law Ordinance repealed the Indian Acts in force in the Colony dealing with the subject and also the Civil Law Ordinance of 1878, and re-enacted their provisions with some additions in a consolidated Ordinance.

The Labuan Assizes Ordinance made provision for the holding of Assizes in Labuan for the trial of offences committed in Labuan and Brunei. As the number of residents who are able readily to understand English is small the system of assessors was adopted.

The Fisheries Ordinance consolidated the laws relating to fisheries; the Native States Prisoners Ordinance enables sentences of imprisonment in certain Native States of the Malay Peninsula and in the State of Brunei to be carried into effect in the Colony; the Board of Education Ordinance established a board to advise the Government in matters relating to education and gave power to assess and collect an Education Rate.

The amending Ordinances deal mainly with details and no principles of interest or importance are involved.

EDUCATION.

There are in the Colony 179 vernacular schools where the teaching is in Malay. Free tuition up to the Fourth Standard is provided by the Government at these schools to about twelve

thousand two hundred boys and girls. The Government also finances and controls eight schools where the teaching is in English and goes up to the Seventh Standard.

There are also thirty-two aided-schools managed by private bodies and in receipt of grants-in-aid from Government.

The net expenditure on Government English schools was $124,769.43, on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $106,958.24, and on Government vernacular schools, $97,431.33.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continues to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $8,152. The supply of trained teachers from the institution is still, however, below the demand and is likely to remain so for some years to come.

The progress of the Commercial and Science Classes at the Raffles Institution is reported to have been very satisfactory.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

All the public hospitals of the Colony are under Government management. A certain number are maintained on estates under the provisions of the Labour Ordinances in force for various classes of immigrant labour, and these are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to hospitals, exclusive of the Lunatic Asylum, was 27,543, as against 27,361 in 1908. Two hundred and twenty patients were admitted into the Lunatic Asylum, Singapore, as against 212 in 1908.

The number of patients treated in the hospitals was 30,266, of whom 1,398 were Europeans. In 1908 the corresponding numbers were 30,370 and 1,287 respectively. Deaths numbered 3,635 (70 being Europeans), as against 4,031 and 83 in 1908. The rate of mortality shows a reduction, the figures being, for 1908, 13·24 and, for 1909, 12·01 per cent of the total cases treated.

The number of inmates in the Leper Asylums of the Colony increased from 417 on the 31st December, 1908, to 483 at the end of the year under review. The number of deaths was also greater, the total for 1909 being 149.

REFORMATORY.

The expenditure of this institution, exclusive of the salaries of the Superintendent and Warders, was $8,587 in 1909, a reduction of $831 from the figures for the preceding year. The

average daily muster was a little higher, the actual figures being, 1908, 65·26 and, in 1909, 66·49. There remained 71 boys on the 31st December. The health of the inmates was good. They are taught English and romanized Malay. The boys make bread and grow vegetables, for their own consumption, and are taught other trades, such as carpentering, tailoring and shoemaking, which may be useful to them on release.

SAVINGS BANK.

There are no private Savings Banks in the Colony. The amount at the credit of the depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1909, was $671,028, the highest sum reached. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $157.26.

The deposits were $469,854, as compared with $447,892 in 1908.

The excess of deposits over withdrawals was $6,056.

There was a profit on the year's working of $2,583, but that amount was not sufficient to cover the depreciation of securities, so that the position at the end of 1909 was less satisfactory than at the end of the previous year. The present value of the investments is as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent Rupee Paper ...	411,696
Singapore Municipal Bonds at 5 per cent	60,030
Do. do. at 4 „	69,375
Fixed Deposits in Banks	45,000
Various 3 per cent Colonial Guaranteed and Corporation Stocks	66,707
Total ...	$652,808

POLICE.

The Police Force numbers over 2,500 men, of whom 378 are Sikhs.

Ninety-nine boys have passed through the training depôt at Malacca for the instruction of recruits during 1909.

PRISONS.

The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons during 1908 and 1909 were as follows:—

		1908.	*1909.*
Singapore ...	Criminal ...	877·00	952
	Civil ...	76·96	114
Penang ...	Criminal ...	229·43	221·64
	Civil ...	23·83	30·54
Malacca ...	Criminal ...	23·39	22·88
	Civil ...	11·81	4·95

The practice of banishing habitual criminals (634 in 1909) has been continued.

The health of the prisoners was uniformly good, the number of deaths being: at Singapore 32, at Penang 12 and at Malacca nil.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Sixteen murders and sixty-three gang robberies were reported during the year; of the latter 31 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

The returns do not disclose any abnormal features.

One hundred and eighteen persons as against 154 in 1908 were tried before the Supreme Court. Gang robbery and murder, and counterfeiting coin, were the principal crimes. Eleven persons were convicted of returning from banishment. The lower Courts had to deal with a smaller number of cases than in the previous year. The total number disposed of was 18,796, a decrease of 4,406 over the figures for 1908. The decrease was almost entirely in Singapore, the other Settlements being normal.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 636,691, the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Sixteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-four births and 23,925 deaths were registered as against 18,074 and 27,041, respectively, in 1908.

The death-rate was 37·58 per mille of the population. The rate in 1908 was 43·06

The birth-rate was 26·69 per mille as compared with 28·75 in 1908.

The deaths due to the more important infectious diseases in 1909, excluding imported cases landed on, or occurring amongst contacts on, the Quarantine Island, were as follows:—

Small-pox: 11 as compared with 12 in 1908.

Cholera: 76 as compared with 178 in 1908.

Plague: 5 as compared with 12 in 1908.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,506 deaths, 394 fewer than occurred in the previous year. The use of cured rice in all Hospitals has largely lessened the death-rate from this disease.

There were 2,659 deaths from phthisis against 2,988 in 1908.

The totals of deaths from dysentery (1,241) and malaria (2,589) show a decrease. The figures for 1908 were 1,394 and 3,062 respectively.

Considerable work is in progress with the view of lessening the incidence of these four diseases, our scourges, but the difficulties of natural and other forces against us are great.

CLIMATE.

The mean temperature of the air, 81·7 *F.* is highest in Penang where the maximum temperature was 93°, the minimum 71°. It is lowest in Malacca 80·9, with a maximum of 88·4, minimum 73·5. The mean at Singapore was 81·0, maximum 92·5, minimum 69·0.

Rainfall:—	Penang ...	...	128·65 inches.
	Province Wellesley	...	118·00 ,,
	Labuan ...	...	114·00 ,,
	Singapore ...	...	112·69 ,,
	Malacca ...	...	68·51 ,,

The prevailing direction of the wind changes with the N. E. and S. W. Monsoons. The former blowing from November to April and the latter from May to October.

Notwithstanding the high death-rate (37·58 per mille for 1909) of the general populace, the climate must be considered fairly healthy for Europeans, the death-rate among whom was 11·63 per mille. It must be remembered, however, that amongst the Europeans, most of whom are picked lives, there are few very old and but a small percentage of children. Moreover, when ill, Europeans, as a rule, leave the Colony as soon as possible.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The chief event of the year was the reduction of postage to Kelantan, Trengganu, Kedah and Perlis consequent on the transfer of these States to British protection. The reduction, which took effect on the 1st of August, applies to all classes of postal matter, the new rates being the same as those in force in the inland service of the Colony. The cash-on-delivery system was applied to letters and parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom, from the 1st of January and with Hongkong from the 2nd of August, but little advantage was taken of these services. The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 5,892,463, an average of 10·3 per inhabitant. The number received for delivery was 5,438,603.

The decrease in postal revenue is due to the depression in trade which existed until late in the year. The stamp sales were less each month than in 1908, until July, and did not show any marked improvement until December.

New Government telegraph lines from Singapore to Penang and the Federated Malay States were opened for public traffic, that to Kuala Lumpur on the 17th of May, that to Penang on the 17th of June. Kedah joined the Malayan telegraph system on the 1st of October and the rates were reduced from eight to three cents per word.

IMMIGRATION.

(1) CHINESE.

The number of immigrants from China, viz., 151,752, is again the lowest on record since the year 1900, and shows a further decrease of 1·1 per cent upon the number for the year 1908. The number of adult female immigrants also shows a further decrease, viz., 6 per cent upon the number for the previous year: the proportion of female to male immigrants has fallen 0·4 per cent, but remains higher than that of any other former year. One thousand one hundred and fifty-six infants of one year of age and under arrived in the Colony against 2,002 in the year 1908: of these 258 male and 254 female children are believed to have been added to the population of the Colony, the balance having been reported as leaving for other ports. The number of "unpaid passengers" *i.e.*, coolies who obtain free passages from China in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony, was 13,379, a decrease of 225 from the number for the previous year, and is again the lowest on record for many years. These unpaid passengers formed 8·8 per cent of the total arrivals.

Harvests were good in China and trade was depressed on this side; it is difficult to assign other reasons for the continued decrease in immigration.

The totals for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.		*Men.*	*Women.*	*Children.*	*Total.*
1905	...	148,869	13,714	10,548	173,131
1906	...	153,624	12,478	10,485	176,587
1907	...	197,284	16,265	(*a*) 13,793	227,342
1908	...	129,913	12,909	(*b*) 10,630	153,452
1909	...	128,878	12,126	(*c*) 10,748	151,752

(II).—INDIAN.

The figures for the last five years are appended:—

	1905.	*1906.*	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
1. Statute Immigrants ...	4,823	3,674	5,499	5,456	4,119
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets) ...	7,687	20,215	24,709	20,049	20,289
3. Other Immigrants ...	27,030	28,152	31,922	29,017	25,409

The figures for 1909 include 2,653 children.

Thirty thousand two hundred and eighty-four adults and 1,090 children left the Colony for Southern India.

The decrease in the number of Immigrants from South India as compared with 1908 amounts in the case of agricultural labourers to about 4 per cent and in the case of other classes to about 12 per cent. It is probably due to increased prosperity in India and increased competition of other Colonies for Indian labour. Of the agricultural labourers who came over about 14·5 per cent were females.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SINGAPORE.

Among the public works completed during the year were the new light to Cape Rachado lighthouse; new Lascars' Quarters at Teluk Ayer for the Marine Department; additions and alterations to Supreme Court; Quarters for Junior Boarding Officer at Teluk Ayer; improvements to the Malarial Ward, General Hospital; erection of five additional Quarters at Pulau Brani, for the Master Attendant's Lascars; ten new Quarters for the Police at People's Park; erection of Quarters for the Second Superintendent of Police at Pearl's Hill; raising and filling of swampy

(*a*) Boys, 10,377; Girls, 3,416. (*b*) Boys, 7,767; Girls, 2,863. (*c*) Boys, 7,946; Girls, 2,802.

land at the toe of Pearl's Hill in connection with the new European Police Quarters; Beach Road Reclamation, repairing and maintaining sea wall and grounds, Middle Road Ghaut; filling up swampy ground near Kandang Kerbau Hospital; new Coroner's Court and Morgue, Tan Tock Seng Hospital; and rebuilding Tanjong Rhu Bungalow. No new roads or bridges were constructed during the year. The country roads, bridges and culverts, were maintained in good order throughout the year.

PENANG.

In Penang the principal works taken in hand and completed were, rebuilding Nurses' Quarters, General Hospital; special services to the Residency; Eating Shed, Sungai Pinang; Indian Immigration Shed; tile roofing three vernacular schools; glass shutters in lieu of louvres at Belle Vue Bungalow; replacing barbed wire fencing Cattle Quarantine Station, Brick Kiln Road, with steel paling and raising low-lying ground at the Cattle Quarantine Station. The Chinese Protectorate and Indian Immigration Offices commenced in 1907 were completed during the year.

The work in connection with improving the water supply to Government Hill Bungalows was not quite finished at the close of the year.

The Batu Feringgi Road for a length of one mile was metalled with granite and spawls. Several decayed timber bridges and culverts were renewed in iron and masonry.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

A Lock-up Ward was built for Prisoners and Cells for Lunatics in connection with the Hospital; and a Public Works Department Store was built at Bukit Mertajam.

Teacher's Quarters were erected at Kubang Semang and the vernacular school at Aur Gading was extended. A new Fish Market was also provided at Bagan Tuan Kechil.

During the year three new bridges were constructed and 16 culverts under 6′0″ span. Two new steel pontoons and seven wooden pontoons were provided for the bridges at Nibong Tebal and Bagan Serai respectively, as also three ferry pontoons for the ferries at Prai, Aur Gading and Bukit Tambun.

MALACCA.

The road deviation at Rim which was estimated to cost $40,000 was nearly completed during the year.

A sum of $124,297.81, of which $85,000 was Government contribution, was expended on the maintenance of 280 miles of roads, giving an average of $443.92 per mile.

The platforms of 14 bridges were renewed in reinforced concrete at a cost of $6,310.

To renew a 26-foot span bridge at Tampoi, a contract was entered into for $2,310. The contract, which expired on 15th December, has been extended for two months owing to heavy floods.

Ten decayed wooden culverts were renewed in masonry and concrete at a cost of $2,940.

The channel at the entrance to the Malacca River was deepened by means of the "Grab" dredger. The quantity dredged and conveyed for filling in the eastern and western reclamations was 36,005.52 tons at a cost of $26.56 cents per ton. The total expenditure for the year was $11,999.97, of which a sum of $2,436.96 was spent for a new Cochrane boiler donkey pump and repairs to pontoon. The dredger worked from 14th April to 27th December (inclusive). During the first quarter no dredging was done as the old boiler was condemned, and the new one was being fixed.

The sum expended for raising the east and west groynes was $4,996.55. The total length raised two feet above H.W.O.S.T. was 950 feet.

NEW WORKS AT TANJONG PAGAR.

Progress has been made during the year with the Lagoon Wet Dock and the reconstruction of the wharves at Tanjong Pagar.

The south wall of the dock has been completed for a length of 1,250 feet and a further length of 1,000 feet is under construction; this has involved the depositing of 49,460 cubic yards of concrete during the year.

A total of 477,600 cubic yards of excavation has been removed from the body of the dock during the year, leaving 869,800 cubic yards to be dealt with. The material excavated has been utilized for reclaiming the swamp areas to the northward of the dock.

The diversion of Keppel Road between Borneo Wharf and Anson Road is in progress, the surface of the roadway having been formed and the tramway laid for almost the entire length.

The preliminary works in connection with the construction of the entrance to the dock are being proceeded with and a commencement will shortly be made with the blockwork wall on the eastern side.

The reconstruction of the western end of the main wharf to the extent of 500 feet was almost completed during the year, and it is anticipated that this length will be available for traffic in 1910.

The quarries at Bukit Timah have been further developed during the year and a total quantity of 87,000 cubic yards of granite has been delivered on the works.

A total amount of £176,100 was paid to the contractors on account of work done during 1909.

The average number of men employed on the works and at the quarry during the year was 3,676.

Good progress was made during the year with the construction of the new graving dock at Keppel Harbour.

The construction of the cofferdam and watertight embankment was completed in September, and the tidal waters were finally excluded from the site of the dock in November.

The diversion of the Singapore Government Railway clear of the site of the works was completed in May and a commencement was subsequently made with the construction of the walls at the head of the dock.

The general excavation for the body of the dock and also for the engine house foundations have made satisfactory progress.

The piled foundation for the boiler house was completed during the year.

The plant and arrangements for temporary works provided by the contractors are most complete and it is anticipated that the rate of progress of the permanent work will rapidly increase.

A quarry at Pulau Ubin has been opened out and a considerable quantity of stone therefrom has been delivered on to the works.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

The general progress of the harbour works throughout 1909 was well maintained.

At the end of the year there was a total length of 1,500 feet of wall completed and foundation work is in for a further length of 1,000 feet, out of a total length of 5,028 feet that has to be done to complete the Quay Wall.

The filling up of the reclaimed area with the dredgings and covering the same with material excavated from Mount Wallich has been carried on during the year.

There has been deposited on the Inner South Mole during the year 1909, 114,609 tons of rubble.

A total of £224,933 was paid to the contractors up to the end of 1909 on certificates for work done during the year.

The average number of men employed at the end of 1909 was at the Pulau Ubin Quarry 787 and on the quay and reclamation 1,109, making a total of 1,895. The figures include 119 Europeans.

LABUAN.

The revenue and expenditure of the Island are kept distinct from that of the rest of the Colony, and Defence Contribution is payable only on the net revenue derived from Labuan, which in 1909 was *nil*. The revenue was $78,979.23 and the expenditure $96,583.11.

The trade of the Island was larger than in the previous year, the gross value of Imports and Exports being $2,447,841, as against $2,275,605 in 1908 and $2,678,399 in 1907.

The comparative values of the trade of the Island in the past three years were as follows:—

		1907.	*1908.*	*1909.*
		$	$	$
Imports	...	1,358,066	1,129,278	1,308,077
Exports	...	1,320,333	1,146,327	1,139,764
Total	...	2,678,399	2,275,605	2,447,841

The Imports and Exports from and to ports other than those of the Straits Settlements were:—

		1907.	*1908.*	*1909.*
		$	$	$
Imports	...	429,975	438,156	615,051
Exports	...	524,573	729,263	724,631

Coal exported as cargo increased by 20,578 tons, the gross tonnage sold being over 57,268, of which about half was for bunkering purposes.

The tonnage of shipping entering the port was 165,137 (British 70,153 tons and Foreign 94,984 tons), as compared with 145,704, (British 58,601 tons and Foreign 87,103 tons), in 1908.

There is a steady demand for Labuan coal and fifteen cargoes were exported in 1909. The output from the mines was 61,855 tons against 33,458 tons in the previous year. The Labuan Coalfields Company Limited, with a view to the quicker despatch in loading and bunkering, are at present erecting a transporter at Port Victoria by means of which they will probably be able to coal vessels at the rate of 140 tons per hour.

The lantern and apparatus for the new lighthouse on Papan Island arrived early in the year, and it is hoped to complete the construction of the building in 1910.

In the Police Magistrate's Court 228 persons were summarily convicted and 13 persons were committed for trial in the higher Courts. The figures for 1908 were not made up in the usual manner and are not available for comparison. As compared with those of 1907 the 1909 return shows an increase of over fifty per cent in the number of cases tried by the Police Courts, a similar increase in the number of defendants and an increase of almost one hundred per cent in the number convicted. The Magistrate inclines to the view that these figures indicate a more efficient Police force and not a greater state of lawlessness.

The total rainfall registered at the Hospital was 114 inches or 51·07 inches less than in 1908.

The mean shade temperature was 83·36.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue was $91,863.57 as compared with $74,222.37 in 1908. The expenditure was $16,394.60, an increase of $89.66 over that of the previous year.

The total tonnage cleared from the Port was 57,915 as against 50,738 tons in 1908.

Imports were valued at $85,680 and consisted almost entirely of plant and machinery for the phosphate company's works.

The only export was phosphate of lime. The total shows a decrease of 3,616 tons, being 105,481 tons as compared with 109,097 in 1908. Japan took only 5,200 tons as against 51,862 tons in 1908, on the other hand there was a large increase in the amount exported to Europe and Australia, and a considerable advance in the near future is anticipated.

The facilities for loading phosphate have been still further extended, and the steel piers and a third tramway line which were begun in 1908 have now been completed.

The population on the 31st December, 1909, was 1,170 and included twenty-two Europeans. The health of the inhabitants was good throughout the year. There were only eleven deaths,

and of these five were caused by drowning; so that although the actual death-rate was 9·69 per thousand the death-rate due to disease was very much less.

The conditions with regard to beri-beri continued to improve. There were two deaths from this disease and 58 new cases as compared with seven deaths and 101 new cases in 1908. When it is remembered that in 1901 there were 229 deaths from beri-beri, the present figures may be regarded as satisfactory and give grounds for hope that the disease may shortly be entirely stamped out.

The following figures giving the death-rates for the last six years are interesting :—

Year.	*1904.*	*1905.*	*1906.*	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*
Death-rate per mille ...	116·43	19·98	28·5	12·27	14·93	9·69

There was no serious crime during the year. In all 145 cases came before the Court, but the majority of these were of a trivial nature.

The year 1909 was the wettest on record, the rainfall being 112·43 inches. The mean temperature was 80·308 ° *F.*

GENERAL.

Towards the end of the year a Commission was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the administration of Municipal affairs in the Colony and to report on the advisability of making alterations in the constitution, powers and methods of administration and organization of the several Municipalities.

The Commissioners were Hon'ble J. O. ANTHONISZ, Treasurer (*ex* President, Municipal Commissioners), President of the Commission, Hon'ble W. EVANS, Resident Councillor, Malacca, (*ex* President, Municipal Commissioners), Hon'ble T. S. BAKER, M.L.C., Manager, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Hon'ble H. FORT, M.L.C., Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements, Mr. J. R. NICHOLSON, Chairman, Tanjong Pagar Dock Board, Mr. E. D. HEWAN, Manager, Messrs. Boustead & Co., and Mr. SEAH LEANG SEAH (former M.L.C.).

The report of the Commission is due in September, 1910.

A new treaty with Siam was signed in March, by which all her rights over the States of Kelantan, Trengganu, Kedah and Perlis were transferred from Siam to Great Britain. Advisers,

selected from the Civil Service of the Federated Malay States, were appointed to each State, and it is hoped that the development of these States, a matter of great interest to the trade of the Colony, will progress steadily and on sound lines.

Johore has also accepted assistance and Mr. D. G. CAMPBELL, late Resident of Negri Sembilan, has been at the request of the Sultan appointed British Adviser.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Shipping Rings appeared in May and was read with great interest in this Colony. The effects of these Rings, represented locally by the "Homeward Conference" and the "New York Conference," on the trade of the Colony is a matter which is occupying the serious attention of the Government, and legislative action will be taken in the year 1910 to relieve shippers from the demands of the "Ring" and to ensure the freedom from control and the fair rates which can alone be guaranteed by open and untrammelled competition.

The "boom" in Rubber has been one of the features of the year and has undoubtedly brought much prosperity to many of those interested.

In February, 1908, the price of para rubber had fallen to 2/9 per lb., but rising again in November and December, the year 1909 opened with 5/- per lb. This rose steadily to 9/8½ in November, and as a result new Companies were floated in large numbers and existing Companies extended their cultivation rapidly.

The export of Rubber from the Colony rose from 3,661,839 lbs. in 1908 to 4,507,675 lbs. in 1909, an increase of 377 tons.

In April, the patients in Tan Tock Seng's Hospital were removed to the fine new buildings in Moulmein Road which were erected at a cost of $481,134, a rate of $742 (£86-11-4) per bed.

Eighteen Wards with latrines and bathrooms, offices, operating theatre, morgue, Coroner's court, incinerator, septic tanks, water service with engine house, quarters for Medical Officer in charge, Assistant Surgeons, Dressers, etc., form an extremely fine Hospital completely equipped for the reception of 648 patients.

The site, covering nearly 30 acres, is on dry hilly ground and it is hoped will be better in every way than the old low-lying swampy land to which the institution, founded in 1845 by the munificence of a Chinese merchant, whose name it bears, and originally placed on a healthy site at Pearl's Hill, was transferred in 1857.

The year 1909 saw the end of the Excise Farms. Since the early years of the Colony the right to collect duty on liquors

and to prepare and sell opium for smoking has been put up for public tender and under various conditions farmed out to the most satisfactory tenderers.

The Government has always reserved to itself the right to regulate and supervise the conditions under which the business was carried on and the Commission appointed in 1907 to enquire into the whole question of opium smoking in the Colony was satisfied that the Farmers had in general conducted the business honestly and had not in any way endeavoured to push the sale of chandu or encourage the smoking of the drug. The Commission, however, was of opinion that it would be more satisfactory that Government should have complete control of the consumption of this drug and recommended the abolition of the Farm System and entire management by Government.

Towards the end of the year the Government Monopolies Department was formed and arrangements made for taking over not only the preparation and sale of opium but also the collection of duty on liquors, and at midnight on 31st December, the Farmers handed over premises, stock and utensils to the Superintendent of the Government Monopolies Department.

The Railway through Johore giving through communication between Singapore and Penang by way of Johore, Negri Sembilan, Malacca, Singapore, Penang and Province Wellesley was opened for public traffic in July. Being a new line over difficult country it was not surprising that traffic was temporarily interrupted more than once. The line, however, has already proved of great use and now that a steam Ferry Boat is used for the transport of loaded waggons across the Straits to Johore, the value of the line is greatly increased.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir JOHN ANDERSON, G.C.M.G.) went to England for the months of March, April and May, and the Colonial Secretary (Sir ARTHUR YOUNG, K.C.M.G.) acted as Officer Administering the Government. Mr. W. EVANS, Resident Councillor, Malacca, acted as Colonial Secretary.

W. EVANS,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

29th September, 1910.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1911.

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COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906–7 and 1907–8.

18 Je '11

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 709.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 663.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty, *February*, 1912.

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COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"
689	Fiji	"
690	Somaliland	"
691	Hong Kong...	"
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	"
695	Southern Nigeria	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910–1911

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta Percha

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1910.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1910 amounted to $9,336,328 being an increase of $541,327 over the revenue for the preceding year. The expenditure was $7,532,242, a decrease of $1,010,488.

The actual figures for 1909 and 1910 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—Revenue.

	1909.	*1910.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	158,944	259,331	100,387	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	6,359,372	6,316,433	...	42,939
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	649,773	637,094	...	12,679
4. Post and Telegraphs ...	516,643	609,529	92,886	...
5. Government Railway ...	243,041	309,795	66,754	...
6. Rents of Govt. Property	441,992	451,474	9,482	...
7. Interest	140,431	115,480	...	24,951
8. Miscellaneous Receipts...	198,747	264,020	65,273	...
	$8,708,943	8,963,156	334,782	80,569
9. Land Sales	86,058	373,172	287,114	...
Total ...	$8,795,001	9,336,328	621,896	80,569
		Net increase ...	$541,327	

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1909.	*1910.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	—	—	—	—
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	215,833	103,667	...	112,166
2. Pensions ...	406,137	394,915	...	11,222
3. Charitable Allowances ...	11,642	11,636	...	6
4. The Governor ...	74,665	73,719	...	946
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors, Cadets, Councils Branch and Resident, Labuan	136,969	131,341	...	5,628
6. Government Printing Office	66,859	66,572	...	287
7. Land and District Offices	221,799	209,686	...	12,113
8. Forests	29,465	28,676	...	789
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants Protection	95,022	88,530	...	6,492
10. Treasury	80,972	89,532	8,560	...
11. Audit	44,204	45,645	1,441	...
12. Marine	291,223	294,667	3,444	...
13. Legal	349,128	345,020	...	4,108
14. Police	753,169	748,328	...	4,841
15. Prisons	200,593	203,495	2,902	...
16. Medical ... 17. Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	608,505	238,102 374,950	4,547	...
18. Education	399,662	232,669	...	166,993
19. Ecclesiastical ...	18,306	18,136	...	170
20. Transport	16,190	10,896	...	5,294
21. Military Expenditure ...	1,636,505	1,257,864	...	378,641
22. Miscellaneous Services ...	319,904	274,011	...	45,893
23. Post Office	421,371	474,584	53,213	...
24. Railway	558,122	154,108	...	404,014
25. Government Monopolies	...	382,630	382,630	...
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	43,133	37,770	...	5,363
27. Public Works Department	287,944	284,191	...	3,753
28. Public Works, Recurrent	461,499	448,653	...	12,846
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	793,909	508,249	...	285,660
TOTAL ...	$8,542,730	7,532,242	456,737	1,467,225
	Net decrease ...		$1,010,488	

2. The sums expended on Personal Emoluments and Other Charges in the two years were:—

		1909.	*1910.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
		$	$	$	$
Personal Emoluments	...	3,005,509	3,012,741	7,232	...
Other Charges ...	...	1,809,466	1,783,622	...	25,844

3. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1906 to 1910:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1906	...	9,618,313	8,747,819
1907	...	10,023,016	9,499,693
1908	...	8,969,015	9,837,624
1909	...	8,795,001	8,542,731
1910	...	9,336,328	7,532,242

4. The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at the 31st December, 1910, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits	... ...	1,551,845	Indian Agency Account	...	608,495
Suspense	... ...	1,039,350	Investments ...	...	1,627,464
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	...	4,939,314	Advances ...	...	363,898
			Imprests ...	...	7,618
			Loan Account ...	...	661,037
			Drafts and Remittances	...	26,722
			Cash in Transit	...	6,187
			Cash ...	...	4,229,088
TOTAL	...	$7,530,509	TOTAL	...	$7,530,509

showing an increase to the credit balance of the Colony during the year of no less than $1,804,086 in place of an estimated decrease of $703,176. The excess of revenue over the Estimates amounted to $1,392,652 and the savings on the estimates of expenditure to $1,114,610.

The excess of revenue over the Estimates was evenly distributed indicating a general return of prosperity; but it includes two items which were not estimated, viz., Petroleum Duty $204,220, and Profits on Investments $46,232. The first of these is a new source of revenue collected under an Ordinance which was not in force when the Estimates were drawn up and the latter resulted from the sale of certain gold investments in a favourable market.

The principal other excesses were Stamp Duties $255,595 and Premia on Land Sales $347,172 both of which may be attributed to the Rubber Boom and in addition there were excesses of $70,128 on the sale of Postage Stamps, $67,795 on the receipts of the Singapore Government Railway, $70,542 on the revenue from Opium and $146,514 on the revenue from Liquors—the last due to the duties being charged under a new scale according to the strength of the liquor. The principal saving on the estimates of expenditure was $317,333 interest on the 1907–08 Loan.

PUBLIC DEBT.

A Loan of £5,000,000 was raised in 1907 and a further loan of £2,750,000 was raised in 1910 under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907. The position of the loan on the 31st December, 1910, was as follows:—

		£
3½ per cent S. S. Inscribed Stock	...	6,911,231
4 per cent Debentures ...	...	1,032,200

Advances were made from Loan Funds as follows:—

		$
Tanjong Pagar Dock Board	...	35,243,774
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		3,000,000
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...		900,000
Government Harbour Works	...	5,691,484
		44,835,258
Expenses of Issue	...	4,052,100
Total	...	$48,887,358

Provision is made for the repayment of this loan by a Sinking Fund which will come into operation in 1917, ten years from the date of the first issue of debentures.

The charge on account of interest on the public debt was $1,608,865 in 1910, as against $1,614,307 in 1901. The great portion of this charge is, however, borne by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The actual sums paid by the Colonial Government in 1909 and 1910, respectively, were $215,833 and $103,667.

In local currency the total amount of the debt stood at $68,086,551 on the 31st December, 1910, which was more than

seven times the revenue of the Colony but only about three times the revenue of the Colony and the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board together.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate remained firm during the year between 2/4$\frac{3}{16}$ and 2/4$\frac{1}{8}$.

CURRENCY.

The gold held by the Commissioners in Singapore at the beginning of the year amounted to £930. During the year gold to the value of £327,808 was received and issues of £43,300 were made, leaving a balance of £285,438 in the vault on the 31st December. In addition sums aggregating £868,917-9-0 were held by the Crown Agents in gold in London.

During the year sums amounting to £17,500 paid by JOHN AIRD & Co. and others to the Crown Agents were paid to their agents in Singapore by the Currency Commissioners at 2/4, the money received in London being applied in redemption of the debt of the Currency Commissioners to the Loan Account, and any profit and loss due to exchange being transferred to the Gold Standard Reserve.

The large $5 note and the first issue $1 note are being gradually withdrawn from circulation, all such notes being cancelled on their return to the Commissioners.

The currency of the Colony, in circulation exclusive of subsidiary coins, consisted of $34,583,460 in Government currency notes, $396,488 in bank notes issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australasia and China, and $7,573,326.50 in dollars and half-dollars. The above amounts include stocks held by the Banks and the Treasuries of the Colony and the Federated Malay States, but do not include unissued currency notes still in the hands of the Currency Commissioners.

Old subsidiary silver coin of the face value of $50,353.50 was sent to Bombay during the year to be reminted. The new coins are of a fineness of 600. The profits from reminting this coin will be credited to the Gold Standard Reserve. During the year $2,441,936.65 worth of the new coins were received from Bombay.

The average bank-note circulation in 1910 was $459,615, as compared with $750,232 in 1909. The average amount of

Government currency notes in circulation in 1910 was for each month :—

	$		$
January ...	30,032,182	July ...	32,507,199
February ...	29,958,902	August ...	32,909,376
March ...	30,279,758	September ...	33,935,660
April ...	30,654,087	October ...	34,448,747
May ...	30,871,050	November ...	34,638,326
June ...	31,991,490	December ...	34,735,779

The Assets and Liabilities of the Currency Commisssioners on the 31st December, 1910, were as follows :—

Liabilites.	$	*Assets.*	$
Deposits	36,343,474	Cash in Reserve ...	21,328,021
		Investments	15,015,453
TOTAL ...	$36,343,474	TOTAL ...	$36,343,474

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $3,692,947, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $3,638,630. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure, and of the debts of the Boards, showing the provision made for repayment, appear below.

REVENUE.

	1906.	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,224,354	2,306,749	2,429,892	2,448,179	2,512,507
Penang ...	892,431	906,139	1,002,057	1,002,472	1,103,587
Malacca ...	89,408	88,416	92,545	68,647	76,853
TOTAL ...	$3,206,193	3,301,304	3,524,494	3,519,298	3,692,947

EXPENDITURE.

	1906.	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,168,528	2,245,623	2,286,071	2,191,299	2,446,041
Penang ...	945,187	872,223	933,807	1,026,676	1,116,307
Malacca ...	80,335	100,176	92,082	61,538	76,282
TOTAL ...	$3,194,050	3,218,022	3,311,960	3,279,513	3,638,630

DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVISION FOR REPAYMENT.

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 @ 5%	...	400,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
„ „ 1890 @ 6%	...	400,000	
„ „ 1893 @ 5%	280,000		
Redeemed ...	202,000	78,000	
„ „ 1897 @ 4%	500,000		
Unissued	75,500		
	424,500		
Redeemed ...	127,200	297,300	Annual drawings of 2½% of Loan.
„ „ 1898 @ 4%	500,000		
Unissued	472,000	28,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
„ „ 1899 @ 4%	400,000		
Redeemed ...	336,000	64,000	
„ „ 1901 @ 5%	1,000,000	800,000	
Redeemed ...	200,000		
„ „ 1902 @ 5%	...	400,000	
„ „ 1907 @ 4½%	...	1,600,000	
„ „ 1909 @ 4½%	...	1,000,000	
Government Loan @ 4½% ...	...	3,000,000	
		7,067,300	
Penang—			
Loan @ 5% Debenture Stock 1889	...	250,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of loan.
„ @ 6% do. 1891	...	100,000	
„ @ 5% do. 1901	...	500,000	
„ @ 5% do. 1904	...	600,000	
„ @ 4% Tramway Loan 1904	...	400,000	Annual Repayments of $20,000.
„ @ 4½% from Colonial Government 1907 (Part) ...	...	900,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of Loan ($1,500,000) commencing in 1917.
		2,750,000	
Malacca—			
1885 Loan by Government $25,000 @ 3%	...	13,500	Annual repayments of $500.
1908 Do. $50,000 @ 4½%	...	44,000	Annual repayments of $2,000.
1909 Do. $14,000 @ 4½%	...	13,400	22 Annual repayments of $600 & 1 of $800.
		70,900	

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, established to carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Singapore Island ...	25,550	66,289
Penang Island ...	39,953	59,114
Province Wellesley ...	143,725	163,029
Dindings	12,342	15,190
Malacca	89,637	151,333

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK BOARD.

The revenue and expenditure for the five years 1906–1910 were as follows :—

	Revenue.		*Expenditure.*	
	$	c.	$	c.
1906 ...	5,617,784	92	4,097,428	62
1907 ...	6,145,579	25	4,484,476	20
1908 ...	5,822,811	69	4,271,715	37
1909 ...	5,849,063	00	4,267,797	27
1910 ...	5,896,156	52	4,328,184	47

The capital debt due to Government including an estimated amount of $29,003,149.45 for initial cost stood at the end of 1910 at $35,399,150.25 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. It is intended to fix the capital debt by Ordinance at an early date.

In addition to the above-mentioned capital the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,687,206.93 from surplus revenue or reserve fund under Section 31 (2) of "The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance 1905."

The following figures are taken from the Wharf Tonnage returns :—

	1906.	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
Number of vessels ...	2,470	2,556	2,364	2,366	2,393
Tonnage ...	4,701,004	4,747,210	4,590,474	4,433,105	4,605,035
Coal inwards and outwards ...	1,205,580	1,111,682	1,145,435	1,160,711	1,063,768
Cargo inwards and outwards ...	1,150,527	1,270,285	1,088,527	974,016	1,305,014

NEW WORKS AT TANJONG PAGAR.

The progress of the Works on the Lagoon Wet Dock and Re-construction of the Wharves at Tanjong Pagar was much delayed during the year by the questions which arose between the Contractors and the Dock Board in connection with the construction of the Walls at the Eastern and Western Ends of the Lagoon Wet Dock. Towards the end of the year work on the Lagoon Dock was almost entirely suspended, and the number of men at work on the Main Wharf Re-construction was very much reduced.

The South Wall of the Dock and the Eastern Entrance Wall within the Cofferdam were completed for a length of 2,210 feet; this involved the depositing of 16,790 Cubic Yards of concrete during the year, making a total of 66,250 Cubic Yards to date.

A total of 322,950 Cubic Yards of excavation was removed from the body of the Dock during the year, leaving 575,250 Cubic Yards to be dealt with. The material excavated was utilized for reclaiming the Swamp areas to the Northward of the Dock, and the area behind the completed portions of the South Wall and the Re-construction of the Main Wharf.

The diversion of the Keppel Road between Borneo Wharf and Anson Road was completed with the exception of the junction at the Western End which was made early in 1911 and the New Road opened to traffic.

A quantity of old piles forming the Old Wharf were cleared away across the Entrance to the Lagoon Dock, and the Blockwork Wall on the Eastern side brought up to above L. W. O. S. T. for a length of 90 feet.

The Re-construction of the Western End of the Main Wharf to the extent of 500 feet of concrete Blockwork Wall was completed and handed over to the Dock Board in April, a further length of 740 feet extending from the completed portion to the Entrance of the Lagoon Dock, and consisting of Wrought Iron Cylinder Construction, was in an advanced state, at the end of the year. 2,800 tons of Iron and Steelwork have been placed in this work up to date, and there is a stock of 3,159 tons on the ground. A total quantity of 10,703 Cubic Yards of concrete filling to the Cylinders was deposited during the year, and in the Dwarf Wall at the back of the Cylinders 930 Cubic Yards of concrete blocks have been set and 18,500 Cubic Yards of Granite rubble deposited.

A total quantity of 88,300 Cubic Yards of granite was delivered on the Works from the two Quarries at Bukit Timah, but these Quarries were closed down by the Contractors in August and October, pending the settlement of the questions between the Contractors and the Board.

A total amount of £367,300 had been paid to the Contractors on account of work done up to the end of 1910, out of which the sum of £112,000 was for work executed during 1910.

The average number of men employed on the Works and at the Quarry was reduced from 3 100 in May to 630 in December.

Progress with the construction of the New Graving Dock at Keppel Harbour was well maintained, during the year 109,330 Cubic Yards of excavation have been removed from the Body of the Dock, and the excavated material utilized partly for reclaiming the area on the East side of the Dock and partly for filling in the Swamps in the neighbourhood of Bukit Chermin.

The concrete Side-Walls at the North End of the Dock were brought up to the underside of the granite coping for a length of 88 feet on each side. At the South End the lower portions of the Side-Walls were completed for the lengths of 350 feet and 247 feet from the Outer Entrance on the East and West Walls respectively, and the concrete Floor between them was well in hand. The total quantity of concrete deposited in the above portions of the work during the year was 19,370 Cubic Yards.

The excavation for the foundations of the Pumping Station was completed and 3,520 Cubic Yards of concrete deposited in this work during the year.

The temporary Staging for the construction of a portion of the Western Entrance Wall outside the Cofferdam was in course of erection at the end of the year and the excavation of the foundations in progress.

A block-making Yard was laid down at Bukit Chermin and 2,820 Cubic Yards of concrete blocks and 12,600 Cubic Feet of moulded concrete Ashlar were made and stacked ready for use.

During the year two shipments of Cornish Granite Ashlar for the Outer and Inner Entrances, Caisson Stops, Copings, etc., were delivered and stacked on the works ready for use, the total quantity on the ground being 54,850 Cubic Feet.

A total quantity of 27,450 Cubic Yards of Granite Rubble was delivered on the works from Quarry at Pulau Ubin, during the year. The average number of men employed on the works and at Quarry was 935.

A total amount of £102,300 had been paid to the Contractors for work done up to the end of 1910, out of which the sum of £63,800 was for work executed during 1910.

GOVERNMENT WHARVES, PENANG.

During the year, the piling, including the bracing, of the Southern Extension (255 feet) of Swettenham Pier was practically completed and the decking, etc., has since been finished.

The piling of an over-water godown, which will have a capacity for storage of 20,250 square feet was commenced on the site between the Northern Arm of the Pier and the godowns on the Quay Side. This work is making good progress.

The fleet of lighters numbered 91. During the year 42 lighters were repaired at a cost of $22,308.

The profit on Revenue Account at Prai Dock for the year 1910 was $26,292.91.

The profit on Revenue Account of Government Wharves, Penang, for the year 1910 was $108,024.32.

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony in 1910 was fairly satisfactory.

Compared with 1909 foreign imports of merchandise rose by 5·2 million pounds sterling or 14¾ per cent, and exports by 4·6 million or less than 15 per cent.

Prices were higher than in the previous year but quantities also generally advanced.

The foreign trade of the Colony shows in thousands of pounds sterling :—

		1909.	*1910.*	*Increase.*
		—	—	—
Merchandise—		£	£	£
Imports	...	35,153	40,343	5,190
Exports	...	31,208	35,852	4,644
Coin and Bullion—				
Imports	...	1,405	2,179	774
Exports	...	1,597	1,970	373

The value of the coasting trade including treasure was in thousands of pounds sterling :—

		1909.	*1910.*	*Increase.*
		—	—	—
		£	£	£
Imports	...	1,749	2,439	690
Exports	...	1,548	2,273	725

The aggregate gross trade was therefore £85 million pounds an increase of £12·4 million compared with 1909 or 17·1 per cent.

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade shows in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1909.	*1910.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	13,912	15,762	12,629	13,368
2. Raw Materials ...	14,523	16,423	14,827	18,614
3. Manufactured and Partly Manufactured Articles ...	6,718	8,157	3,752	5,869
4. Coin and Bullion ...	1,405	2,179	1,597	1,971
Total ...	36,558	42,521	32,805	37,822

Opium nearly doubled in price and with cotton piece goods, spices, sago, tapioca, tobacco, live animals, metals, hardware and ironware, liquors, silk piece goods, cycles and motor cars, hosiery, etc., and salted fish accounted for the principal increased import values.

Enhanced values were seen in exports of copra, Para rubber, tin, rubbers, opium, phosphates of lime from Christmas Island, and shells, but rice, preserved pineapples, tanned hides, coffee, fish, and swine all gave decreases.

QUANTITIES.

Increased import quantities are seen in rice, spirits, malt liquors, fish, cattle, swine, milk, onions and garlic, coal, lubricating oil, cotton and silk piece goods, sarongs, woollens, corrugated iron, steel, cement, and soap, and declines in padi and bran, wheat flour, sugar, tin ore, petroleum, cotton blankets, and bar iron.

Export quantities rose in copra, jelutong rubber, arecanuts, gutta percha, Para and Borneo rubbers, shells, white pepper, and gum copal, and declines are observed in sago, tapioca, preserved pines, tin, oil cakes, gambir, black pepper, and coffee.

Trade with British and Foreign Countries.

The trade with the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries including coin and bullion records in millions of dollars :—

	Exports.					
	1909.	*1910.*	Percentage of Difference.	*1909.*	*1910.*	Percentage of Difference.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	33·4	39·2	+ ·2	64·2	87·3	+ 4·1
British Possessions and Protectorates	149·8	188·6	+ 3·9	85·4	91·6	— 2·1
Foreign Countries...	130·2	136·7	— 4·1	131·6	145·3	— 2

Imports of merchandise from the United Kingdom rose by over three-quarters of a million sterling, and exports £2·1 million.

The following statement shows the possession as a market for British and European Foreign goods since 1896 in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	1896 to 1900.	*1901 to 1905.*	*1906 to 1910.*	*1910.*
From United Kingdom ...	£2,981	3,752	4,012	4,491
„ Continent of Europe and United States ...	£1,541	2,314	2,208	2,360
British Excess ...	£1,440	1,438	1,804	2,131
Percentage of Total.				
United Kingdom ...	65·7	61·9	64·5	65·6
Continent of Europe and United States ...	34·3	38·1	35·5	34·4

The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were cotton piece goods and hosiery, motor cars and cycles, hardware and ironware, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, yarns and sarongs, provisions, malt liquors and biscuits, declines being apparent in coal and machinery.

Advances from the Continent were seen in paper and stationery, cabinetware, and hardware from Austria; hardware, glassware, and yarns from Belgium; brandy from France; milk, cotton piecegoods, sarongs, and hosiery from Italy; hardware and ironware, hosiery, woollen cloth, crockery, beer, lampware, and machinery from Germany; cotton piecegoods, sarongs, and hardware from the Netherlands; and matches from Sweden.

The declines were generally not important: cement and yarns from Austria; milk, paints, and wire nails from Germany; and gin and crockery from the Netherlands being the principal reductions.

From the United States, cigars and cigarettes, lubricating oil, hardware and ironware, machinery, tools, and tinned provisions gave increases, imports of tallow and lard showing declines.

Exports to the United Kingdom accounted for the total increase in such articles as tin, Para rubber, gutta percha, sago, copra, Borneo rubber and jelutong, the decline being in gambir, preserved pines, tapioca, and illipi nut.

Copra to the Continent exhibited a large increase, tin, pepper, jelutong, and gambir following, while sago and Para rubber gave less values.

To the United States a total decrease is recorded, tin falling off enormously, jelutong and Para rubber alone showing fair advances.

Increased trade is recorded with Australia, India and Burma, Japan, Netherlands India, Hongkong and China, British North Borneo, Sarawak, and the Malay Peninsula.

Decreased import values are noted from French Indo-China and a fall in exports to Siam and Siamese States.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The cultivation of Para Rubber trees in Singapore showed no sign of decrease, but on the contrary more and more land was cleared and planted, so that the area under cultivation was at the end of the year about 14,000 acres.

The planting of this tree in every corner even in quite unsuitable localities and in small patches caused a remarkable diminution in the supply of vegetables, fruit, poultry and even pigs, many Chinese abandoning other occupations to plant rubber. The fruit crops during the last few years have been very poor probably from the dying out of the old trees and the failure to plant fresh ones; and there are no signs of any improvement. This is

regrettable as most of the fruit trees take from seven to 12 years to produce a crop. There has been a little improvement in vegetable cultivation but supplies are still short.

Gambir has increased a little. Indigo and pine-apples have also increased a little. Ground-nuts are again coming to the front and there has been a distinct increase in this formerly neglected cultivation. There is a small increase in flower cultivation, roses, jasmines, and tuberoses being the favourites. The water hyacinth *eichornia* originally introduced as ornamental plant has been found by the Chinese to be quite suitable for pig feeding and is now much used for that purpose.

There is no increase in pepper, nor in coconuts. In the latter case this is perhaps due to the ground suitable being already planted up. The red beetle formerly so injurious to this industry seems now to be nearly extinct; but occasionally a few trees are killed by the black beetle.

A very successful Agricultural Exhibition was held during the year.

In Penang the fruit and padi crops were good and in Province Wellesley coconuts were very successful and large areas of rubber are coming into tapping.

In Malacca the planting of rubber proceeded apace and several blocks of lalang land were taken up for this cultivation. The fruit and padi crops were fair. The decrease in tapioca cultivation continues.

LAND GRANTS.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued and the premia paid for the same during the last five years are as follows:—

SINGAPORE.

	1906.	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
	—	—	—	—	—
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	5,895 0 23	119 3 28	419 3 12	338 2 14	4,542 1 30
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	805,636	327,687	183,543	45,514	22,956
Number of Statutory Grants issued	237	63	144	33	100
Premia paid	$69,506.30	$12,623.00	$6,715.00	$13,202.90	$154.506.77

PENANG.

	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	1,487 0 20	6,927 3 35	663 1 08	723 1 05	4,004 1 06
		sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
		300,916	232,191	7,535	76,423
Number of Statutory Grants issued	301	352	63	102	129
Premia paid	$2,279.70	$10,532.66	$3,113.85	$4,890.75	$16,275.97

MALACCA.

	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	3,249 0 34½	10,451 1 16	7,897 0 10	4,025 1 21	2,716 0 37
		sq. ft.	sq. ft.		sq. ft.
		9,159	82,797	...	22,440
Number of Statutory Grants issued	92	*270	341	†270	266
Premia paid	$45,042.75	$51,774.70	$32,274.55	$42,895.40	$114,553.50

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 23,429,495 as compared with 22,192,354 in 1909. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

* 249 Statutory Grants, 21 Mining Leases. † 265 Statutory Grants, 4 Mining Leases and one Freehold Grant.

Statement showing Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels during the Years 1909 and 1910.

Nationality.	1909.					1910.				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
American	...	...	...	2,430	2,430	662	...	...	...	662
Austrian	197,722	185,878	...	...	383,600	205,070	190,088	...	11,850	407,008
British	7,193,003	4,931,638	733,562	137,706	12,995,909	7,808,790	5,237,659	674,358	305,336	14,026,143
Belgian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	...	268	...	2,918	3,186
Danish	78,309	47,746	...	...	126,055	103,074	54,930	...	...	158,004
Dutch	1,692,321	250,757	...	...	1,943,078	1,671,425	252,729	...	...	1,924,154
French	748,339	...	...	2,598	750,937	742,080	...	...	8,502	750,582
German	1,880,583	1,101,130	...	163,192	3,144,905	2,000,744	1,106,375	...	178,540	3,285,659
Italian	115,740	108,468	...	...	224,208	140,876	125,268	...	5,894	272,038
Japanese	1,162,112	315,315	...	...	1,477,427	1,041,219	286,671	...	...	1,327,890
Norwegian	389,434	45,315	...	21,748	456,497	389,987	48,735	...	41,986	480,708
Russian	264,957	...	...	...	264,957	320,423	20,770	...	8,382	349,575
Sarawak	95,310	...	...	378	95,688	95,224	...	...	2,076	97,300
Siamese	103,531	4,468	...	...	107,999	137,432	22,310	...	...	159,742
Spanish	127,210	...	...	...	127,210	124,032	...	...	...	124,032
Swedish	65,552	25,902	...	...	91,454	45,478	17,334	...	...	62,812
	14,114,123	7,016,617	733,562	328,052	22,192,354	14,826,516	7,363,137	674,358	565,484	23,429,495

From the above table it will be seen that the following countries show an increased tonnage, entered and cleared, in 1910 as compared with 1909:—Great Britain 1,030,234; Germany 140,754; Russia 84,618; Italy 47,830; Denmark 31,949; Austria 23,408; Siam 51,745; and Norway 24,211.

The following countries show a decrease:—

Japan 149,537; Holland 18,924; Sweden 28,642; Spain 3,178; and France 355.

Comparative Statement of Merchant Vessels Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

	*1906.**	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	19,711,498	20,328,760	21,750,245	22,192,354	23,429,495

It will thus be seen that the tonnage as compared with 1906 has increased by 3,717,997.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

	1909.		*1910.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Arrivals ...	17,505	675,762	19,486	765,881
Departures ...	17,512	671,439	19,522	763,716
Total ...	35,017	1,347,201	39,008	1,529,597

The increase as compared with 1909 is 182,396 tons.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons Entered and Cleared, for last Five Years.

	*1906.**	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	1,484,801	1,464,048	1,455,436	1,347,201	1,529,597

As compared with 1906 this native craft tonnage has increased by 44,796 tons.

In Singapore during the year five new steamers with a tonnage of 156 tons gross and 16 sailing vessels of 1,779 tons were registered under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Twelve new sailing vessels of 723 tons were registered under Ordinance V of 1883; also 956 of 8,215 tons under Ordinance VIII of 1872.

* Labuan not included.

LEGISLATION.

Thirty-two Ordinances were passed during the year, of which seventeen were principal Ordinances and fifteen amending Ordinances.

Of the principal Ordinances the most important were:—

The Merchant Shipping Ordinance;

The Criminal Procedure Code;

The Hospitals Board Ordinance;

The Emigration Ordinance;

The Deleterious Drugs Ordinance;

The Divorce Ordinance; and

The Freight and Steamship Ordinance.

The Merchant Shipping Ordinance amends and consolidates the whole of the law relating to shipping and repeals over thirty Ordinances of the Colonial Legislature and several Indian Acts which had continued in force in this Colony and embodies with modifications necessitated by local conditions the provisions of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Acts.

The Criminal Procedure Code re-enacts with the additions and amendments which have from time to time been found necessary the Code of 1900.

The Hospitals Board Ordinance constitutes a new body corporate consisting of four official members and five unofficial of whom three are to be nominated by the Governor and two elected by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. The duties of the Board are to determine subject to the approval of the Governor in Council the fees to be collected in Government Hospitals and Asylums and receive such fees and subject to the like approval disburse all monies available for hospital purposes whether collected in the form of fees, subscribed by the public or voted by the Council from public revenue and the Board is to submit annual estimates of revenue and expenditure and generally advise the Government on any matters connected with hospitals and asylums which may be referred to it.

The Emigration Ordinance repeals the Crimping Ordinance 1896 and provides safeguards against the emigration from the Colony of Asiatic labourers (whether settled in the Colony or who have come to the Colony from elsewhere) to places outside the Colony and the Federated Malay States except under conditions intended to secure that they understand where they are going and the terms of their employment. Power is given to the Governor in Council to prohibit or impose special conditions on emigration to unhealthy places or places where proper measures are not taken for the protection of the health of the labourers,

for securing their proper treatment and for enforcing the observance by the employer of the terms on which the labourers are engaged.

The Deleterious Drugs Ordinance constitutes a further step in the direction of the suppression of the use of morphine, cocaine and the like drugs except when duly prescribed by a medical practitioner and vests the exclusive right of importing and exporting these drugs in the Principal Civil Medical Officer.

The Divorce Ordinance gives the Supreme Court jurisdiction in divorce and matrimonial causes in cases where the petitioner professes the Christian religion and to grant dissolution of marriage and judicial separation where the parties are domiciled at the time of the petition in the Colony and decrees of nullity where the marriage was celebrated in the Colony.

The relief is to be given in all cases on principles as nearly as may be conformable to the principles on which the High Court of Justice in England gives relief in such cases.

The Freight and Steamship Ordinance was passed to place the Government in position to extend assistance to shippers to enable them to free themselves from the dictation of the Conferences of Steamship Owners which controlled the rates of freight from the ports of the Colony, by placing a prohibitive duty on all bills of lading with power to the Governor in Council to exempt from such duty on proof that the steamship owner was not a party to any agreement or understanding designed for or having the effect of maintaining rates of freight at an unduly high level or regulating or controlling rates of freight in a manner injurious to the trade of the Colony.

Other Ordinances which deserve particular mention are The Counterfeit Coin Ordinance which following the English Coinage Offences Act of 1861 authorizes the defacement of coins suspected to be diminished or counterfeit, The Prisons Ordinance Amendment Ordinance which provides for the establishment of a Central Registry for the Colony and the Federated Malay States for the registration and classification of finger prints of criminals, The Lepers Ordinance Amendment Ordinance which carries out certain recommendations of the International Scientific Conference on Leprosy at Bergen in 1909, The Chinese Immigrants Ordinance Amendment Ordinance which provides that every written contract to labour entered into by such immigrant shall be to labour for a certain number of days not exceeding 300, and the Ordinance for the incorporation of the new Kwong-Wai-Shiu Hospital—a hospital established by Chinese liberality for the treatment and maintenance of sick and indigent Chinese from certain prefectures at which it is intended to employ concurrently both Chinese and European methods of treatment.

EDUCATION.

There are in the Colony 180 vernacular schools where the teaching is in Malay. Free tuition up to the Fifth Standard is provided by the Government at these schools to some eleven thousand eight hundred boys and girls. The Government also finances and controls eight schools where the teaching is in English and goes up to the Seventh Standard.

There are also thirty-two aided-schools managed by private bodies and in receipt of grants-in-aid from Government.

The net expenditure on Government English schools was $83,679.36 on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $101,439.50, and on Government vernacular schools, $99,293.27.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $9,089.29. The supply of trained teachers from the institution is still, however, below the demand and is likely to remain so for some years to come.

The Director of Education reports a falling off in the numbers in the higher classes at the English schools which he attributes to the ease with which boys with a slight knowledge of English can obtain employment; and for the same cause few of those who enter the Commercial Classes remain for the full course.

The Normal Classes are reported to be doing excellent work.

The expenditure on Education is now supervised by an Education Board and the funds available for the purpose have been supplemented by the imposition of an Education Rate which is collected by the Municipalities and Rural Boards.

The extension of female education which is almost confined to Europeans and Eurasians is one of the greatest needs of the Colony.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

All the public hospitals of the Colony are under Government management. A certain number of hospitals are maintained on estates under the provisions of the Labour Ordinances in force for various classes of immigrant labour, and these are under Government supervision. Towards the end of the year a Hospital Board was constituted the duties of which have already been mentioned under the heading Legislation. The total number of admissions to hospitals, exclusive of the Lunatic Asylum, was 32,979, as

against 27,543 in 1909. Two hundred and twenty-eight patients were admitted into the Lunatic Asylum, Singapore, as against 220 in 1909.

The number of patients treated in the hospitals was 35,684 of whom 1,463 were Europeans. In 1909 the corresponding numbers were 30,266 and 1,398 respectively. Deaths numbered 4,529 (64 being Europeans), as against 3,635 and 70 in 1909. The rate of mortality shows a rise, the figures being, for 1909, 12·01 and, for 1910, 12·69 per cent of the total cases treated.

The number of inmates in the Leper Asylums of the Colony decreased from 483 on the 31st December, 1909, to 440 at the end of the year under review. The number of deaths for 1910 being 209.

Reformatory.

The expenditure of this institution, exclusive of the salaries of the Superintendent and Warders, was $9,172.61 in 1910, as against $8,587 for the preceding year. The average daily muster was a little higher, the actual figures being, 1909, 66·49, in 1910, 68·37. There remained 69 boys on the 31st December. The health of the inmates was good. They are taught English and romanized Malay. The boys make bread and grow vegetables, for their own consumption, and are taught other trades, such as carpentering, tailoring and shoemaking, which may be useful to them on release.

Savings Bank.

There are no private Savings Banks in the Colony. The amount at the credit of the depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1910, was $674,003, the highest sum reached. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $156.31.

The deposits were $509,361, as compared with $469,854 in 1909.

The withdrawals exceeded the deposits by $15,655.

There was a profit on the year's working of $3,424.49. The present value of the investments is as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent Rupee Paper ...	418,009
Singapore Municipal Bonds at 5 per cent	64,670
Do. do. at 4½ ,,	15,975
Do. do. at 4 ,,	63,693
Fixed Deposits in Banks	35,000
Various 3 per cent Colonial Guaranteed and Corporation Stocks	65,525
Total ...	$662,872

There was also a balance of $13,225 at the credit of the Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1910, in current account with the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

POLICE.

The Police Force numbers over 2,500 men, of whom 378 are Sikhs.

Fifty-four boys joined the Training Depôt at Malacca in 1910, of whom 45 were drafted into the Force.

Three hundred and seventy-two recruits joined the Force during the year, of these 17 were Europeans and 36 Sikhs.

PRISONS.

The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons during 1909 and 1910 was as follows:—

		1909.	*1910.*
Singapore ...	Criminal ...	952	877
	Civil ...	114	73
Penang ...	Criminal ...	221·64	255·79
	Civil ...	30·54	29·46
Malacca ...	Criminal ...	22·88	33·32
	Civil ...	4·95	8·57

The practice of banishing habitual criminals (643 in 1910) has been continued.

The health of the prisoners was good, the number of deaths being: at Singapore 32, at Penang 14 and at Malacca nil.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Thirty-eight murders and thirty-five gang robberies were reported during the year, of the latter 13 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

The returns do not disclose any abnormal features.

One hundred and sixteen persons as against 118 in 1909 were tried before the Supreme Court. Murder, gang robbery and counterfeiting coins, were the principal crimes. Eighteen persons were convicted of returning from banishment. The lower Courts had to deal with a smaller number of cases than in the previous year. The total number disposed of was 18,683, a decrease of 113 cases over the figures for 1909.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 653,853 as compared with 636,691 for 1909, the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Eighteen thousand and twelve births and 27,484 deaths were registered as against 16,994 and 24,122, respectively.

The death-rate was 41·88 per mille of the population. The rate in 1909 was 37·40 and in 1908, 43·06.

The birth-rate was 27·55 per mille, compared with 26·63 in 1909.

The deaths from the more important infectious disease in 1910, excluding imported cases landed on, or occurring amongst contacts on, the Quarantine Islands, were as follows:—

Small-pox: 522 as compared with 11 in 1909.

Cholera: 247 as compared with 76 in 1909.

Plague: 5 as compared with 5 in 1909.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,737 deaths, 231 more than in the previous year. The use of cured rice in the Hospitals and Gaols, has been continued and has very considerably lessened the death-rate from this disease in these institutions.

Phthisis shows a decrease, there being 2,571 deaths from this disease, against 2,659 in 1909.

The deaths from dysentery (1,329) and malaria (3,300) show an increase. The figures for 1909 were 1,211 and 2,589 respectively.

It will be seen that with the exception of phthisis all the more important diseases specially affecting the population of the Colony claimed a larger number of victims than in the previous year, the increase in the case of small-pox, cholera and malaria being very great. The increases are no doubt in the main due to the great impulse that was given to immigration by the demand for labour on newly opened estates both in the Colony and the adjoining States and the consequent circulation and movement of labourers from place to place but cannot, nevertheless, be regarded as otherwise than unsatisfactory.

The legislation which has been introduced for enabling a stricter control to be kept on the sanitary conditions on estates, and the measures which are being taken for the sanitary improvement of the principal towns combined with a return to more normal conditions will it is hoped result in more satisfactory records in future years.

CLIMATE.

The mean temperature of the air in Singapore was 80·7° with a maximum of 92° on December 5th and a minimum of 71·5° on March 7th: that of Penang being 80·7° the highest temperature recorded being 95° May 14th, the lowest 63° on October 18th.

In Province Wellesley the mean temperature was 81·2°: the maximum being 96·5° on May 31st, the minimum 69° on January 31st. In Malacca the mean temperature was 80° with the maximum of 92° on January 16th and June 10th, the lowest 67° on June 17th. In Labuan the highest temperature recorded was 93° and the lowest 72°.

Rainfall:—Singapore	...	...	128·93 inches.
Labuan	...	...	151·25 „
Penang	...	...	108·46 „
Province Wellesley		...	103·38 „
Malacca	...	...	76·54 „

The prevailing direction of the wind changes with the N. E. and S. W. Monsoons. The former blowing from November to April and the latter from May to October.

Notwithstanding the high death-rate (41·88 per mille for 1910) of the general populace, the climate must be considered fairly healthy for Europeans, the death-rate among whom was 12·18 per mille. It must be remembered, however, that amongst the Europeans, most of whom are picked lives, there are few very old and but a small percentage of children. Moreover, when ill, Europeans, as a rule, leave the Colony as soon as possible.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The chief events of the year were the reduction of the commission on inland money orders and money orders drawn on the Federated Malay States, Kedah, Kelantan and Brunei from 1 to ½ per cent., the introduction of a telegraph money order system for inland money orders and money orders exchanged with the Federated Malay States and the extension of the Cash-on-Delivery system to the Federated Malay States. The Cash-on-Delivery system to the Federated Malay States has been of great service to the public and is being largely taken advantage of. The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 7,098,885, an average of 12·2 per inhabitant. The number received for delivery was 6,151,352. The postal

revenue increased by 14 per cent. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 133,261 to 218,102, and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 358 to 389.

IMMIGRATION.

(1) CHINESE.

Immigrants from China during the year 1910 numbered 216,321, against 151,752 for the year 1909, an increase of 42·5 per cent. In only two previous years has the number of immigrants been greater, viz., in 1903 when 220,321 arrived and in 1907 when the record number of 227,342 arrived.

2. Adult females to the number of 16,395, arrived in Singapore during the year 1910, an increase of 35·2 per cent over the figure for 1909: the proportion of females to males is 8·8 per cent as against 9·9 per cent in the year 1908 and 9·5 per cent in the year 1909.

3. One thousand seven hundred and nineteen infants of one year of age and under arrived in the Colony, against 1,156 in the year 1909: of these 393 male and 360 female children are believed to have been added to the population of Singapore, the balance having been reported as leaving for other ports.

4. The number of "unpaid passengers," *i.e.*, labourers who obtain free passages from China in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony was 23,935, an increase of 10,556 or 44·1 per cent over the number for the previous year: this figure has only once been exceeded in recent years. These "unpaid passengers" formed 11 per cent of the total arrivals, or 12·9 per cent of the total adult male immigrants.

5. *Harvests* were exceptionally poor throughout South China, and the demand for labour in the Colony and its neighbourhood was very great.

6. The totals for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.		*Men.*	*Women.*	*Children.*	*Total.*
1906	...	153,624	12,478	10,485	176,587
1907	...	197,284	16,265	(*a*) 13,793	227,342
1908	...	129,913	12,909	(*b*) 10,630	153,452
1909	...	128,878	12,126	(*c*) 10,748	151,752
1910	...	184,856	16,395	(*d*) 15,070	216,321

(*a*) Boys, 10,377; Girls, 3,416. (*b*) Boys, 7,767; Girls, 2,863. (*c*) Boys, 7,946; Girls, 2,802. (*d*) Boys, 11,522; Girls, 3,548.

(II).—INDIAN.

The figures for the last five years are appended :—

	1906.	*1907.*	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*
1. Statute Immigrants ...	3,674	5,499	5,456	4,119	2,523
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets) ...	20,215	24,709	20,049	20,289	56,002
3. Other Immigrants ...	28,152	31,922	29,017	25,409	25,198

The figures for 1910 include 5,366 children.

Thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine adults and 1,251 children left the Colony for Southern India.

The large increase in the number of immigrants from Southern India of the free coolie class is due to the requirements of the rubber planting industry. Of the agricultural labourers who came over about 16·7 per cent were women.

MONOPOLIES.

The Opium Monopoly took over the Farms in Singapore, Penang and Malacca as from January 1st, 1910, preparations to that end having been started at the end of September, 1909, the necessary staffs all being engaged. The Factories at Singapore and Penang were both Government buildings and cooking operations were started in November, 1909. In addition to supplying the Colony, the Department also arranged to supply the districts included in the Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan coast Farms, and also the State of Johore.

During the year 1910, 3,175 chests of opium, Persian and Benares, were delivered at the Department, yielding 3,300,000 tahils of chandu. The prices of raw opium showed great fluctuations. In October, 1909, when the Department first bought opium the price was $920 per chest. Between April 8th and 11th, 1910, the price was $2,325, and on December 31st was $1,800.

Owing to the rise in the price of raw material during the early part of the year, the price at which the Government sold to the licensees was raised. Before the alteration Government sold at a price varying from $3 to $3.30 per tahil and after the alteration at a price between $4.30 and $4.36 per tahil (1 tahil= 1⅓ oz.).

Independent of chandu sent to places outside the Colony the total tahils sold in the three Settlements amounted to 1,651,657 of which 62½ per cent was sold in Singapore and total cash received in the Colony for above sales amounted to $6,612,918.54.

The Department also undertakes the collection of duty on intoxicating liquors, the amounts collected in the three Settlements being as follows:—Singapore $757,340.46, Penang $513,130.59 and Malacca $133,624.90. The duty is charged according to the strength, the rates varying according as the strength lies between certain limits.

During the year 1910, 634 prosecutions for offences against the Chandu and Liquors Revenue Ordinances were instituted, as well as 66 cases under "The Deleterious Drugs Ordinance." Seizures were made of contraband amounting altogether to 5,021 tahils of opium, 16,969 tahils of chandu, 2,062 oz. of cocaine, 366½ oz. of morphia.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SINGAPORE.

Among the public works completed during the year were the new Dispensary, North Canal Road; additions and alterations to old Import and Export Office for General Post Office; installation of Electric Fans to Government Offices and electric motors to Public Works Department Lithographic Office; New Police Barracks, St. John's Island; Special Services to New Currency Note Vault, Day Vault and Expense Vault at the Treasury; general repairs to steam dredger "Mudlark"; quarters for Assistant Curator, Botanic Gardens; new Armoury at Beach Road for the S. V. I. Chinese Contingent; dredging and reclamation of swamps, Singapore River; re-roofing Lower Tanglin Vernacular School and Alteration to Kalang Vernacular School; Cottage for European patients at the Lunatic Asylum, Pasir Panjang; new play-shed at Outram Road School; filling and raising ground between Albert, Bencoolen, Rochore and Waterloo Streets; filling in and reclaiming swamp opposite General Hospital; filling and raising ground at Peoples' Park, between New Bridge Road and the Railway.

No new roads or bridges were constructed during the year. The Country roads, bridges and culverts were maintained in good order throughout the year.

PENANG.

The principal works taken in hand and completed were: removal of coolie lines and quarters on Penang Hill from the catchment area; improving and thoroughly overhauling the Police Courts; the rebuilding of the Chinese Protectorate; and improving the Chamber of Commerce buildings.

The alteration and extension to the Indian Immigration Depôt was also taken up but not quite finished at the end of the year. The works in connection with the new Quarantine Camp, Pulau Jerejak, were nearing completion.

The only bridge worthy of notice taken in hand was that at Sungai Korok in Balik Pulau and which owing to the unfavourable nature of the subsoil showed poor progress.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

Bridges.—One new bridge constructed departmentally (viz.: a new reinforced concrete of 30 feet span over Sungai Kechil) at a cost of $3,491.72. The wooden decking of one bridge at Permatang Ara was renewed in ferro-concrete. The abutments of four small culverts on Bukit Serayah Road were extended and the roadway widened.

All iron bridges were painted with Siderosthen paint and wooden bridges with tar during the year.

The reconstruction of the pontoon bridge at Bagan Serai could not be started in 1910 owing to the non-arrival of materials ordered through the Crown Agents.

Canals.—The principal canals cleared during the year were Sungai Jarak between Tasek Glugor and Sungai Kulim, Machang Bukok river, Sungai Lokan and Tebing Tinggi canal.

Drains.—A length of 830 lineal feet of new concrete drain was constructed at Butterworth and a length of 360 feet of concrete drain along High Street, Nibong Tebal, was regraded.

Jetty.—The construction of a reinforced concrete Pier Head and the renewal of the jetty at Bagan Tuan Kechil were satisfactorily completed.

Buildings.—Works under this heading were confined to additions and alterations to existing buildings.

MALACCA.

The road deviation at Rim was completed at a cost of $42,499.42.

A sum of $144,435.96 of which $87,500 was Government contribution, was expended on the maintenance of 299·25 miles of roads, giving an average of $482.66 per mile.

Three bridges were renewed in reinforced concrete, one timber platform renewed in same material and one bridge widened. The Tampoi bridge was completed during the year on a re-vote. Ten wooden culverts were renewed in masonry and concrete.

The Grab Dredger succeeded during the year in removing 33,485·18 tons of mud from the entrance channel of the Malacca River at a cost of 29 cents per ton. The dredgings were used

in the reclamation work close at hand. The above quantity includes dredging done by hand with trucks. A new steel pontoon was supplied and the Grab Dredger fixed on same at a cost of $9,999.73.

The work of raising the East and West groynes to two feet above H. W. O. S. T. has been carried out at a cost of $4,999.79. This work is now completed and further expenditure under this head may not be required for some years.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

The general progress of the works during the year 1910 was good.

A total length of 3,255 feet of wall was completed at the end of the year and cylinder foundations were in progress for a further length of 730 feet, out of a proposed length of Quay Wall of 5,028 feet.

Filling up the reclaimed area with dredgings and covering with material from Mount Wallich was continued and a total of 16 acres of the proposed 88 acres completed.

In the Inner South Mole during the year there has been deposited 210,421 tons of granite rubble obtained from the Quarry at Pulau Ubin.

The average number of men employed at the end of the year was 636 at Pulau Ubin Quarry including 46 Europeans, and 1,667 men on the Teluk Ayer Quay Wall and Reclamation including 87 Europeans.

A total amount of £313,500 was paid to the Contractors on account of work done during 1910.

LABUAN.

The revenue, not including a sum of $6,428.56 being the Contribution from Imperial Funds towards expenses of Consulate, was $82,926.44 as compared with $78,977.78 in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to $104,855.98 being $8,272.87 more than in 1909.

The trade of the Island was larger than in the previous year, the gross value Imports and Exports being $2,654,522 as against $2,447,841 in 1909 and $2,275,605 in 1908.

The comparative values of the trade of the Island in the past three years were as follows:—

		1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*
		$	$	$
Merchandise—				
Imports	...	1,129,278	1,308,077	1,437,390
Exports	...	1,146,327	1,139,764	1,217,132
Total	...	2,275,605	2,447,841	2,654,522

The Imports and Exports from and to ports other than Straits Settlements ports were:—

		1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*
		$	$	$
Imports	...	438,156	615,051	834,647
Exports	...	729,263	724,631	489,408
Total	...	1,167,419	1,339,682	1,324,055

The tonnage of shipping which entered Port Victoria and also cleared was 282,742, (British 152,668 tons and Foreign 130,074 tons), as compared with 165,137. (British 70,153 tons and Foreign 94,984 tons), in 1909, and 145,704, (British 58,601 tons and Foreign 87,103 tons), in 1908.

There was an increased demand for Labuan coal and 30 cargoes amounting to 47,734 tons were shipped. The total quantity exported as cargo and sold for bunkers was 92,223 tons, or nearly 35,000 tons more than in 1909. The output from the mines, which are the property of the Labuan Coalfields Company, Limited, was 86,689 tons, against 61,855 tons in 1909 and 33,458 tons in 1908. The conveyor erected by the Company at Port Victoria was worked successfully for the first time in May and it has greatly facilitated the loading and bunkering of ships.

The new lighthouse on Papan Island, a steel structure 39 feet high, was completed in December. It is proposed to exhibit the light, which is a fourth order occulting one by Chance Brothers, on the 1st March. 1911.

Besides the lighthouse, which with Quarters and Oil Store cost approximately $13,000, there were no public works of any importance. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was $41,953.

The re-survey of Labuan, the total cost of which was estimated at $22,000, was commenced and fair progress was made.

The population of the Island at the end of the year was approximately 7,600 (males 4,432 and females 3,168), and included 46 Europeans. The total number of births registered was 235 and deaths 267. No epidemic of infectious or contagious disease occurred. The total number of patients treated in the Hospital was 338, of whom 6 were Europeans, as against 307 in 1909 and 167 in 1908. The total rainfall was 151·25 inches as compared with 114 in 1909 and 165·07 in 1908. The mean temperature of the air was 83·51°F. (maximum 85·55°, minimum 76·38°), as compared with 83·36°F. (maximum 86·49°, minimum 76·77°), in 1909. The highest temperature recorded was 93°F. and the lowest 72° as against 91° and 40° in 1909.

The Police force consisted of one European Inspector, 40 Sikhs and 45 Malays. Of the above numbers 17 Sikhs and 13 Malays did duty in Brunei. There was no serious crime during the year. In all 118 Police cases came before the Courts. There were six prisoners in the Labuan Criminal Prison on the 1st January and 64 (62 males and 2 females), were received in 1911. Of these 55 were discharged leaving 15 in Prison on the 31st December. The daily average number of prisoners in the Criminal Prison was 19·60. There were no prisoners in the Civil Prison during the year.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue was $85,023.34 as compared with $91,863.57 in 1909. The expenditure was $14,107.25.

The total tonnage cleared from the Port was 68,011 as against 57,915 in 1909.

Imports were valued at $130,452.

The export of phosphate of lime amounted to 137,700 tons as compared with 105,481 tons in 1909. The largest amount exported in any previous year was 110,375 tons.

The only other export was nine pikuls of cotton.

The population on the 31st December, 1910, was 1,329 and included 22 Europeans, 12 Eurasians, 35 Sikhs, 46 Malays, 8 Japanese and 1,206 Chinese. There were 21 deaths during the year and no births.

The health of those on the Island was fairly satisfactory though not so good as in 1909. Of the 21 deaths 8 were due to beri-beri.

There was no serious crime during the year.

The rainfall for 1910 was the heaviest on record and amounted to 136·93 inches, rain falling on 231 days. The heaviest rainfall for a single day was 7·72 inches on June 9th. The highest temperature recorded was 91·7, the lowest 70·2 and the mean temperature 80·2.

Extensive works are already in hand for the purpose of increasing the output of phosphate. A third tramway to the present quarry is now in use and it seems probable the phosphate beds in this locality will become exhausted before many years have passed. The phosphate beds to the south-east of the island are still untouched, and the company has now decided to build a light railway from the settlement to the south point of the island. The survey of the railway was completed during 1910 and the construction is now being commenced. The length will be about 15 miles. Preparations are also being made for building a new steel pier considerably larger than either of the existing piers so as to facilitate the landing of the railway material.

GENERAL.

The Colony in common with the whole Empire mourned the death of His Majesty King EDWARD and solemn funeral services were held in all the Settlements.

His Majesty King GEORGE was duly proclaimed in Singapore on the 9th May.

The most salient feature of the year was without doubt the great rise in the price of rubber and the consequent boom in rubber shares which reached its height in April. The boom undoubtedly did much to advertise the Colony and the adjoining States in Europe and brought large profits to individuals but its most abiding result was the impetus given to the cultivation of rubber which bids fair to oust less profitable cultivations and has been the means of bringing large areas into use which were previously undeveloped.

Owing to the policy which has been adopted of granting large rebates of quit-rent during the first six years the increase in the rent rolls is not so great as it will be in a few years' time and the immediate benefit to revenue is not as yet fully apparent.

SKETCH MAP
OF
MALAY PENINSULA
— Scale of Statute Miles. —
0 10 20 30 40 50 60
SIAM
CHINA SEA
STRAITS OF MALACCA
SUMATRA
KEDAH
PENANG
PERAK
KELANTAN
TRENGGANU
KEMAMAN
PAHANG
SELANGOR
NEGRI SEMBILAN
MALACCA
JOHOR
SINGAPORE
DINDINGS
C. Patani
Pattani
Bilky C.
P. Tenggau
Pujoh R.
Perlis R.
P. Langkawi
Kedah R.
Kota Sta
G. Jerai
G. Angus
Muda R.
K. Muda
George Town
K. Krian
N. Krian
Port Weld
Tanjong
K. Kangar
Bagan
Ipoh
Perak River
Batu Gajah
Kota Bharu
P. Pangkor
Lumut
Kampar R.
Tapah Road
Tapah
Teluk Anson
Perak R.
K. Bernam
Ty. Malim
K. Rubi
K. Selangor
Serendah
Batu Caves
K. Lumpur
G. Hantu
P. Klang
Klang
Port Swettenham
Kajang
P. Lumut
K. Klawang
Langat R.
Seremban
P. Pilah
K. Sepang
Port Dickson
C. Rachado
Tampin
Gemas
K. Linggi
Alor Gajah
Jasin
Mt. Ophir
Malacca Town
Malacca R.
K. Kesang
K. Muar
Bandar Maharani
Parit Jawa
K. S. Batu Pahat
P. Rupat
P. Bengkalis
P. Pisang (W)
Ty. Hulus
Johor Bharu
Singapore Town
G. Pulai
Kota Tinggi
Johor Lama
Romenia Pt
K. Sedili
K. Endau
P. Tioman
K. Rumpin
K. Pahang
Pekan
K. Kuantan
K. Kemaman
K. Trengganu
Ty. Dungun
K. Besut
K. Kelantan
Kota Bharu
K. Tabar
K. Menara
G. Tahan
K. Lipis
K. Tembeling
K. Jelai
K. Pergau
K. Nenggiri
K. Galas
K. Lebir
K. Terengganu
K. Kelantan
K. Pahang
K. Tembeling
K. Jelai
K. Lipis
K. Pergau
K. Galas
K. Lebir
K. Nenggiri
K. Terengganu
K. Muar
K. Kesang
K. Linggi
K. Rubi
K. Bernam
K. Krian
K. Muda
K. Kedah
K. Perlis
K. Tenggau
K. Pujoh
K. Pattani
K. Bilky
K. Menara
K. Tabar
K. Besut
K. Trengganu
K. Dungun
K. Kemaman
K. Kuantan
K. Pahang
K. Rumpin
K. Endau
K. Sedili
K. Johor
K. Pisang
K. Tioman
K. Langkawi
K. Penang
K. Pangkor
K. Lumut
K. Klang
K. Selangor
K. Lumpur
K. Sepang
K. Rupat
K. Bengkalis
K. Singapore
K. Romenia
K. Tioman

A very gratifying feature of the year from the point of view of Government revenue as well as on other grounds was the success of the policy advocated by the Opium Commission and great credit is due to Mr. BADDELEY and the other officers who assisted him in the working of the new Monopolies Department.

Most important, however, of all the promising features of the year was the distinct revival of trade after a somewhat lengthy period of depression and there appears now to be abundant ground for confidence in the future of the Colony and its ability to hold its own against all rivals.

When the extensive works now in progress for improving the trade and shipping facilities of the ports of Singapore and Penang are completed the Colony should, there is every reason to anticipate, enter upon a period of prosperity which will cast all its previous records into the shade.

A. H. LEMON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

September, 1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 750.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 709.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
February, 1913.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1911.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1911 amounted to $11,409,221, being an increase of $2,072,893 over the revenue for the preceding year. The expenditure was $9,085,389, an increase of $1,553,147.

The actual figures for 1910 and 1911 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—REVENUE.

	1910.	*1911.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1 Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	259,331	247,090	...	12,241
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	6,316,433	8,622,351	2,305,918	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	637,094	549,646	...	87,448
4. Post and Telegraphs ...	609,529	628,750	19,221	...
5. Government Railway ...	309,795	307,498	...	2,297
6. Rents of Govt. Property	451,474	496,721	45,247	...
7. Interest	115,480	138,627	23,147	...
8. Miscellaneous Receipts...	264,020	191,642	...	72,378
	$8,963,156	11,182,325	2,393,533	174,364
9. Land Sales	373,172	226,896	...	146,276
TOTAL ...	$9,336,328	11,409,221	2,393,533	320,640
		Net increase	...	$2,072,893

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1910.	*1911.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	—	—	—	—
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	103,667	806,961	703,294	...
2. Pensions ...	394,915	423,973	29,058	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	11,636	11,576	...	60
4. The Governor ...	73,719	79,801	6,082	...
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	131,341	135,961	4,620	...
6. Government Printing Office	66,572	66,910	338	...
7. Land and District Offices	209,686	215,009	5,323	...
8. Forests	28,676	28,924	248	...
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants Protection	88,530	86,320	...	2,210
10. Treasury	89,532	85,338	...	4,194
11. Audit	45,645	46,855	1,210	...
12. Marine	294,667	314,542	19,875	...
13. Legal	345,020	344,876	...	144
14. Police	748,328	791,846	43,518	...
15. Prisons	203,495	197,392	...	6,103
16. Medical	238,102	186,649	...	51,453
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	374,950	355,808	...	19,142
18. Education	232,669	249,980	17,311	...
19. Ecclesiastical ...	18,136	18,174	38	...
20. Transport	10,896	12,813	1,917	...
21. Military Expenditure ...	1,257,864	1,815,950	558,086	...
22. Miscellaneous Services ...	274,011	334,373	60,362	...
23. Post Office	474,584	502,576	27,992	...
24. Railway	154,108	333,239	179,131	...
25. Government Monopolies	382,630	402,257	19,627	...
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	37,770	41,716	3,946	...
27. Public Works Department	284,191	273,367	...	10,824
28. Public Works, Recurrent	448,653	380,561	...	68,092
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	508,249	541,642	33,393	...
TOTAL ...	$7,532,242	9,085,389	1,715,369	162,222
Net increase ...			$1,553,147	

2. The sums expended on Personal Emoluments and Other Charges in the two years were :—

		1910.	*1911.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
		$	$	$	$
Personal Emoluments	...	3,012,741	3,241,858	229,117	...
Other Charges ...	...	1,783,622	1,850,055	66,433	...

3. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1907 to 1911 :—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1907	...	10,023,016	9,499,693
1908	...	8,969,015	9,837,624
1909	...	8,795,001	8,542,731
1910	...	9,336,328	7,532,242
1911	...	11,409,221	9,085,389

4. The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1911, were as follows :—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits	... ...	2,237,786	Indian Agency Account	...	908,686
Suspense	... ...	402,285	Investments ...	...	4,140,014
Drafts and Remittances	...	5,506	Advances ...	...	234,802
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	...	7,263,145	Loans to Municipalities	...	377,800
			Imprests ...	...	7,250
			Loan Account ...	...	277,636
			Cash in Transit	...	5,842
			Cash ...	...	3,956,692
TOTAL	...	$9,908,722	TOTAL	...	$9,908,722

showing an increase to the credit balance of the Colony during the year of no less than $2,323,831 in place of an estimated increase of $255,227. The excess of revenue over the Estimates amounted to $2,308,786 and the excess on the estimates of expenditure to $240,181.

The principal excesses of revenue over the Estimates were Opium Revenue $1,641,457 and Premia on grants $123,246. The revenue from Straits Light Dues was $149,336. In view of Ordinance XXVIII of 1910, which was subsequently repealed, this was not estimated. The principal excesses on the estimates of expenditure were Charge on account of the Public Debt $433,851 owing to the flotation by the Crown Agents of the further loan of £2,750,000 and Military Expenditure $242,559. The principal saving was $215,780, Public Works, Extraordinary.

PUBLIC DEBT.

A Loan of £5,000,000 was raised in 1907 and a further loan of £2,750,000 was raised in 1910 under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907. The position of the loan on the 31st December, 1911, was as follows:—

		£
3½ per cent S. S. Inscribed Stock	...	6,913,352
4 per cent Debentures ...	...	1,030,100

Advances were made from Loan Funds as follows:—

		$
Tanjong Pagar Dock Board	...	37,281,161
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		3,250,000
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...		900,000
Government Harbour Works	...	8,137,963
		49,569,124
Expenses of Issue	...	3,518,386
Total	...	$53,087,510

Provision is made for the repayment of this loan by a Sinking Fund which will come into operation in 1917, ten years from the date of the first issue of debentures.

The charge on account of interest on the public debt was $2,449,243 in 1911, as against $1,608,865 in 1910. The great portion of this charge is, however, borne by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have

been allotted. The actual sums paid by the Colonial Government in 1910 and 1911, respectively, were $103,667 and $806,961.

In local currency the total amount of the debt stood at $68,086,731 on the 31st December, 1911, which was about six times the revenue of the Colony.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate remained firm during the year between 2/4$\frac{3}{16}$ and 2/4$\frac{1}{16}$.

CURRENCY.

The gold held by the Commissioners in Singapore at the beginning of the year amounted to £285,438. During the year gold to the value of £556,312 was received and issues of £703,998 were made, leaving a balance of £137,752 in the vault on the 31st December. In addition sums aggregating £1,120,376-13-3 were held by the Crown Agents in gold in London.

The large $5 note and the first issue $1 note are being gradually withdrawn from circulation, all such notes being cancelled on their return to the Commissioners.

The currency of the Colony, in circulation exclusive of subsidiary coins, consisted of $36,859,310 in Government currency notes, $317,140 in bank notes issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and $7,272,699 in dollars and half-dollars. The above amounts include stocks held by the Banks and the Treasuries of the Colony and the Federated Malay States, but do not include unissued currency notes still in the hands of the Currency Commissioners.

Old subsidiary silver coin of the face value of $240,000 was sent to London during the year for sale as bullion. The new subsidiary silver coins are of a fineness of 600. The profits from reminting this coin will be credited to the Gold Standard Reserve. During the year $40,007.35 worth of the new coins were received from Bombay. This was part of the new coin which was shroffed and found without the proper ring and sent back to Bombay Mint for reminting. During the year under review $42,000 worth of defective coin was returned back to the Mint Master, Bombay, to be re-minted.

The average bank-note circulation in 1911 was $353,417, as compared with $459,615 in 1910. The average amount of

Government currency notes in circulation in 1911 was for each month:—

	$		$
January ...	34,564,299	July ...	35,600,395
February ...	34,529,921	August ...	35,386,470
March ...	35,028,644	September ...	37,816,430
April ...	35,805,727	October ...	38,411,429
May ...	35,835,057	November ...	37,687,110
June ...	36,005,953	December ...	37,342,362

The Assets and Liabilities of the Currency Commissioners on the 31st December, 1911, were as follows:—

Liabilites.	$ c.	*Assets.*	$ c.
Deposits	38,837,513 98	Cash in Reserve ...	22,518,132 96
		Investments	16,319,381 02
TOTAL ...	$38,837,513 98	TOTAL ...	$38,837,513 98

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $3,853,550, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $3,769,167. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure, and of the debts of the Boards, showing the provision made for repayment, appear below.

REVENUE.

	1907.	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,306,749	2,429,892	2,448,179	2,512,507	2,555,478
Penang ...	906,139	1,002,057	1,002,472	1,103,587	1,206,244
Malacca ...	88,416	92,545	68,647	76,853	91,828
TOTAL ...	$3,301,304	3,524,494	3,519,298	3,692,947	3,853,550

EXPENDITURE.

	1907.	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,245,623	2,286,071	2,191,299	2,446,041	2,527,579
Penang ...	872,223	933,807	1,026,676	1,116,307	1,150,693
Malacca ...	100,176	92,082	61,538	76,282	90,895
TOTAL ...	$3,218,022	3,311,960	3,279,513	3,638,630	3,769,167

DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVISION FOR REPAYMENT.

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 @ 5%	...	400,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
" " 1890 @ 6%	...	400,000	
" " 1893 @ 5%	280,000		
Redeemed ...	202,000	78,000	
" " 1897 @ 4%	500,000		
Unissued	75,500		
	424,500		
Redeemed ...	127,200	297,300	Annual drawings of 2½% of Loan.
" " 1898 @ 4%	500,000		
Unissued	472,000	28,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
" " 1899 @ 4%	400,000		
Redeemed ...	336,000	64,000	
" " 1901 @ 5%	1,000,000	800,000	
Redeemed ...	200,000		
" " 1902 @ 5%	...	400,000	
" " 1907 @ 4½%	...	1,600,000	
" " 1909 @ 4½%	...	1,000,000	
Government Loan @ 4½% ...	...	3,000,000	
		7,067,300	
Penang—			
Loan @ 5% Debenture Stock 1889	...	250,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of loan.
" @ 6% do. 1891	...	100,000	
" @ 5% do. 1901	...	500,000	
" @ 5% do. 1904	...	600,000	
" @ 4% Tramway Loan 1904	...	400,000	Annual repayments of $20,000. (Six paid.)
" @ 4½% from Colonial Government 1907 (Part) ...	...	900,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of Loan ($1,500,000) commencing in 1917.
		2,750,000	
Malacca—			
1885 Loan by Government $25,000 @ 3%	...	13,000	Annual repayments of $500.
1908 Do. $50,000 @ 4½%	...	42,000	Annual repayments of $2,000.
1909 Do. $14,000 @ 4½%	...	12,800	22 Annual repayments of $600 & 1 of $800.
1911 Do. $16,000 @ 4½%	...	16,000	25 Annual repayments of $640.
		83,800	

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, established to carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Singapore Island ...	30,054	72,382
Penang Island ...	41,304	82,482
Province Wellesley ...	169,547	192,066
Dindings	9,631	10,555
Malacca	156,252	181,043

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK BOARD.

The revenue and expenditure for the five years 1907–1911 were as follows :—

	Revenue.		*Expenditure.*	
	$	c.	$	c.
1907 ...	6,145,579	25	4,484,476	20
1908 ...	5,822,811	69	4,271,715	37
1909 ...	5,849,063	00	4,267,797	27
1910 ...	5,896,156	52	4,328,184	47
1911 ...	5,740,965	09	4,074,669	33

The capital debt due to Government including an estimated amount of $29,003,149.45 for initial cost stood at the end of 1911 at $37,402,754.08 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent.

In addition to the above-mentioned capital the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,768,313.38 from surplus revenue or reserve fund under Section 31 (2) of "The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance 1905."

The following figures are taken from the Wharf Tonnage returns :—

	1907.	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
Number of vessels ...	2,556	2,364	2,366	2,393	2,528
Tonnage ...	4,747,210	4,590,474	4,433,105	4,605,035	4,877,317
Coal inwards and outwards ...	1,111,682	1,145,435	1,160,711	1,063,768	1,084,974
Cargo inwards and outwards ...	1,270,285	1,088,527	974,016	1,305,014	1,285,994

NEW WORKS AT TANJONG PAGAR.

Lagoon Wet Dock and Main Wharf Re-construction.

The questions at issue between the Dock Board and Messrs. John Aird & Company, the original contractors for these Works, reached a climax in the early part of the year and now form the subject of litigation between the two parties; as a result of this (and as Messrs. John Aird & Company refused to proceed) the Dock Board, on the 8th March, entered into possession of the works and of the entire Contractors' Plant, Materials and Stock. Arrangements were thereupon made to proceed with and complete a portion of the New West Wharf by Departmental administration, and at the same time negotiations were opened up with another firm of Contractors to carry on and complete the whole of the works. As a result of these negotiations a Supplemental Contract was entered into with Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, and the works were duly handed over to them on the 18th July.

In the interval between the 8th March and 18th July a length of 500 feet of the New West Wharf (W. I. Cylinder Construction) was finished off and opened for traffic together with the area for the Godowns and Roadways behind this portion.

Since taking over the works on the 18th July the new Contractors have pushed on vigorously with the Lagoon Dock, the first portion of the Trench for the East Wall of the Dock, which had been left untouched for over a year, was successfully bottomed up in November and the construction of this wall is now proceeding rapidly. The work of clearing away the Old Keppel Road where it crossed the North West corner of the Dock was also in hand and the necessary preparations made for starting the trench for the West Wall.

During the progress of the work on the Main Wharf Re-construction, carried out Departmentally, 20,520 Tons of Granite Rubble were obtained from the 8th Mile Quarry at Bukit Timah, 1,737 Cubic Yards of Concrete were deposited, 590 Cubic Yards of Concrete Blocks set, and 545 Tons of Ironwork erected.

Since 18th July, 1911, a total amount of £24,000 was paid to the New Contractors, the principal items of work executed by them since that date being 102,000 Cubic Yards of excavation from the Body of the Dock which has been used for the Reclamation of the Western Swamp, 7,000 Cubic Yards of Trench excavation, and 2,500 Cubic Yards of Concrete in the Dock Walls; the whole of the temporary Railways were

remodelled, and New Workshops erected by Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited.

The average number of men employed by the Contractors on the Works and at the Quarries in December was 2,473.

New Graving Dock at Keppel Harbour.

Good progress was made on Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton's Contract for the construction of this Dock.

The Concrete Side-Walls and Floor of the Dock were well advanced and at the end of the year there remained some 185 feet of the West Wall, and 210 feet of the East Wall, for heights of 33′ 6″ and 17′ 6″ below Coping level, respectively, to be completed; below that level the Walls were built for their entire length throughout the Dock, but there remained some 140 feet of the Concrete Floor still to be done.

The portion of the West Entrance Wall inside the Cofferdam was completed as far as was possible before the removal of the latter, and a similar portion of the East Entrance Wall, in which the Caisson Berth is formed, was in hand and was expected to be completed ready for the removal of the Dam early in 1912. The total quantity of Concrete deposited in the Dock and Entrance Walls inside the Cofferdam during the year was 53,313 Cubic Yards, leaving 8,090 Cubic Yards still to be done, and the total quantity of excavation removed from the Body of the Dock during the year was 78,662 Cubic Yards, leaving 2,080 Cubic Yards to be dealt with.

The Concrete and Masonry for the Pumping Station, Non-return Valve Chamber and Boiler House were completed, entailing the deposit of some 7,524 Cubic Yards of Concrete, the building of 600 Square Yards of Glazed Brick facing, and the laying of 1,580 Square Yards of Asphalte during the year, as well as the building of the Superstructures of the Engine and Boiler Houses which was carried out by the Board. The erection of the Pumping Machinery which is being supplied under a Contract with Messrs. Gwynnes, Limited, is in hand, the whole of the Machinery having been delivered in the Colony and stored near the site on the Board's premises.

Outside the Cofferdam the West Entrance Wall was completed as far as was possible before the removal of the former. The temporary Staging for the Eastern portion of the East

Entrance Wall was erected and the excavation almost completed for a length of 80 feet. During the year under review some 55,000 Cubic Feet of Cornish Granite Ashlar for the Outer and Inner Entrances, Caisson Stops, Copings, etc., were delivered and stacked on the ground and 83,073 Cubic Feet set in the work; a total quantity of 43,850 Cubic Yards of Granite Rubble was delivered on to the Works from the Quarry at Pulau Ubin; at the Block-yard some 3,280 Cubic Yards of Concrete Blocks and 31,200 Cubic Feet of Concrete Ashlar were made, of which some 3,000 Cubic Yards of Blocks and 10,800 Cubic Feet of Ashlar were in stock at the end of December; the average number of men employed by the Contractors, Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, on the Works and at the Quarry was 1,166.

A total amount of £235,300 had been paid to the Contractors for work done up to the end of 1911, out of which the sum of £133,000 was for work done during 1911.

The two Caissons for this Dock are being supplied and erected under a Contract with the Thames Ironworks Company; the erection of No. 1 Caisson, on the Floor of the Dock near the Outer Entrance, which started in July is still proceeding and the erection of No. 2 Caisson was started in December. The average number of men employed on the erection of these Caissons varied from 65 in August to 121 in December.

GOVERNMENT WHARVES, PENANG.

Swettenham Pier Extension was completed on the 30th of June. It is now 1,200 feet long and has a depth of 30 feet L. W. O. S. T. the whole length.

The piling for the over-water godown is nearly completed, part of the decking is laid and the materials for the erection of the godown were expected in January, 1912. This godown is urgently required, particularly during the tobacco season.

The fleet of lighters numberd 91. During the year six new lighters have been built at Prai Dock at a cost of $25,000, repairs to old lighters have been effected at a cost of $43,504.58 and six lighters have been condemned and sold.

The profit on Revenue Account at Prai Dock for the year 1911 was $65,442.

The profit on Revenue Account of the Government Wharves Penang, for the year 1911 was $100,116.

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony in 1911 was satisfactory.

Compared with 1910 foreign imports of merchandise rose by 4 million pounds sterling or 10 per cent, and exports by 2·4 million or 6·8 per cent.

Import prices were higher than in the previous year and quantities of manufactured goods generally increased.

Straits produce with stationary prices exhibit on the whole a decline in volume.

The following figures show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling :—

		1910.	*1911.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
		£	£	£	£
Merchandise—					
Imports	...	40,343	44,373	4,030	...
Exports	...	35,852	38,293	2,441	...
Coin and Bullion—					
Imports	...	2,179	2,064	...	115
Exports	...	1,970	1,594	...	376

The value of the inter-port trade including treasure was in thousands of pounds sterling :—

		1910.	*1911.*	*Increase.*
		£	£	£
Imports	...	2,439	3,252	813
Exports	...	2,273	2,986	713

The aggregate gross trade was therefore £92·6 million pounds, an increase of £7·5 million, compared with 1910 or 8·8 per cent.

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1910.	*1911.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	15,762	17,174	13,368	14,059
2. Raw Materials ...	16,423	18,576	18,615	20,132
3. Manufactured and Partly Manufactured Articles ...	8,157	8,623	3,869	4,103
4. Coin and Bullion ...	2,179	2,064	1,971	1,594
Total ...	42,521	46,437	37,823	39,888

The figures though exceeding those of the previous year do not denote a corresponding expansion of trade as prices of tin, rice and other articles were considerably higher and consignments of Para Rubber transhipped here and not marketed contributed to enhance values.

Increased values of imports were chiefly seen in tin and ore, rice, provisions of all kinds, vegetables, fruits and onions, cotton piece goods, apparel and hosiery, fish, tobacco, coal, kachang and coconut oils, sugar, tea, drugs and medicines, raw hides, silk piece goods, hardware and ironware, wood, and cement.

Decreased import values are apparent in opium, iron and steel, petroleum, jute gunnies, and matches.

Exports gave increased values in tin, preserved pineapples, tapioca, rattans, tanned hides, and coffee, but the value of copra, gambier, spices, and phosphate of lime from Christmas Island declined though the quantity of the last named increased.

QUANTITIES.

Import quantities rose chiefly in cotton and silk piece goods, woollens, coal, cement, wheat flour, rice and bran, fish, malt liquors, sugar and tea, milk, tin plates, soap and soda, and tar.

Decreases were apparent principally in lubricating oil, petroleum, spirits and wines, beans and peas, padi, sarongs and yarns, cotton blankets, and iron and steel.

Export quantities of the following articles declined:—gutta jelutong, other guttas and rubbers except Para, copra, arecanuts, tapioca, sago, peppers, and gambier, increases occurring in Para rubber, preserved pineapples, rattans, tin, tanned hides, gum benjamin and coffee.

Trade with British and Foreign Countries.

The trade with the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries including coin and bullion, is given below in millions of dollars:—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1910.	*1911.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	39·2	40·8	87·3	85·9
British Possessions and Protectorates ...	188·6	212·6	91·6	101·8
Foreign Countries ...	136·7	144·6	145·3	154·2

The following statement shows the position of the Colony as a market for British and European Foreign goods since 1896 in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	1896 to 1900.	*1901 to 1905.*	*1906 to 1910.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
From United Kingdom ...	£2,981	3,752	4,012	4,491	4,694
„ Continent of Europe and United States ...	£1,553	2,314	2,208	2,359	2,415
British Excess ...	£1,428	1,438	1,804	2,132	2,279

Percentage of Total.	*1896 to 1900.*	*1901 to 1905.*	*1906 to 1910.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	65·7	61·9	64·5	65·6	66
Continent of Europe and United States ...	34·3	38·1	35·5	34·4	34

The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were cotton piece goods and apparel, cigars and cigarettes, coal, woollen cloth, tin plates, malt liquors, hardware and ironware, boots and shoes, India-rubber goods, soap and soda, and paints, decreases being noticeable in the case of sarongs, cement, biscuits, cycles and motor cars, tramway and railway materials, steel, paper and stationery.

Advances from the Continent were seen in import values from the following countries:—Germany, Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Italy, and Norway; and reduced values from Holland and Spain, France showing little variation.

The increases were chiefly as follows:—Austria in cotton piece goods, and apparel with hardware and ironware; Germany in apparel and hosiery, cotton goods and woollen cloth, hardware and ironware, crockery, tinned provisions, beer and ale, and nails; Denmark, cement; Belgium, crockery and porcelain; Italy, cotton piece goods; Norway, milk; and Holland, cotton piece goods.

The principal decreases were in glass and yarn from Belgium, sarongs from Italy, and sarongs and gin from Holland.

From the United States import values decreased by over half a million dollars principally in petroleum, lubricating oil, hardware and ironware, and wheat flour; cigars and cigarettes, tobacco and lard shew advances.

The total increase of exports to the United Kingdom is accounted for by advances in such articles as tin, Para rubber and preserved pineapples, but large decreases took place in gutta percha, India and Borneo rubbers, copra, pepper, gambier, sago and tapioca.

Of exports to the Continent tin and Para rubber alone advanced to any large extent, declines being apparent in jelutong, gambier, copra, guttas and rubbers except Para, and illipi nuts.

Exports to the United States advanced in tin, tapioca, rattans and Para rubber, declining in jelutong, gambier, pepper, Borneo rubber and copal.

Import values from Australia, India, Burma, Siam, Japan, the Federated Malay States, the Dutch Indies, Hongkong and China, and French Indo-China advanced, but there were decreases in the total values from Borneo and Sarawak and the Malay Peninsula excluding the Federated Malay States.

There was a rise in the total value of exports to the Federated Malay States, and the other parts of the Malay Peninsula, Hongkong and China, the Dutch Indies and Japan, but exports to Australia, Siam, French Indo-China, and Borneo and Sarawak fell off.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The cultivation of Para Rubber continued to increase in all parts of the Colony, and the total area planted with this product is now reported to be about 135,000 acres, of which 29,500 acres are in Singapore, 80,424 acres in Malacca and 14,725 in Province Wellesley. The price remained very remunerative though the cost of labour has not been much reduced. Considerable interest attaches to the eradication of lallang areas in Malacca by the use of the steam plough.

There was no large increase in other forms of cultivation. Tapioca, in spite of a high price, continued to be removed from rubber estates where it had been interplanted and the same is to be said of gambier. Latterly, however, there has been renewed attention to tapioca.

Following on an exceptionally short rainfall which in some parts of the Colony amounted to a drought, the fruit crop was prolific, though the actual number of trees was less than in previous years. Pineapples commanded a good price and were largely planted as a catch crop with Para rubber.

The price for coconuts was also generally higher than in the last few years and considerable attention, though not as much as is deserved, was given to its cultivation.

The padi crop was generally poor and suffered from a variety of causes; the Bruas District alone secured a good crop. The cultivation of padi generally is reported to show a decrease, but this is probably not more than a temporary phenomenon. Malacca lost many buffaloes in a severe outbreak of rinderpest and many of the cultivators were kept from work by an epidemic of small-pox; the diminution is perhaps also due in part to the good wages which can be obtained on rubber estates for work far easier than the toil of the padi fields.

LAND GRANTS.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued and the premia paid for the same during the last five years are as follows:—

SINGAPORE.

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	119 3 28	419 3 12	338 2 14	4,542 1 30	4,944 3 02
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	327,687	183,543	45,514	22,956	206,010
Number of Statutory Grants issued	63	144	33	100	127
Premia paid	$12,623.00	$6,715.00	$13,202.90	$154,506.77	$148,222.79

PENANG.

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	6,927 3 35	663 1 08	723 1 05	4,004 1 06	2,764 0 04
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	300,916	232,191	7,535	76,423	409,787
Number of Statutory Grants issued	352	63	102	129	169
Premia paid	$10,532.66	$3,113.85	$4,890.75	$16,275.97	$14,310.19

MALACCA.

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	10,451 1 16	7,897 0 10	4,025 1 21	2,716 0 37	1,789 0 11
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.		sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	9,159	82,797	...	22,440	43,328
Number of Statutory Grants issued	*270	341	†270	266	212
Premia paid	$51,774.70	$32,274.55	$42,895.40	$114,553.50	$105,485

* 249 Statutory Grants, 21 Mining Leases. † 265 Statutory Grants, 5 Mining Leases and one Freehold Grant.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 24,066,904 as compared with 23,429,495 in 1910. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

Statement showing Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels during the Years 1910 and 1911.

NATIONALITY.	1910.					1911.				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)
American	662	...	...	...	662	...	...	...	...	...
Austrian	205,070	190,088	...	11,850	407,008	203,141	197,398	...	...	400,539
British	7,808,790	5,237,659	674,358	305,336	14,026,143	8,112,187	5,470,309	590,682	84,576	14,257,754
Chinese	...	268	...	2,918	3,186	...	...	...	...	...
Danish	103,074	54,930	...	...	158,004	109,554	51,146	...	...	160,700
Dutch	1,671,425	252,729	...	...	1,924,154	1,955,626	266,746	...	...	2,222,372
French	742,080	...	...	8,502	750,582	638,171	...	...	4,566	642,737
German	2,000,744	1,106,375	...	178,540	3,285,659	1,956,445	1,185,681	...	170,856	3,312,982
Italian	140,876	125,268	...	5,894	272,038	124,766	113,904	...	...	238,670
Japanese	1,041,219	286,671	...	...	1,327,890	1,181,294	302,860	...	...	1,484,154
Norwegian	389,987	48,735	...	41,986	480,708	392,438	44,478	...	8,002	444,918
Russian	320,423	20,770	...	8,382	349,575	382,274	69,842	...	4,038	456,154
Sarawak	95,224	...	...	2,076	97,300	94,684	...	...	1,730	96,414
Siamese	137,432	22,310	...	...	159,742	164,040	44,614	...	...	208,654
Spanish	124,032	...	...	...	124,032	131,488	...	...	...	131,488
Swedish	45,478	17,334	...	...	62,812	9,368	...	...	...	9,368
	14,826,516	7,363,137	674,358	565,484	23,429,495	15,455,476	7,746,978	590,682	273,768	24,066,904

From the above table it will be seen that the following countries show an increased tonnage, entered and cleared, in 1911 as compared with 1910:—Great Britain 231,611; Denmark 2,696; Holland 298,218; Germany 27,323; Japan 156,264; Russia 106,579; Siam 48,912; and Spain 7,456.

The following countries show a decrease:—

America 662; Austria 6,469; China 3,186; France 107,845; Italy 33,368; Norway 35,790; Sarawak 886; and Sweden 53,444.

Comparative Statement of Merchant Vessels Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	20,328,760	21,750,245	22,192,354	23,429,495	24,066,904

It will thus be seen that the tonnage, as compared with 1907, has increased by 3,738,144.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

	1910.		1911.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Arrivals ...	19,486	765,881	20,026	812,352
Departures ...	19,522	763,716	20,072	825,321
Total ...	39,008	1,529,597	40,098	1,637,673

The increase as compared with 1910 is 108,076 tons.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons, Entered and Cleared, for last Five Years.

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	1,464,048	1,455,436	1,347,201	1,529,597	1,637,673

As compared with 1907 this native craft tonnage has increased by 173,625 tons.

In Singapore during the year nine new steamers with a tonnage of 2,570 tons gross and 29 sailing vessels of 2,687 tons were registered under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Ten new sailing vessels of 1,088 tons were registered under Ordinance V of 1883; also 941 of 7,837 tons in all under Ordinance VIII of 1872.

LEGISLATION.

The legislation of the year was not of great bulk. Twenty-three Ordinances were passed, of which thirteen were principal Ordinances, and ten amending Ordinances.

Of the principal Ordinances, the most important are :—

(1) The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Ordinance which established a fund consisting of the contributions of public officers required to give security for the due and faithful discharge of their duties. The fund is administered by a Board of three Directors, being public officers nominated by the Governor, any two of whom form a quorum. The Ordinance differs from that of 1900 which it repeals in requiring no entrance fee, in reducing the annual contribution from one to one-half per cent, in abolishing the disability of officers to sue in respect of the fund, and in abolishing also the provision as to quinquennial adjustments:

(2) The Tamil Immigration Fund Ordinance incorporates, on the lines of a similar enactment (No. 2 of 1911) of the Federated Malay States, the resolutions of the Malaya Planters' Association, fixing the maximum assessment leviable on employers (other than the Government, which is exempted) of Tamil labour, empowering the Immigration Committee to borrow monies when necessary, and prescribing that the fund formed by the payments of the employers may be disbursed towards free passages for labourers and their families from India, payment of interest on sums borrowed by the Committee, expenses in connection with quarantine, and the maintenance of a home for decrepit estate-labourers:

(3) Two other Ordinances, No. VII and No. XXI, deal with the interests of labourers on estates. No. VII is devoted more particularly to providing adequate protection for their health by means of proper house-accommodation, water supply, sanitary and hospital arrangements, while No. XXI provides for the prohibition of the employment of any class of labourers on agricultural estates or other places of work where the supervision is found to be inadequate or ineffective against ill-usage or ill-treatment:

(4) The Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Ordinance gives the same validity to a marriage between a man and the sister of his deceased wife, when contracted in the Colony, as the Imperial Act of 1907 (7 Edw. VII, c. 47) gives to such a marriage when contracted in the United Kingdom:

(5) The Traction Engines and Motor Cars Ordinance provides, in view of the invention of the motor car and its increasing use in the Colony, a more adequate means than was afforded by the prior Locomotive Ordinance (No. VIII of 1871)

of regulating, in the interests of public safety and convenience, the use of locomotives and other carriages propelled by other than animal power.

Other Ordinances deserving special mention are:—

(1) The Labuan Ordinance constituting Labuan with its dependencies a separate Settlement instead of being, as it was since its incorporation with this Colony in 1907, part of the Settlement of Singapore, and making special provisions, in view of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance (No. X of 1910), for the survey of steamers engaged in the Labuan local trade, and for the grant of certificates of competency to mariners:

(2) The Bankruptcy Ordinance Amendment Ordinance establishing the like reciprocity between the Bankruptcy Courts of the Colony and of the Federated Malay States to that which exists, under section 118 of the Imperial Bankruptcy Act (46 and 47 Vict. c. 52), between the various Bankruptcy Courts of the British Empire, *i.e.*, by the mutual action of one Court in aid of the other:

(3) The Volunteer Ordinance Amendment Ordinance providing for the discipline of individual members of a force raised in the United Kingdom, India, or another Colony or the Federated Malay States, when attached to or doing duty with any portion of the Volunteer forces of the Straits Settlements, by subjecting them to the same laws and regulations as the corps to which they are attached is itself subject:

(4) The Conveyancing and Law of Property Ordinance Amendment Ordinance obviating the inconvenience hitherto involved in a prospective purchaser of a deceased person's land being bound to enquire into the necessity or propriety of the sale or mortgage, by prescribing that the sale or mortgage made by the legal personal representatives after six years from the deceased's death be valid if either (*a*) sanctioned by the Court, or (*b*) made under an express or implied power to that effect contained in the deceased's will:

(5) The Prisons Ordinance Amendment Ordinance prescribing the registration and complete record of vagrants in addition to that of persons convicted in the Colony, and of persons ordered to be banished:

(6) The Societies Ordinance Amendment Ordinance establishing, under certain circumstances, the presumption of membership of a Triad Society, and empowering the Governor in Council to dissolve a society not only when it is being used for manifestly unlawful purposes or to the danger of peace and good order in the Colony, but also when its objects appear incompatible with its purposes and rules as entered in the Register of Societies.

EDUCATION.

There are in the Colony 184 vernacular schools where the teaching is in Malay. Free tuition up to the Fifth Standard is provided by the Government at these schools to some twelve thousand one hundred boys and girls. The Government also finances and controls eight schools where the teaching is in English and goes up to the Seventh Standard.

There are also thirty-two aided-schools managed by private bodies and in receipt of grants-in-aid from Government.

The net expenditure on Government English schools was $79,961, on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $119,187.50, and on Government vernacular schools, $98,602.76.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $8,399.64. The supply of trained teachers from the institution is still, however, below the demand and is likely to remain so for some years to come.

The number of pupils leaving school at an early age continues high. This is due to the demand for clerks and assistants of all kinds with some knowledge of English, and it is difficult to see how it can be prevented.

The Normal Classes continued their work during the year with good results, but the tendency to pass into more lucrative occupations is apparent even among trained teachers.

The Training Class for girls in Singapore dealt with four students in their second year and two in their first. The four all passed well in November and obtained their certificates and are all now employed as teachers. The other two are continuing the course and there are four new students. The class is under the control of the Headmistress of the Raffles Girls' School. A similar class in Penang was poorly attended and fresh arrangements are being made.

In Penang there is an increase of nearly 100 in the enrolment of girls at the English schools, chiefly among the Chinese, who are now taking more interest in female education. In Singapore there is an increase of over 100.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

The accommodation in all hospitals was taxed to its utmost throughout most of the year, and during the months of May, June and July, when a serious epidemic of Malaria was raging in all Settlements, special arrangements had to be made to provide for the numbers of patients asking admittance. The total number of

admissions to hospitals exclusive of the Lunatic Asylum was 44,026 as compared with 32,979 in 1910 and 27,543 in 1909, an increase in 2 years of 16,483.

Two hundred and twenty patients were admitted into the Lunatic Asylum, Singapore, as against 228 in 1910.

The number of patients treated in the hospitals was 46,962 of whom 1,702 were Europeans. In 1910 the corresponding numbers were 35,684 and 1,463 respectively. Deaths numbered 6,124 (82 being Europeans), as against 4,529 and 64 in 1910. The rate of mortality shows a rise, the figures being, for 1910, 12·69 and, for 1911, 13·04 per cent of the total cases treated.

The number of inmates in the Leper Asylums of the Colony increased from 440 on the 31st December, 1910, to 471 at the end of the year under review. The number of deaths for 1911 being 173.

REFORMATORY.

The expenditure of this institution, exclusive of the salaries of the Superintendent and Warders, was $9,820.69 in 1911, as against $9,172.61 for the preceding year. The average daily muster was a little higher, the actual figures being, in 1910, 68·37, in 1911, 71·19. There remained 74 boys on the 31st December. The health of the inmates was good. They are taught English and Romanized Malay. The boys make bread and grow vegetables, for their own consumption, and are taught other trades, such as carpentering, tailoring and shoemaking, which may be useful to them on release.

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount at the credit of the depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1911, was $756,538, the highest sum reached. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $157.21.

The deposits were $536,502, as compared with $509,362 in 1910.

The deposits exceeded the withdrawals by $62,761.

There was a profit on the year's working of $3,151. The present value of the investments is as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent Rupee Paper ...	462,550
Singapore Municipal Bonds at 5 per cent	64,670
Do. do. at 4½ „	16,125
Do. do. at 4 „	45,770
Fixed Deposits in Banks	104,000
Various 3 per cent Colonial Guaranteed and Corporation Stocks	65,481
Total ...	$758,596

POLICE.

The Police Force numbers over 2,500 men, of whom 378 are Sikhs.

Sixty-four boys joined the Training Depôt at Malacca in 1911, and fifty-two were drafted from the Depôt into the Force.

Three hundred and ninety-nine recruits joined the Force during the year, of these 11 were Europeans and 57 Sikhs.

PRISONS.

The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons during 1910 and 1911 was as follows:—

		1910.	*1911.*
Singapore ...	Criminal ...	877	777
	Civil ...	73	67
Penang ...	Criminal ...	255·79	277·53
	Civil ...	29·46	29·37
Malacca ...	Criminal ...	33·32	33·99
	Civil ...	8·57	20·61

The practice of banishing habitual criminals (297 in 1911) has been continued.

The health of the prisoners was good, the number of deaths being: at Singapore 36, at Penang 19 and at Malacca one.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Twenty-eight murders and 52 gang robberies were reported during the year; of the latter 11 were not substantiated in the preliminary investigation.

The returns do not disclose any abnormal features.

One hundred and twenty-six persons as against 116 in 1910 were tried before the Supreme Court. Murder, gang robbery, counterfeiting coins, and returning from banishment were the principal crimes. Eighteen persons were convicted of returning from banishment. The lower Courts had to deal with a smaller number of cases than in the previous year. The total number disposed of was 17,051, a decrease of 1,632 cases over the figures for 1910.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Census population of the Colony was 711,951 as compared with the estimated population of 653,853 for 1910, the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Eighteen thousand and sixty-nine births and 33,072 deaths were registered as against 18,012 and 27,484, respectively, in 1910.

The death-rate was 46·45 per mille of the population. The rate in 1910 was 41·88 and in 1909, 37·40.

The birth-rate was 25·38 per mille, compared with 27·55 in 1910.

The deaths from the more important infectious diseases in 1911, excluding imported cases landed on, or occurring amongst contacts on, the Quarantine Islands, were as follows:—

Small-pox: 393 as compared with 522 in 1910.

Cholera: 343 as compared with 247 in 1910.

Plague: 32 as compared with 5 in 1910.

The deaths from Beri-beri were 2,056 as compared with 1,737 for the previous year, an increase of 319. The use of cured rice in the different institutions of the Colonies has lessened the death-rate from this disease. Although the actual cause of the disease still awaits elucidation, there can be little doubt that the consumption of over-milled rice is a big factor in its incidence.

Phthisis has increased in a markedly unhealthy year, there being 2,907 deaths returned from this disease, compared with 2,571 for 1910, 2,659 in 1909 and 2,988 in 1908. It must be remembered that with the greater facilities for travelling in the Straits more decrepits find their way into the big towns to increase the death-rate and our population has been shown to have increased 139,702 in the past ten years. Improvement in the death-rate from this disease is hoped to be shown in a few years when time is given for the sanitary conditions of the bigger towns to improve by the gradual construction of back-lanes, improved drainage, more cubic space and less overcrowding, more air and sunlight, etc., matters now being taken in hand by the Municipalities. Any comprehensive scheme for dealing with this disease would necessitate a sanatorium with attached hospital to the former of which the earlier cases amongst the poor could be sent and to the latter the advanced cases, thus doing away with the chief source of infection as far as possible.

Dysentery was the cause of 2,035 deaths. The figures for 1910 being 1,329 and for 1909, 1,211. A large addition to the water supply of Singapore has but lately been completed, improvement to the water supply of other districts is under consideration, and it is trusted that progress on these lines may tend to lessen the incidence of the disease.

Malaria.—There was widespread increase of Malaria throughout all Settlements, an increase which has been steady and progressive for several years as shown by the hospital admissions. The death-rate from this disease also shows corresponding increase, a conspicuous feature being the number of cases of a malignant type. The deaths from Malaria in all Settlements excluding Labuan were 5,769 for the year, compared with 3,245 in 1910 and 2,589 in 1909. A crusade against this disease is being undertaken, but some years must elapse before any very tangible results are likely to be seen.

During the year the Estate Labourers Protection of Health Ordinance has been passed. This should lead, when in full work, to some reduction in our death-rate, more especially from Malaria and Dysentery, for it is undoubted that many broken-down coolies from Estates proceed to the nearest town where they not only increase the death-rate but are also a source of danger to those around them.

CLIMATE.

The mean temperature of the air in Singapore was 81·3° with a maximum of 94·8° on April 14th and a minimum of 69·2° on February 25th: that of Penang being 81·7°, the highest temperature recorded being 94° March 6th, the lowest 70° on March 16th.

In Province Wellesley the mean temperature was 81·4°: the maximum being 96° on April 4th, the minimum 66·5° on February 23rd. In Malacca the mean temperature was 80·2° with the maximum of 93·5° on March 11th, the lowest 68° on March 26th. In Labuan the mean temperature was 81·6°, the maximum recorded 93° on March 17th, the minimum 71° on July 1st.

Rainfall:—Singapore	...	...	92·72 inches.
Labuan	...	...	99·82 ,,
Penang	...	...	85·70 ,,
Province Wellesley		...	68·65 ,,
Malacca	...	...	67·44 ,,
Dindings	...	...	82·2 ,,

The prevailing direction of the wind changes with the N. E. and S. W. Monsoons. The former blowing from November to April and the latter from May to October.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Money Order Agreements were concluded with the Post Office of Netherlands East India and Indo-China, and the Commission on Money Orders drawn on the United Kingdom, British Colonies and foreign countries was reduced from 1½% to 1%. The parcel post was extended to Trengganu and the insurance system for parcels and letters to Siam.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 8,089,698, an average of 11·2 per inhabitant. The number received for delivery was 6,896,788. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 218,102 to 228,499, and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 389 to 440.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—CHINESE.

Immigrants from China during the year 1911 numbered 269,854, an increase of 24·7 per cent over the figure for the year 1910, and of 18·6 per cent over that for the year 1907, the previous highest figure.

Adult females to the number of 22,738 arrived during the year 1911, an increase of 6,343 or 38·7 per cent over the number for 1910. The females for the first time amount to 10 per cent of the males.

Two thousand six hundred and eleven infants of one year of age and under arrived in the Colony, of whom 1,837 landed at Singapore. Of those who landed at Singapore 637 were reported as leaving for other ports and the balance of 1,200 were probably added to the population of the town.

The number of "unpaid passengers," *i.e.*, labourers who obtain free passages from China in consideration of a promise to enter into contracts in Singapore, was 24,345, an increase of 410 over the number for 1910, and the highest figure since 1900. Only 445 arrived in the month of December. These unpaid passengers formed 10·7 per cent of the total adult male immigrants as against 12·9 per cent in 1910.

There were again poor harvests throughout South China partly due to extensive floods. Famine resulted in many places. During the last four months of the year rice was dear in China as elsewhere. The demand for Chinese contract labour fluctuated and was on two occasions exceeded by the supply.

The total for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	*Men.*	*Women.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*
—	—	—	—	—	—
1907	197,284	16,265	10,377	3,416	227,342
1908	129,913	12,909	7,767	2,863	153,452
1909	128,878	12,126	7,946	2,802	151,752
1910	184,856	16,395	11,522	3,548	216,321
1911	226,126	22,738	16,033	4,957	269,854

(II).—INDIAN.

The figures for the last five years are appended:—

	1907.	*1908.*	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*
	—	—	—	—	—
1. Statute Immigrants ...	5,499	5,456	4,119	2,523	None.
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets) ...	24,709	20,049	20,289	56,002	78,356
3. Other Immigrants ...	31,922	29,017	25,409	25,198	30,115

The "other immigrants" include 20 dependents and 7,253 children. The importation of statute immigrants (indentured labourers) has ceased, but there has been a very large increase in the number of free immigrants with cheap tickets. The number of passengers with ordinary passage tickets is the largest recorded since 1907. This large increase is due to the requirements of the rubber-planting industry.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 46,464 adults and 1,639 children, as against 37,829 adults and 1,251 children in 1910.

The excess of immigrants over emigrants amounts to 56,754 adults and 5,614 children, as against an excess of 40,529 adults and 4,114 children in the previous year.

MONOPOLIES.

During the year 1911, 3,952 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory giving a total yield of 4,713,108 tahils of chandu, an increase of 1,689,463 tahils

over 1910. From January 1st, 1911, the whole of the Federated Malay States and the States under British protection (excluding Kelantan and Trengganu) obtained their chandu from Singapore, thus causing an enlarged output at the Factory.

As in 1910, the price of raw opium varied very greatly. The lowest was $900 per chest in July, and the highest $2,300 in September. No alteration was made in the selling price of chandu to licensees or by licensees to the public.

The total number of tahils sold in the three Settlements amounted to 1,769,506, made up as follows:—

Singapore 1,064,499, Penang 511,792, and Malacca 193,215, and total cash received for above sales amounted to $7,707,068.15.

The revenue collected in respect of liquor duty, store rent, distillery rent and toddy farms amounted to $665,258.02 in Singapore, $505,537.98 in Penang and $164,386.67 in Malacca, giving a total of $1,335,182.67.

During the year 281 prosecutions were instituted in Singapore for unlicensed selling and other offences against the Chandu and Liquors Ordinances and the Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, 211 in Penang and 97 in Malacca. Seizures were made of 6,434 tahils of opium, 7,915·57 tahils of chandu, 454 ounces of cocaine, 281 ounces of morphia, and 360 packages of bhang.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SINGAPORE.

Among the public works completed during the year were the construction of a sea wall, Johnston's Pier, to connect the old with the new Reclamation; Rebuilding the quarters of the Director of Raffles Museum; Alterations to Raffles Library and Museum; Filling in and raising low-lying ground, Penang Road; an Inspection Shed of steel and corrugated iron, St. John's Island; Dredging and reclamation of swamps, Singapore River; Police Station and Kitchens, Pasir Panjang; Renewing wooden decking, Horsburgh Lighthouse, in armoured concrete; Quarters for Government Officers, Goodwood Estate; Quarters for an Assistant Surgeon and for two Dressers and a Ward for the Blind, at Tan Tock Seng Hospital; a Sub-Post Office at Kampong Malayu; and a Landing Place for Cattle, Middle Road.

No new roads or bridges were constructed during the year, but two small culverts were built and the decking renewed to a 12ft. span bridge in armoured concrete. The Country roads, bridges and culverts were maintained in good order throughout the year.

PENANG.

In addition to the general maintenance of roads, bridges and buildings the following were the more important of the public works carried out during the year, viz.:—

Roads.—Re-metalling about four miles of main road with granite; Laying down track metalling for two miles on the Bruas-Lumut Road, Dindings; Rebuilding two bridges; Extension of masonry drains at Balik Pulau and Tanjong Tokong; and widening and improving road at Bagan Jermal.

Buildings.—Fixing an electric light installation in the General Hospital; adding a verandah to the European Warders' Quarters; and new bath rooms and latrine for the Female Pauper Ward at the General Hospital.

The New Quarantine Camp at Pulau Jerejak was completed and opened for use.

A new reservoir dam was commenced at Lumut and new pipe lines laid.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

Among the more important works completed during the year were the rearrangement of the District Offices and Court House at Bukit Mertajam, the reconstruction of Permatang Pauh Pontoon Bridge and the construction of the main drain at Nibong Tebal village.

Good progress was made with the work of raising the dam of the Bukit Seraya reservoir, the sum of $32,334 being spent on a total estimate of $90,000. A beginning was also made with the erection of ferro-concrete posts along the Kedah frontier.

One hundred and ninety-eight miles of road, of which 148 are metalled, were maintained at a cost of $124,024. One 30 ft. span Bridge was reconstructed in ferro-concrete, the wooden decking of Juru Bridge was renewed in tar concrete and 14 culvert and small bridges were reconstructed in permanent materials.

The Muda and Krian Bunds and drainage channels were satisfactorily maintained at a cost of $3,282.

MALACCA.

A sum of $149,999 of which $56,898 was Government contribution, was expended by the Rural Board on the maintenance of 294·50 miles of roads, giving an average of $509·34 per mile.

Five wooden bridges and ten wooden culverts were renewed in reinforced concrete.

The sum of $89,991.52 was spent during the year out of a total estimated sum of $205,000 on improvement of the main roads by metalling in granite, and deviations were completed at Chabau and on the Jasin Road.

The Grab Dredger was employed during the year in removing 69,396·57 tons of silt from the entrance channel of the Malacca River. This silt was used in the reclamation work close at hand at 19·59 cents per ton.

The construction of a Revetment wall to part of the Reclamation cost $14,998.45.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

Progress was delayed during the year owing to difficulties in connection with the foundations of the Quay Wall.

It is hoped that these are now overcome and that this work will now proceed with rapidity.

A total length of 4,140 feet of wall was complete at the end of the year.

Filling up the reclaimed area with dredgings and covering with material from Mount Wallich was continued and 41 acres are completed.

In the Inner South Mole during the year there were deposited 241,304 tons of granite rubble obtained from the Quarry at Pulau Ubin.

The average number of men employed at the end of the year was 626 at Pulau Ubin Quarry including 46 Europeans, and 1,229 men on the Telok Ayer Quay Wall and Reclamation including 53 Europeans.

A total amount of £228,500 was paid to the Contractors on account of work done during 1911.

LABUAN.

The revenue was $78,990.04 as compared with $89,355 in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to $104,689.93 as against $104,650.04 in 1910.

On the 9th March, the mines at Coal Point, where the Labuan Coalfields Company, Limited, employed about thirteen Europeans and eight hundred Chinese, were closed. This was a serious blow to the prosperity of Labuan and the effect is shown by the following figures which give the comparative values of the trade of the island for the past three years:—

		1909.	*1910.*	*1911.*
		$	$	$
Merchandise—				
Imports	...	1,308,077	1,437,390	1,258,884
Exports	...	1,139,764	1,217,132	1,074,737
Total	...	2,447,841	2,654,522	2,333,621

The Imports and Exports to ports other than the Straits Settlements ports were:—

		1909.	*1910.*	*1911.*
		$	$	$
Imports	...	615,051	834,647	662,812
Exports	...	724,631	489,408	647,834
Total	...	1,339,682	1,324,055	1,310,646

The importation of Brunei Coal from the Sarawak Government mines increased towards the end of the year.

A very small quantity of coal cargo was exported, the total being 740 tons. 17,748 tons were exported as cargoes and bunkers, being 74,475 tons less than in the previous year.

The tonnage of shipping which entered Port Victoria and cleared was 136,884 (British 42,288 tons and Foreign 94,596 tons) as compared with 282,742 (British 152,668 tons and Foreign 130,074 tons) in 1910, and 165,137 (British 70,153 tons and Foreign 94,984 tons) in 1909.

H. M. S. *Merlin* arrived on the Station in May and commenced the new survey of Victoria Harbour, Brunei Bay, and the coast towards Baram Point.

On the 17th April an occulting light (4th order), white and red, visible 7 seconds and eclipsed 3 seconds, distant 14 miles, was established on Papan Island.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was $35,378, which included $4,836 for Personal Emoluments, as against $42,199 in 1910. The T head of the Government pier was renewed, a new Malay School was built, the public slaughter-house was renewed, extensive repairs were made to Government House, and an additional block of barracks for married Police Constables was nearly completed. A sum of $27,000 for a Lighthouse and Lantern on Kuruman Island was estimated, but only a sum of $916 was spent as the site for the buildings was not fixed till late in the year.

The re-survey of Labuan was continued and the work done may be considered satisfactory.

The Census of Labuan was taken at midnight on the 10th March, 1911, and the population was 6,546 persons consisting of 3,662 males and 2,884 females. The European and allied races accounted for 34 (25 males, 9 females), Eurasians 20 (9 males, 11 females), Chinese 1,799 (1,261 males, 538 females), Malays 3,163 (1,578 males, 1,585 females), Malays of Archipelago 1,271 (623 males, 648 females), Indians 193 (140 males, 53 females), others 66 (26 males, 40 females). About 1,000 Chinese and 7 Europeans employed in and about the coal mines left the Island before the taking of the Census. The total number of births registered was 189 and deaths 183. No epidemic or contagious disease occurred. The total number of patients treated in the Hospital was 296, of whom seven were Europeans, as against 338 in 1910 and 307 in 1909. The total rainfall was 99·82 inches as compared with 151·25 in 1910 and 114 in 1909. The mean temperature of the air was 81·51° F. (mean maximum 87·47° F. and mean minimum 75·76° F.), as compared with 83·51° F. (maximum 83·55° F., minimum 76·38° F.) in 1910 and 83·36° F. (maximum 86·49° F., minimum 76·77° F.) in 1909. The highest temperature recorded was 94° F. and the lowest 71° F. as against 93° F. and 72° F. in 1910, and 91° F. and 70° F. in 1909.

The Police Force consisted of one European Inspector, 40 Sikhs and 45 Malays. Of the above 11 Sikhs and 20 Malays did duty in Brunei. There were two murder cases during the year, one of a Chinaman by a Chinaman who was sentenced to death by the Chief Justice at Singapore; and another of a Sikh Police Constable. In all 89 cases came before the Courts. There were 15 prisoners in the Labuan Criminal Prison on the 1st January

and 35 were received in 1911. Of these 29 were discharged and one died leaving 20 in prison on 31st December. The daily average number of prisoners in the Criminal Prison was 15·77. There were no prisoners in the Civil Prison during the year.

The Coronation festivities were held on the 22nd and 23rd June, the Sultan of Brunei, who had never left his State before, being present with 600 of his followers.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue was $86,759.57 as compared with $85,023.34 in 1909. The expenditure was $16,155.67.

The total tonnage cleared from the Port was 70,399 as against 68,011 in 1910.

Imports were valued at $130,452.

The export of phosphate of lime amounted to 152,865 tons as compared with 105,481 tons in 1910. The largest amount exported in any previous year was 137,700 tons.

The population on the 31st December, 1911, was 1,384 and included 23 Europeans, 12 Eurasians, 41 Sikhs, 53 Malays, 8 Japanese and 1,247 Chinese. There were 23 deaths during the year and no births.

The health of those on the island was good; the death-rate per mille from all causes was 16·66, showing a reduction of two as compared with the previous year. Of the 19 deaths in Hospital six were due to beri-beri. One hundred and six cases of this disease were admitted during the year, which is the smallest number of admissions for beri-beri recorded on the Island.

There was one case of serious crime during the year.

The rainfall for 1911 amounted to 70·68 inches, rain falling on 158 days. The heaviest rainfall for a single day was 4·45 inches in May. The highest temperature recorded was 93·2, the lowest 67·2 and the mean temperature 80·5.

Steady progress was made with the construction of a large shed and conveyer for granular phosphate. Work was also begun on the Railway. Preparations were also being made for building a new steel pier considerably larger than either of the existing piers so as to facilitate the landing of the railway material.

GENERAL.

On the 22nd June festivities in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King GEORGE V were celebrated throughout the Colony by all sections of the community.

The Kwong-Wai-Shiu Hospital, endowed and supported by subscriptions from the Cantonese and Hakkas of three prefectures near Canton, was opened at the beginning of May on the site of the Old Tan Tock Seng Pauper Hospital, which the Government leased for the purpose. Over 1,900 patients belonging to these three prefectures were admitted to the end of the year; many of these would otherwise have entered the Tan Tock Seng Hospital, which owing to the outbreak of malaria, was crowded with patients.

The decennial census of the Colony was taken on the 10th March.

The anti-Manchu movement in China ending in the outbreak of the revolution has not in any serious way affected the peace of the Settlements.

New Letters Patent constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Straits Settlements and their Dependencies were passed on the 17th February, 1911, and on the same date new Instructions were passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet to the Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The late Governor, His Excellency Sir JOHN ANDERSON, G.C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence to Europe in April, and in July was appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. Sir ARTHUR HENDERSON YOUNG, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States, was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief in succession to Sir JOHN ANDERSON, and arrived in Singapore to assume his office on 2nd September.

Between the departure of Sir JOHN ANDERSON and the arrival of His Excellency Sir ARTHUR HENDERSON YOUNG, Mr. E. L. BROCKMAN, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, acted as Officer Administering the Government, Mr. A. H. LEMON acting as Colonial Secretary.

On the 11th September, Mr. E. L. BROCKMAN, Colonial Secretary, was appointed Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States, and Mr. R. J. WILKINSON, C.M.G., succeeded him as Colonial Secretary.

On 27th November, 1911, Sir ARTHUR YOUNG sailed for India to attend the Durbar at Delhi.

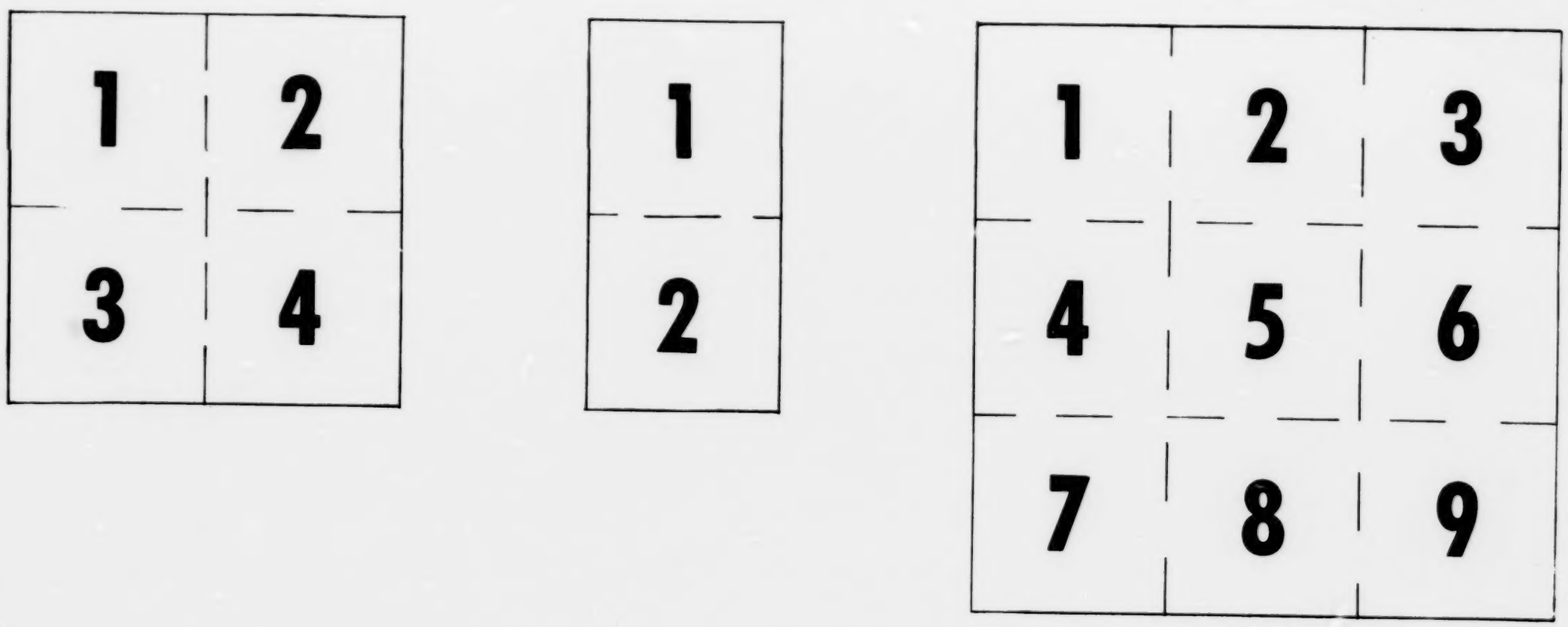
During his absence Mr. R. J. WILKINSON acted as Governor, and Mr. A. T. BRYANT as Colonial Secretary. Sir ARTHUR YOUNG returned on December the 31st, 1911.

With the continued progress of the rubber planting industry, and the improved facilities for landing and shipping which are being provided in the ports of the Colony, there is every reason to hope that the prosperity of the Colony will not only be sustained but will continue to increase.

A. T. BRYANT,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

30*th September*, 1912.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



SIAM
CHINA SEA
STRAITS OF MALACCA
KEDAH
PENANG
PERAK
KELANTAN
TRENGGANU
KEMAMAN
PAHANG
SELANGOR
NEGRI SEMBILAN
MALACCA
DINDINGS
LEGEH
JELEBU
C. Patani
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Kota Bharu
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Port Weld
Taiping
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Batu Gajah
Kota Bharu
Tapah Road
Tapah
Teluk Anson
Perak R.
K. Bernam
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P. Klang
Klang
Port Swettenham
Kajang
Seremban
K. Sepang
Port Dickson
G. Rachado
K. Pilah
Gemas
Tampin
Alor Gajah
Mt Ophir
Malacca Town

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
720	Falkland Islands	1911
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
723	Hong Kong	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
726	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
727	Fiji	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	"
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands...	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute...	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 789.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, see No. 750.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1914.

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1912.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1912.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1912 amounted to $12,912,577, being an increase of $1,503,356 over the revenue for the preceding year. The expenditure was $9,295,102, an increase of $209,713.

The actual figures for 1911 and 1912 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—Revenue.

	1911.	*1912.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	247,090	257,360	10,270	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	8,622,351	9,920,134	1,297,783	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	549,646	611,862	62,216	...
4. Post and Telegraphs ...	628,750	657,131	28,381	...
5. Government Railway ...	307,498	150,217	...	157,281
6. Rents of Govt. Property	496,721	595,999	99,278	...
7. Interest	138,627	359,444	220,817	...
8. Miscellaneous Receipts...	191,642	129,429	...	62,213
	$11,182,325	12,681,576	1,718,745	219,494
9. Land Sales	226,896	231,001	4,105	...
Total ...	$11,409,221	12,912,577	1,722,850	219,494
		Net increase ...	$1,503,356	

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	806,961	533,155	...	273,806
2. Pensions ...	423,973	406,979	...	16,994
3. Charitable Allowances ...	11,576	11,505	...	71
4. The Governor ...	79,801	87,247	7,446	...
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	135,961	135,389	...	572
6. Government Printing Office	66,910	73,846	6,936	...
7. Land and District Offices	215,009	219,452	4,443	...
8. Forests	28,924	32,242	3,318	...
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants Protection	86,320	104,260	17,940	...
10. Treasury	85,338	92,925	7,587	...
11. Audit	46,855	49,692	2,837	...
12. Marine	314,542	330,510	15,968	...
13. Legal	344,876	376,815	31,939	...
14. Police	791,846	867,925	76,079	...
15. Prisons	197,392	227,769	30,377	...
16. Medical	186,666	221,735	35,069	...
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	355,791	365,763	9,972	...
18. Education	249,980	270,786	20,806	...
19. Ecclesiastical ...	18,174	19,032	858	...
20. Transport	12,813	14,687	1,874	...
21. Military Expenditure ...	1,815,950	1,973,391	157,441	...
22. Miscellaneous Services ...	334,373	647,321	312,948	...
23. Post Office	502,576	467,612	...	34,964
24. Railway	333,239	65,352	...	267,887
25. Government Monopolies	402,257	393,572	...	8,685
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	41,716	48,769	7,053	...
27. Public Works Department	273,367	321,314	47,947	...
28. Public Works, Recurrent	380,561	226,358	...	154,203
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	541,642	709,699	168,057	...
TOTAL ...	$9,085,389	9,295,102	966,895	757,182
	Net increase ...		$209,713	

2. The sums expended on Personal Emoluments and Other Charges in the two years were:—

		1911.	*1912.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
		$	$	$	$
Personal Emoluments	...	3,241,858	3,421,622	179,764	...
Other Charges ...	...	1,850,055	1,997,706	147,651	...

3. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1908 to 1912:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1908	...	8,969,015	9,837,624
1909	...	8,795,001	8,542,731
1910	...	9,336,328	7,532,242
1911	...	11,409,221	9,085,389
1912	...	12,912,577	9,295,102

4. The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1912, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits	... ...	2,128,850	Indian Agency Account	...	545,929
Suspense	... ...	482,343	Investments ...	...	6,548,265
			Advances ...	...	195,228
Excess of Assets over			Loans to Municipalities	...	377,800
Liabilities	...	10,880,620	Imprests ...	...	10,137
			Loan Account ...	...	1,662,595
			Drafts and Remittances	...	18,812
			Cash in Transit	...	927
			Cash ...	...	4,132,120
TOTAL	...	$13,491,813	TOTAL	...	$13,491,813

showing an increase to the credit balance of the Colony during the year of no less than $3,617,475 in place of an estimated decrease of $330,424. The excess of revenue over the Estimates amounted to $3,238,681 and the saving on the estimates of expenditure to $709,218.

The principal excesses of revenue over the Estimates were Opium Revenue $2,427,566, Interest $171,729, Premia on Grants $151,901, Stamp Duties (various revenue services) $133,067 and Land Rents $113,760. The principal excesses on the estimates of expenditure were Military Expenditure $364,116 and Miscellaneous Services $122,649. The principal savings were Railway $342,838—due to the Railway having been leased to the Federated Malay States and Public Works Extraordinary $334,055.

PUBLIC DEBT.

A Loan of £5,000,000 was raised in 1907 and a further loan of £2,750,000 was raised in 1910 under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907. The position of the loan on the 31st December, 1912, was as follows:—

		£
3½ per cent S. S. Inscribed Stock	...	6,913,352
4 per cent Debentures ...	...	500

Outstanding Debentures amounting to £1,029,600 were paid off during the year.

Advances were made from Loan Funds as follows:—

		$
Tanjong Pagar Dock Board	...	40,381,997
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		4,250,000
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...		1,050,000
Government Harbour Works	...	10,592,513
		56,274,510
Expenses of Issue	...	3,215,989
Total	...	$59,490,499

Provision is made for the repayment of these loans by a Sinking Fund which will come into operation in 1917 and 1920.

The charge on account of interest on the public debt was $2,262,551 in 1912, as against $2,449,243 in 1911. The great portion of this charge is, however, borne by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have

been allotted. The actual sums paid by the Colonial Government in 1911 and 1912, respectively, were $806,961 and $533,155.

In local currency the total amount of the debt stood at $59,261,588 on the 31st December, 1912, which was about four and a half times the revenue of the Colony.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate remained firm during the year between 2/4$\frac{5}{32}$ and 2/4$\frac{1}{16}$.

CURRENCY.

1. The currency of the Colony in circulation, exclusive of subsidiary coins, consisted of $39,572,134 in Government Currency Notes, $273,605 in bank notes issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and $6,913,815 in dollars and half-dollars. The above amounts include stocks held by the Banks and the Treasuries of the Colony and the Federated Malay States, but do not include unissued currency notes still in the hands of the Currency Commissioners.

2. The total cost of the investments (including Depreciation Fund) held by the Currency Commissioners against the Government Currency Notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1912, was $21,165,749.21 and the market value of the securities on the same date was $18,271,405.71. The Coin Reserve held by the Commissioners in Singapore amounted to £47,712 in gold and $12,093,057 in legal tender silver. In addition sums aggregating £965,376-13-3 were held by the Crown Agents in Gold in London.

At the beginning of the year gold of the value of £137,752 was in the Vault and during the year the receipts were £608,505 and the issues £698,545, leaving a balance of £47,712 on the 31st December, 1912 as stated above.

3. Three millions five hundred and sixty-four thousand three hundred and fifty-three dollars and fifty cents worth of old subsidiary coin have been withdrawn from circulation reckoning up to 31st December, 1912. Of this $2,039,353.50 were sent to Bombay to be reminted into new subsidiary coin and $1,525,000 were sent to the Crown Agents for sale as bullion. The reminting of the new subsidiary coin has been completed. The total amount received from the mint up to 31st December was $2,345,472.25 and the profit on the coinage amounting to $479,735 has been credited to the Gold Standard Reserve.

4. The average bank-note circulation in 1912 was $291,042, compared with $353,417 in 1911. The average amount of Government Currency Notes in circulation in 1912 was for each month as follows:—

	$		$
January ...	37,636,162	July ...	39,705,142
February ...	38,075,538	August ...	41,251,413
March ...	37,681,371	September ...	42,063,817
April ...	37,941,610	October ...	42,377,579
May ...	38,305,662	November ...	41,554,484
June ...	38,850,976	December ...	39,894,431

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $4,443,322, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $4,553,530. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure, and of the debts of the Boards, showing the provision made for repayment, appear below.

REVENUE.

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,429,892	2,448,179	2,512,507	2,555,478	3,062,526
Penang ...	1,002,057	1,002,472	1,103,587	1,206,244	1,268,267
Malacca ...	92,545	68,647	76,853	91,828	112,529
TOTAL ...	$3,524,494	3,519,298	3,692,947	3,853,550	4,443,322

EXPENDITURE.

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,286,071	2,191,299	2,446,041	2,527,579	3,197,526
Penang ...	933,807	1,026,676	1,116,307	1,150,693	1,255,757
Malacca ...	92,082	61,538	76,282	90,895	100,247
TOTAL ...	$3,311,960	3,279,513	3,638,630	3,769,167	4,553,530

DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVISION FOR REPAYMENT.

On 31st December, 1912.

	$	$	
Singapore—			
Loan of 1889 @ 5%	...	400,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
" " 1890 @ 6%	...	400,000	
" " 1893 @ 5%	280,000		
Redeemed ...	202,000		
		78,000	
" " 1897 @ 4%	500,000		
Unissued	75,500		
	424,500		
Redeemed ...	148,400		
		276,100	Annual drawings of 2½% of Loan.
" " 1898 @ 4%	500,000		
Unissued	472,000		
		28,000	Sinking Fund @ 2%.
" " 1901 @ 5%	1,000,000	800,000	
Redeemed ...	200,000		
" " 1902 @ 5%	...	400,000	
" " 1907 @ 4½%	...	1,600,000	
" " 1909 @ 4½%	...	1,000,000	
Government Loan @ 4½% ...	...	4,250,000	
		9,232,100	
Penang—			
Loan @ 5% Debenture Stock 1889	...	250,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of loan.
" @ 6% do. 1891	...	100,000	
" @ 5% do. 1901	...	500,000	
" @ 5% do. 1904	...	600,000	
" @ 4% Tramway Loan 1904	...	400,000	Annual repayments of $20,000. (Seven paid.)
" @ 4½% from Colonial Government 1907 (Part) ...	...	1,050,000	Sinking Fund @ 2% per annum on amount of Loan ($1,500,000) commencing in 1917.
(Temporary) Loan @ 4½% from Colonial Government 1911 ...	...	200,000	Annual repayments of $50,000 commencing in 1913.
		3,100,000	
Malacca—		Balance in 1912.	
1885 Loan by Government $25,000 @ 3%	...	13,000	Annual repayments of $500.
1908 Do. $50,000 @ 4½%	...	42,000	Annual repayments of $2,000.
1909 Do. $14,000 @ 4½%	...	12,800	22 Annual repayments of $600 & 1 of $800.
1911 Do. $16,000 @ 4½%	...	16,000	25 Annual epayments of $640.
		83,800	

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, established to carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Singapore Island ...	39,629	113,035
Penang Island ...	43,764	73,213
Province Wellesley ...	202,371	194,572
Dindings	9,189	11,501
Malacca	249,773	272,382

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK BOARD.

The revenue and expenditure for the five years 1908–1912 were as follows :—

	Revenue.		*Expenditure.*	
	$	c.	$	c.
1908 ...	5,822,811	69	4,271,715	37
1909 ...	5,849,063	00	4,267,797	27
1910 ...	5,896,156	52	4,328,184	47
1911 ...	5,740,965	09	4,074,669	33
1912 ...	6,015,648	11	4,216,015	02

The capital debt due to Government including an estimated amount of $29,003,149.45 for initial cost stood at the end of 1912 at $40,465,624.64 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent.

In addition to the above-mentioned capital the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,846,135.24 from surplus revenue or reserve fund under Section 31 (2) of "The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance 1905."

The following figures are taken from the Wharf Tonnage returns :—

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
Number of vessels ...	2,364	2,366	2,393	2,528	2,693
Tonnage ...	4,590,474	4,433,105	4,605,035	4,877,317	5,397,155
Coal inwards and outwards ...	1,145,435	1,160,711	1,063,768	1,084,974	1,200,545
Cargo inwards and outwards ...	1,088,527	974,016	1,305,014	1,285,994	1,335,846

NEW WORKS AT TANJONG PAGAR.

Lagoon Wet Dock and Main Wharf Re-construction.

The questions at issue between the Dock Board and Messrs. John Aird & Company were still *sub judice* at the end of December. In the year under review Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, the new Contractors for these works, made highly satisfactory progress in connection with their contract for the construction of the Lagoon Dock.

The East Wall and 330 lineal feet of the North Wall of the dock were completed, and only another month's work remained on the West Wall.

Work in connection with the Wharf Reconstruction was confined to the West Wharf which was completed up to the commencement of the West side of the entrance to the Lagoon Dock, beyond which point no further work is intended to be done until the removal of the temporary dam across the entrance is commenced.

A total amount of £252,500 has been paid to Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, of which £228,500 was paid for work carried out during the year 1912.

The following are the principal items of work executed by the new Contractors:—510,000 cubic yards of excavation from the body of the dock, 81,600 cubic yards from the trenches for the wall foundations—the excavated materials in each case being used to reclaim the Eastern and Western Swamps and for filling behind the dock walls—91,900 cubic yards of Concrete in the dock walls, 1,212 super yards of Moulded Concrete Ashlar, and 183 Tons of Iron and Steelwork.

The granite for the works has been obtained from the 7th and 8th Mile Quarries at Bukit Timah, and during the year about 80,000 cubic yards of stone were quarried and delivered on the works.

During the past year the average number of men employed on the works and at the Quarries was 2,113.

New Graving Dock at Keppel Harbour.

Good progress continued to be made with the construction of the New Graving Dock by Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, and water was admitted for the first time on 20th April, 1912, No. 1 Caisson was floated into its position at the Outer Stop, and the water was pumped out on 30th April; the operation taking rather less than two hours and thus proving the very satisfactory capacity of the pumping plant. The removal of the Cofferdam was then immediately commenced and was completed by the end of October.

The reclamations behind the dock walls have been finished and of the roads and quays thereupon about half were metalled and rolled before the end of the year, the remainder being well advanced.

Regular progress was maintained with the construction of the Entrance Channel Walls outside and over the site of the Cofferdam. The whole of the blockwork substructure of the East Wall was completed, leaving only 932 cubic yards of mass-work superstructure to be constructed on this side. Of a total quantity of 14,360 cubic yards of blockwork laid at the end of the year 11,260 cubic yards were set during the year under review.

To complete the West Wall 4,504 cubic yards of blockwork and 916 cubic yards of mass-work remained to be deposited.

To provide a depth of 33 feet at L. W. O. S. T. in the Entrance Channel dredging commenced in March, and 17,500 cubic yards were removed leaving 9,500 cubic yards to be dealt with.

During the year some 34,000 cubic yards of granite rubble were delivered on to the Works from the quarry at Pulau Ubin; at the Blockyard some 12,000 cubic yards of Concrete Blocks were made of which some 4,000 cubic yards were in stock at the end of December; the average number of men employed by the Contractors, Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, on the Works and at the Quarry was 814.

A total amount of £309,000 was paid to the Contractors for work done up to the end of 1912, out of which the sum of £73,700 was for work done during 1912.

The two Caissons for the Dock are being supplied and erected under a Contract with the Thames Ironworks Company; No. 1 Caisson has been completed and No. 2 requires only the roadway decking to be laid and the greenheart meeting faces to be dressed to enable it to be tested in place. The average number of men employed on the erection of these Caissons was 151.

GOVERNMENT WHARVES, PENANG.

The over-water godown was completed in July.

The fleet of lighters numbered 95. During the year 14 wooden and two steel lighters were built at Prye River Dock at a cost of $74,535 and two wooden lighters built at Singapore at a cost of $8,274. Repairs to old lighters were effected at a cost of $25,160. Twelve old lighters were condemned and sold.

TRADE.

Trade conditions during 1912 were admittedly favourable.

The value of foreign merchandise imported rose by £5·6 millions or more than 12½ per cent over the figures for 1911.

Export values also increased by £3·3 millions or 8·7 per cent.

Transhipment rubber from the Malay Peninsula being no longer included in the trade returns these increases would, when the 1911 figures are reduced by an approximate amount, be enhanced by about £1½ millions on each account.

Prices of imported articles were higher and quantities also generally increased; articles of Straits produce gave larger average prices but the volume remained practically stationary.

The following figures show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	1911.	*1912.*	*Increase.*
	£	£	£
Merchandise—			
Imports	44,373	49,982	5,609
Exports	38,293	41,620	3,327
Coin and Bullion—			
Imports	2,064	2,523	459
Exports	1,594	2,145	551

The value of the inter-port trade including treasure was :— Imports, £3,208,000, a decrease of £44,000; and Exports, £3,149,000, an increase of £163,000.

The aggregate gross trade was therefore £102·6 millions, an increase of £10·1 millions or 10·8 per cent, compared with 1911.

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1911.	*1912.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	17,174	20,138	14,059	15,566
2. Raw Materials ...	18,576	20,255	20,132	21,559
3. Manufactured and Partly Manufactured Articles ...	8,623	9,589	4,103	4,496
4. Coin and Bullion ...	2,064	2,523	1,594	2,145
Total ...	46,437	52,505	39,888	43,766

As already explained the figures for 1911 for Class 2 (Raw Materials) in the case of both imports and exports include a value of approximately £1½ millions of transhipment rubber.

VALUES.

Increased values in the case of imports are seen principally in the following articles :—tin ore, rice and other grains, sugar, cotton piece goods and sarongs, provisions with vegetables, fruits and onions and garlic, biscuits, raw hides, fish, liquors, apparel, hosiery and haberdashery, petroleum, coal, tobacco, cycles, motor cars and accessories, sewing machines and metals, cement, and kachang and coconut oils.

Declines in value are most noticeable in opium, silk piece goods, and matches imported.

Exports gave increased values in tin, Para rubber, spices, sago, hides, preserved pineapples, petroleum, tapioca, coffee, phosphates of lime, and gambier, but reduced values in jelutong, gutta percha, copra, rattans, and coconut oil.

QUANTITIES.

Import quantities advanced in tin ore, rice, sugar, cotton piece goods and sarongs, coal, liquors, tobacco, cotton blankets, corrugated iron, cement, tin plates, lubricating oil, onions and garlic, tea, milk, and live animals.

Decreased import quantities are recorded in opium, silk piece goods, petroleum, woollen blankets, fish, matches, and wheat flour.

The increase in volume of exports is principally in tin, Para rubber, preserved pineapples, phosphates of lime, arecanuts, sago, tapioca, hides, copal, white pepper, and gambier.

The declines are most apparent in copra, jelutong, gutta percha, black pepper, horns, rattans, and shells.

Trade with British and Foreign Countries.

The trade with the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries including coin and bullion, is given below in millions of dollars:—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1911.	*1912.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	40·8	46·7	85·9	85·4
British Possessions and Protectorates ...	212·6	231·8	101·8	120·1
Foreign Countries ...	144·6	171·5	154·2	169·6

The following statement shows the position of the Colony as a market for British and European Foreign goods since 1896 in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	1896 to 1900.	*1901 to 1905.*	*1906 to 1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
From United Kingdom ...	£2,981	3,752	4,012	4,694	5,380
„ Continent of Europe and United States ...	£1,553	2,314	2,208	2,415	3,144
British Excess ...	£1,428	1,438	1,804	2,279	2,236

	1896 to 1900.	1901 to 1905.	1906 to 1910.	1911.	1912.
Percentages of Total.					
United Kingdom ...	65·7	61·9	64·5	66	63·1
Continent of Europe and United States ...	34·3	38·1	35·5	34	36·9

The United Kingdom sent increased values of cotton piece goods and sarongs, machinery, hosiery, haberdashery and apparel, hats and caps, biscuits, corrugated iron, boots and shoes, brandy, tin plates, paints, telegraph and telephone materials, cycles, motor cars and accessories, whisky, cement, tinned provisions, linen, and perfumery.

The articles showing declines in value from the United Kingdom were hardware and ironware with cooking utensils, cigarettes, yarns, and provisions generally.

Imports from the Continent show advances from all countries.

The principal increases were as follows:—Austria in cotton piece goods, enamelware and cooking utensils, and cabinetware; Belgium in hardware and ironware, cottons, perfumery, and glassware; Denmark in cement; France in brandy; Italy in cottons and sarongs, milk, and hats and caps; Germany in beer, hosiery and haberdashery, India rubber goods, sarongs, milk, and machinery; Holland in milk, cottons, chemicals, and tobacco; and Sweden in matches.

Decreases were most marked in hardware and ironware, woollen cloth, and lampware from Germany; and sarongs and hardware and ironware from Holland, but increases were general throughout.

Import values from the United States of America rose in lubricating oil, petroleum, cigarettes, motor cars and accessories, and provisions of all kinds.

Export values to the United Kingdom show the same total as 1911, Para rubber yielding $18 millions more notwithstanding the omission for the first time of rubber transhipped which is estimated to have amounted in 1911 to over $12 millions, nearly all of which went to the United Kingdom.

Other advances are principally in tin, illipi nuts, India rubbers, sago, hides, preserved pines, gutta percha, and pepper.

The declines are small: they occur in values of gambier, jelutong, and Borneo rubber.

Of exports to the Continent values rose in tin, illipi nuts, phosphates of lime, gambier, sago, rattans, pepper, tapioca, preserved pines, and India rubber, but fell off chiefly in copra, gutta percha, gum copal, and Borneo rubber.

Exports to the United States advanced in values of tin, Para rubber, peppers, and gum copal, but fell in values of jelutong, gutta percha, rattans, copra, and gambier.

Values rose in the case of imports from Netherlands India, India and Burma, Federated Malay States, Indo-China, Japan, Non-Federated Malay States, Siam, British North Borneo and Sarawak, Hongkong and China, and Australia and New Zealand.

Exports values also rose in the case of the Federated and Non-Federated Malay States, Netherlands India, Japan, Siam, Borneo and Sarawak, French Indo-China, India and Burma, but fell off in the case of Hongkong and China and Australia.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The area under Para rubber increased very considerably in Malacca and also to some extent in the island of Singapore: in Malacca it was 80,424 acres in 1911, and it is now 115,000 acres. By the side of this increase, there has in Malacca been also an increase in land under tapioca amounting to no less than 52·3%; for the 10,926 acres of 1911 have become 16,643 acres. Formerly the cultivation of tapioca in Malacca was on the decrease, and old tapioca land in 1909 was being put under rubber; but the need of a catch crop to young rubber began in 1911 to cause a recovery of the lost area.

In spite of the fall in price rubber continued highly remunerative both to proprietors and labourers. The wages of the latter were high enough in some cases to cause Malays to desert well established Kampongs and long cultivated padi fields to take up permanent work on Estates.

In the Northern Settlement tapioca has not materially changed and rubber has increased only slightly. Nutmeg and clove cultivation has in many allotments been abandoned on account of the higher rates for labour and of the fall in the prices of these products.

The extension of pine-apple cultivation in Singapore island continues, the crop being a catch crop to rubber, and the fruits finding a ready sale at the canning factories in Singapore. These canning factories also draw pines to some extent from outside the Colony. The cultivation of pine-apples has no place in Province Wellesley.

Coconut plantations have increased slightly in Singapore island and in Province Wellesley. Interest in them and in other Oil plants, *e.g.*, *Elaeis guineensis* (the African Oil Palm) and ground-nuts, has a tendency to grow.

In Penang coconuts were a little cheaper than in 1911, probably on account of a fall in the demand for copra. In Province Wellesley on the other hand they remained at a high price, the average price being nearly $41 per 1,000.

The Manchurian Soya bean, tried in Singapore, proved useless for the country, as was to be expected.

The area under rice in Malacca and in Province Wellesley is almost the same as it was in 1911.

In Penang and Province Wellesley the padi crop was generally poor.

Gambier, combined with pepper, occupied in 1912 a slightly larger area in Malacca than in 1911, and holds its own in Singapore island. Fruit and vegetable cultivation is not extending concomitantly with the extension of European owned and managed plantations, and, labour being much in demand, seems unlikely to extend.

LAND GRANTS.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued and the premia paid for the same during the last five years are as follows:—

SINGAPORE.

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	419 3 12	338 2 14	4,542 1 30	4,944 3 02	1,275 0 12
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	183,543	45,514	22,956	206,010	59,242
Number of Statutory Grants issued	144	33	100	127	68
Premia paid	$6,715.00	$13,202.90	$154,506.77	$148,222.79	$69,821.25

PENANG.

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	663 1 08	723 1 05	4,004 1 06	2,764 0 04	2,962 3 38
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	232,191	7,535	76,423	409,787	9,249
Number of Statutory Grants issued	63	102	129	169	79
Premia paid	$3,113.85	$4,890.75	$16,275.97	$14,310.19	$18,567.75

MALACCA.

	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted	7,897 0 10	4,025 1 21	2,716 0 37	1,789 0 11	6,074 3 27
	sq. ft.		sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	82,797	...	22,440	43,328	31,762
Number of Statutory Grants issued	341	*270	266	212	465
Premia paid	$32,274.55	$42,895.40	$114,553.50	$105,485	$95,631.45

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 25,841,494 as compared with 24,086,904 † in 1911. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

* 265 Statutory Grants, 4 Mining Leases and one Freehold Grant. † Revised figures for 1911.

Statement showing Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels during the Years 1911 and 1912.

Nationality.	1911.					1912.				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
Austrian	203,141	197,398	...	...	400,539	345,122	264,166	...	4,890	614,178
British	8,112,187	5,490,309	590,682	84,576	14,277,754	8,340,798	5,892,713	575,350	48,806	14,857,667
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	9,382	...	...	...	9,382
Danish	109,554	51,146	...	...	160,700	149,826	96,046	...	...	245,872
Dutch	1,955,626	266,746	...	...	2,222,372	2,063,360	307,717	3,446	330	2,374,853
French	638,171	...	...	4,566	642,737	634,909	...	...	...	634,909
German	1,956,445	1,185,681	...	170,856	3,312,982	1,949,273	1,179,402	1,040	190,360	3,320,075
Italian	124,766	113,904	...	...	238,670	116,314	79,998	...	...	196,312
Japanese	1,181,294	302,860	...	...	1,484,154	1,653,763	530,378	...	8,436	2,192,577
Norwegian	392,438	44,478	...	8,002	444,918	283,291	42,828	...	...	326,119
Russian	382,274	69,842	...	4,038	456,154	488,252	131,156	...	...	619,408
Sarawak	94,684	...	...	1,730	96,414	100,069	...	...	...	100,069
Siamese	164,040	44,614	...	...	208,654	131,729	40,186	...	...	171,915
Spanish	131,488	...	...	...	131,488	125,998	...	...	...	125,998
Swedish	9,368	...	...	...	9,368	52,160	...	...	...	52,160
	15,455,476	7,766,978 *	590,682	273,768	24,086,904*	16,444,246	8,564,590	579,836	252,822	25,841,494

* Revised figures for 1911.

From the above table it will be seen that the following countries show an increased tonnage, entered and cleared, in 1912 as compared with 1911:—Japan 708,423; Great Britain 579,913; Austria 213,639; Russia 163,254; Holland 152,481; Denmark 85,172; Sweden 42,792; China 9,382; Germany 7,093; and Sarawak 3,655.

The following countries show a decrease:—

Norway 118,799; Italy 42,358; Siam 36,739; France 7,828; and Spain 5,490.

Comparative Statement of Merchant Vessels Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	21,750,245	22,192,354	23,429,495	24,086,904	25,841,494

It will thus be seen that the tonnage, as compared with 1908, has increased by 4,091,249.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons.

	1911.		*1912.*	
	No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Arrivals ...	20,026	812,352	20,120	757,946
Departures ...	20,072	825,321	20,359	777,255
Total ...	40,098	1,637,673	40,479	1,535,201

The decrease as compared with 1911 is 102,472 tons.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamers under 50 Tons, Entered and Cleared, for last Five Years.

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
Total tonnage Entered and Cleared ...	1,455,436	1,347,201	1,529,597	1,637,673	1,535,201

As compared with 1908 this native craft tonnage has increased by 79,765 tons.

In Singapore during the year seven new steamers with a tonnage of 1,570 tons gross and 34 sailing vessels of 3,561 tons were registered under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Thirteen new sailing vessels of 1,232 tons were registered under Ordinance V of 1883; also 819 of 9,468 tons in all under Ordinance VIII of 1872.

LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Ordinances were passed during the year, of which nine were principal Ordinances and eight amending Ordinances.

Of the principal Ordinances the most important are:—

(1) The Straits Settlements Ports Ordinance, which provides for the proper management and control of the Ports of Singapore and Penang. For this purpose the Ordinance vests in bodies of Commissioners called the Singapore Harbour Board and the Penang Harbour Board the trust and duty of carrying out its provisions and constitutes each Board a body corporate with power to acquire and hold and under certain restrictions to lease and sell movable and immovable property.

The title to the immovable property held by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board, which is to be vested in the Boards by Statutory Grants or otherwise is fully set out in a schedule to the Ordinance. A first charge upon this property or any subsequently acquired property is given to the Crown to secure all moneys from time to time owing by the Boards.

The actual amount of the capital debts of each Board is also stated in a schedule and provision made for the payment of interest thereon at the rate of 4 per cent per annum and for the formation of a sinking fund with a view to their liquidation.

Powers are further given to the Governor in Council to lend money to either Board for the general purposes of the Ordinance.

(2) The Harbour Works and Foreshores Reclamation Ordinance, which empowers the Government subject to the approval of the Legislative Council to carry out public works along or out from the foreshore of the Colony or in the sea-bed, to erect buildings upon land reclaimed from the sea and to lease or otherwise dispose of any part of the reclaimed areas. The Ordinance also defines certain cases where compensation can be claimed for interference by such works with public or private rights, and prescribes the procedure for determining the right to such compensation.

These two Ordinances had not been brought into operation at the end of 1912.

(3) The Interpretation Ordinance which consolidates the law relating to the construction of Ordinances and other written laws and facilitates the abbreviation of the language of such laws.

(4) The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, which empowers the Governor to grant licences for the establishment of wireless telegraphy stations or the installation or working of any apparatus for wireless telegraphy in the Colony or on board British Ships registered in the Colony and provides for the issue of regulations relating thereto.

(5) "The Betting Ordinance," which is directed against the mischief caused by the keeping of common betting houses and betting in public places. Special exceptions are made in the case of grounds used for the purpose of a race course for racing with horses and buildings thereon, on the days on which races take place.

(6) "The Light Houses Ordinance," which provides for the abolition of the light dues made payable by Indian Act No. XIII of 1854 in respect of vessels departing from or entering the ports of the Colony, and for the maintenance of the Straits lights out of the revenues of the Colony and such moneys as may be contributed by the Government of the Federated Malay States.

(7) "The Public Authorities Protection Ordinance," which introduces in a general Ordinance the provisions made in a number of Ordinances for the protection of officers acting in the execution of statutory public duties, and thus renders it unnecessary to introduce such provisions in future Ordinances. The Ordinance extends the protection to persons doing acts in the execution of any public duty or authority as well as in the execution of any Ordinance.

The changes introduced by the amending Ordinances were for the most part of no very great importance, but mention may be made of "The Theatres Ordinance 1908 Amendment Ordinance 1912" designed to regulate public cinematograph displays by providing power to prevent objectionable displays.

"The Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1910" was proclaimed and brought into operation from the 1st December, 1912, together with a number of rules and regulations thereunder and "The Labuan Ordinance 1911," constituting Labuan with its dependencies a separate Settlement, was brought into operation on the same date. "The Imperial Copyright Act 1911" was proclaimed in the Colony on the 1st of July, 1912.

EDUCATION.

There are in the Colony 186 Vernacular Schools where the teaching is in Malay. Free tuition up to the Fifth Standard is provided by the Government at these schools to eleven thousand five hundred and fifty-nine boys and girls. The Government also finances and controls eight schools where the teaching is in English and goes up to the Seventh Standard.

There are also thirty-one Aided-schools managed by private bodies and in receipt of grants-in-aid from Government.

The net expenditure on Government English Schools was $100,617,58, on Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $125,929.90, and on Government Vernacular Schools, $100,153.13.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $9,614.23.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show a small increase over the figures for 1911.

The Normal Classes continued their work during the year. Thirty-one Normal Certificates were issued.

The Training Class for girls in Singapore dealt with two students in their second year and four in their first. The two passed well in November and obtained their certificates and are now employed as teachers. The other four are continuing the course. The class is under the control of the Headmistress of the Raffles Girls' School.

In Penang there is an increase of 149 in the enrolment of girls at the English schools, chiefly among the Chinese. In Singapore there is an increase of 163. In Malacca there has been an increase of 54 in the schools previously receiving Government support and the Methodist Girls' School, Malacca, has been added to the Grant-in-aid schools.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

During 1912 there was a fall in admissions compared with 1911, this latter having been an exceptionally unhealthy year, during which there was a pandemic of malaria noticeable also in other Eastern Countries.

The total number of admissions to the Hospitals of the Colony exclusive of the Lunatic Asylum was 38,971 as against 44,026 in 1911, 32,979 in 1910 and 27,543 in 1909.

There were 238 admissions to the Lunatic Asylum at Singapore, compared with 220 in 1911 and 228 in 1910.

Including those remaining from the previous year the total number of patients treated in the Hospitals was 42,224 of whom 1,794 were Europeans. In 1911 the corresponding figures were 46,962 and 1,702 respectively. The deaths numbered 4,653 (87 being Europeans) as against 6,124 and 82 in 1911. The mortality rate shows a fall, the percentage of deaths to total cases treated being 12·69 for 1910, 13·04 for 1911 and 11·02 for 1912.

The number of inmates in the Leper Asylums of the Colony has increased from 440 in 1910 and 471 in 1911 to 488 on 31st December, 1912. The number of deaths being 173 in 1911 and 148 in 1912.

REFORMATORY.

The expenditure of this institution, exclusive of the salaries of the Superintendent and Watchmen, was $11,339.71 in 1912, as against $9,820.69 for the preceding year. The average daily muster was 76·78, against 71·19 in 1911. There remained 82 boys on the 31st December. The health of the inmates was good. They are taught either English or Romanized Malay. The usual work of bread-making, vegetable-growing, carpentering, tailoring and shoemaking was continued.

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount at the credit of the depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1912, was $822,017, the highest sum reached. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $160.96.

The deposits were $573,757, as compared with $536,502 in 1911.

The deposits exceeded the withdrawals by $43,569.

There was a profit on the year's working of $3,980. The present value of the investments is as follows:—

	$
India 3½ per cent Rupee Paper ...	472,735
Singapore Municipal Bonds at 5 per cent	65,700
Do. do. at 4½ „	16,425
Do. do. at 4 „	44,178
Fixed Deposits in Banks	134,000
Various Colonial Guaranteed and Corporation Stocks	78,795
In India for Investment	10,000
Total ...	$821,833

POLICE.

The Police Force numbers over 2,600 men of whom 413 are Sikhs. Forty-nine boys joined the Training Depôt at Malacca in 1912, and forty-eight were drafted from the Depôt into the Force. Five hundred and twelve recruits joined the Force during the year, of these two were Europeans, two Eurasians, and one hundred and twenty Sikhs.

PRISONS.

The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons during 1911 and 1912 was as follows:—

		1911.	1912.
Singapore ...	Criminal ...	777	770
	Civil ...	67	95
Penang ...	Criminal ...	277·53	208·99
	Civil ...	29·37	29·27
Malacca ...	Criminal ...	33·99	31·11
	Civil ...	20·61	13·93

The practice of banishing habitual criminals has been continued. Four hundred and forty-six were banished in 1912.

The health of the prisoners was good, the number of deaths being at Singapore 22, at Penang 12 and at Malacca one (a vagrant).

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Thirty-seven reports of murder and forty-nine of gang-robbery were received during the year; of the latter 15 were not substantiated in the preliminary investigation.

The returns do not disclose any abnormal features.

One hundred and ten persons, as against 126 in 1911, were tried before the Supreme Court. Murder, gang-robbery, counterfeiting coins and returning from banishment were the principal crimes. Eleven persons were convicted of returning from banishment.

The total number of cases disposed of by the Police Magistrates was 16,538, a decrease of 513 cases over the figures for 1911.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 728,635, compared with the Census population of 711,951 for 1911. The figures given for the Census of 1901 were 572,249. Twenty thousand five hundred and ninety-four births and 28,422 deaths were registered as against 18,069 and 33,072, respectively, in 1911.

The death-rate was 39·01 per mille of the population. The rate was 46·45 in 1911 and 41·88 in 1910.

The birth-rate has risen since the previous year from 25·38 to 28·26 per mille.

The deaths from the more important infectious diseases in 1912, excluding imported cases landed on or occurring amongst contacts on the Quarantine Stations, were as follows:—

Small-pox:	73	against	386	in 1911.
Cholera:	121	„	331	„ 1911.
Plague:	37	„	32	„ 1911.

There has been a reduction in the deaths returned from preventable diseases such as Beri-beri, Phthisis, Dysentery, and Malaria, more noticeable on account of the enhanced death-rate from all diseases in 1911. Special attention is being paid to these diseases and improvements now in progress in food and water supplies, drainage, housing of the poor, provision of open spaces, sewage removal, training of midwives and Estate sanitation laws, etc., must in time bear fruit. It must not be forgotten that Singapore, Penang and Malacca, from their geographical positions, are dumping grounds for large numbers of sick from the neighbouring countries and with the many races and languages prevailing it is found impossible in the majority of cases to obtain any reliable history from patients of this class. Undoubtedly our death-rate is largely influenced to our apparent detriment by these means.

During the year under report the following death returns were made:—

Malaria	... 4,303	against	5,821	in 1911.
Infantile Convulsions	3,915	„	3,635	„ „
Tuberculosis	... 2,565	„	2,907	„ „
Beri-beri	... 1,926	„	2,056	„ „
Dysentery	... 1,549	„	2,035	„ „

A large number of these were only seen after death by the registering officers and the figures must therefore be only taken as roughly correct.

CLIMATE.

The mean temperature of the air in Singapore was 82·5° with a maximum of 93° on March 3rd and a minimum of 70·5° on February 5th: that of Penang being 83·4°, the highest temperature recorded being 95° on March 31st, and the lowest 68° on January 30th.

In Province Wellesley the mean temperature was 83·3°: the maximum being 97° on July 27th, the minimum 66·5° on February 28th. In Malacca the mean temperature was 82·2°

with the maximum of 95·2° on March 30th, the lowest 67° on April 1st. In Labuan the mean temperature was 81·9°, the maximum recorded being 95·5° and the minimum 71°.

Rainfall:—Singapore	...	... 106·60	inches.
Labuan	...	... 117·54	„
Penang	...	... 100·12	„
Province Wellesley		... 87·16	„
Malacca	...	... 67·00	„
Dindings	...	... 78·98	„

The prevailing direction of the wind changes with the N. E. and S. W. Monsoons. The former blowing from November to April and the latter from May to October.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

A value-payable post was established with India and arrangements were made for the introduction of a similar system with Ceylon and Kedah. The parcel post rates to Australia and New Zealand were reduced. Parcel post services were arranged to France by P. & O. Packets and to Indo-China by French Mail Steamers.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 8,789,291, an average of 12·31 per inhabitant. The number received for delivery was 7,429,488. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 228,499 to 244,301, and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 470 to 561.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—CHINESE.

Immigrants from China during the year 1912 numbered 251,644, a decrease of 6·7 per cent below the figure for 1911 which was the highest yet recorded.

Adult females to the number of 23,327 arrived during the year 1912, an increase of 589 or 2·5 per cent over the number for 1911. The females amount to 11·3 per cent of the males and this is the highest percentage hitherto recorded for any year.

The number of infants of one year and under who arrived in the Colony was 2,696 and of these 2,083 landed in Singapore. Of this latter number 927 were reported as leaving for other ports and the balance of 1,156 were probably added to the population of the town.

The number of "unpaid passengers," *i. e.*, labourers who obtain free passages from China in consideration of a promise to enter into contracts in Singapore was 13,600, a decrease of 10,745 or 55·8 per cent below the number for 1911. This falling off in numbers was probably due to a decreased demand for this class of labour as the supply was fully equal to requirements throughout the year.

Harvests in South China are reported to have been satisfactory in 1912 but the price of rice was high there as elsewhere.

The following table shows the total number of Chinese Immigrants for the last five years:—

Year.	*Men.*	*Women.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*
—	—	—	—	—	—
1908	129,913	12,909	7,767	2,863	153,452
1909	128,878	12,126	7,946	2,802	151,752
1910	184,856	16,395	11,522	3,548	216,321
1911	226,126	22,738	16,033	4,957	269,854
1912	206,018	23,327	16,794	5,505	251,644

(II).—INDIAN.

The figures for the last five years are appended:—

	1908.	*1909.*	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*
	—	—	—	—	—
1. Statute Immigrants ...	5,456	4,119	2,523	None.	None.
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets) ...	20,049	20,289	56,002	78,356	73,671
3. Other Immigrants ...	29,017	25,409	25,198	30,115	33,257

The "other immigrants" include 7,684 children. The importation of statute immigrants (indentured labourers) ceased in 1910, and there has been a slight decrease in the number of free immigrants with cheap tickets. The number of passengers with ordinary passage tickets is the largest ever recorded. This large increase is due to the requirements of the rubber-planting industry.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 61,350 adults and 2,535 children, as against 46,464 adults and 1,639 children in 1911.

The excess of immigrants over emigrants amounts to 37,894 adults and 5,149 children, as against an excess of 56,754 adults and 5,614 children in the previous year.

MONOPOLIES.

During the year 1912, 4,107 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory giving a total yield of 4,973,447 tahils of chandu, an increase of 260,339 tahils over 1911.

As in 1911, the price of raw opium varied very greatly. The lowest price paid by the Monopolies was $900 per chest in September and October, and the highest $2,200 in March and April. The selling price of chandu to licensees was raised from $4.36 to $5 a tahil on the 11th May. The retail price to the public was at the same time raised from $4.80 to $5.50 a tahil.

The total number of tahils sold in the three Settlements amounted to 1,661,717·03, made up as follows:—

Singapore 1,037,375, Penang 477,532, and Malacca 176,810, and the total cash received for the above sales amounted to $8,050,620.45.

The revenue collected in respect of liquor duty, store rent, distillery rent and toddy farms amounted to $743,158.15 in Singapore, $548,307.34 in Penang and $169,817.45 in Malacca, giving a total of $1,461,282.94.

During the year 492 prosecutions were instituted in Singapore for unlicensed selling and other offences against the Chandu and Liquors Ordinances and the Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, 203 in Penang and 63 in Malacca. Seizures were made of 157 tahils of opium, 3,655 tahils of chandu, $3\frac{3}{8}$ ounces of cocaine, $96\frac{5}{16}$ ounces of morphia, and 1,674 tahils of bhang.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SINGAPORE.

Among the public works completed during the year were three Vernacular Schools and Teachers' Quarters, at Palembang Road, Orchard Road and Pulau Tekong; an extension consisting of two Class Rooms at Raffles Girls' School; an Examination Hall at Raffles Institution; a Thresh's Disinfector and Quarters for Engineer and Firemen at the General Hospital; New sea walls to the reclamation at St John's Island, and at Telok Saga, Pulau Brani; Dredging and reclamation of Swamps, Singapore River; and Re-arrangement of the drainage in Lower Cross Street, consisting of concrete and brick surface drains and underground sewers discharging into the new intercepting sewer on the Raffles Quay.

Good progress was also made with the New Offices and Supper Room, Government House; the New School, Pearls Hill and with the Electric Light installation at the General Hospital.

No new roads were constructed during the year but several new culverts were built in place of existing ones which were in an unsatisfactory condition. The country roads, bridges and culverts were maintained in good order throughout the year. Several miles of the Changi Road have been treated with a coating of tar and as this experiment has proved successful other portion of roads, particularly hilly stretches, where storm scour causes damage, will be similarly dealt with.

PENANG.

Roads.—In addition to the general maintenance of roads and bridges, votes for the following special services were provided and work was completed during the year, viz.: Re-metalling one mile of the Paya Trubong and Telok Bahang Roads, Track metalling the Bruas-Segari Road in continuation of the previous year's work and Re-metalling one mile on the Sungei Rotan Road and Lumut Sitiawan Road. A new 6-ton steam roller was purchased for the Dindings. A commencement was made with the completion of the road round the Island for which a vote on account was given in the middle of the year.

Sanitation.—New concrete drains and three concrete outlets to the sea were constructed at Tanjong Tokong and an extension of the village drain to the river was completed at Balik Pulau.

Buildings.—The more important works completed during the year were the rebuilding of Balik Pulau Hospital Wards and outbuildings, the extension of Titi Tras and Glugor Vernacular Schools and the erection of a new Vernacular School at Batu Feringgi.

A contract was let for the new Girls' School in Penang and work commenced, to be completed in 1913. Coolie Lines for the Telephone Department and Public Works Department were erected at Datoh Kramat. A new Civil Prison was built inside the present prison wall. Several improvements to the General Hospital were completed.

At the Quarantine Station, Pulau Jerejak, the reservoir dam was raised 4 feet to increase the storage, the reservoir was fenced in and a small Jewell pressure filter fixed on the pipe line. Quarters for 14 more attendants were commenced but not quite completed. Contracts were also let late in the year for a large catchment drain, additional pump and engine and a new reception shed.

At the Dindings a new drain was laid to the Clerks' Quarters and the Reservoir dam and pipe line completed. Improvements to the Vernacular Schools at Pangkor and Sungei Pinang were completed.

MALACCA.

A sum of $224,988 of which $87,553 was contributed by Government was expended by the Rural Board on the maintenance of 294·50 miles of roads, giving an average of $765 per mile.

Seven wooden bridges and 18 culverts were renewed in reinforced concrete.

The sum of $99,989 was spent in improvement of the main roads by metalling in granite. A road deviation of a little more than half a mile between Kesang and Jasin was constructed during the year at a cost of $5,150.

The Grab Dredger removed 85,816 tons of silt from the entrance channel of the Malacca River. The silt was used for reclamation work close by. The cost was 14½ cents per ton.

The construction of a Revetment wall to the South side of the Reclamation cost $24,996.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

Good progress was made during the year with the Quay Wall, the whole length of the wall (4,140 ft.) being built to the underside of the coping.

Filling up the reclaimed area with material from Fort Palmer was continued and 49 acres completed.

During the year 301,824 tons of granite rubble were deposited in the Inner South Mole. The rubble was obtained from the Quarry at Pulau Ubin.

The average number of men employed at the end of the year was 470 at Pulau Ubin Quarry, including 36 Europeans, and 1,326 men on the Telok Ayer Quay Wall and Reclamation, including 51 Europeans.

A total amount of £281,500 was paid to the Contractors on account of work done during 1912.

LABUAN.

On the 1st December, 1912, with the coming into operation of the Labuan Ordinance 1911, Labuan became a separate Settlement of the Colony.

At the same time a Rural Board was constituted to control Municipal matters in the town of Victoria.

The revenue of the Island was $76,084.40 as compared with $78,990.44 in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to $99,197.32 as against $104,689.93 in 1911.

The mines at Coal Point which were closed by the Labuan Coalfields Company, Limited, on the 9th March, 1911, had not

been reopened by the end of the year. This as was pointed out in the report for 1911 seriously affected the prosperity of Labuan, as the Company formerly employed thirteen Europeans and eight hundred Chinese, and spent about $20,000 per mensem in the Island.

The following figures give the comparative values of the gross trade for the past three years:—*

		1910.	*1911.*	*1912.*
		$	$	$
Imports	...	1,437,390	1,258,885	1,286,713
Exports	...	1,217,132	1,075,236	1,147,341
Total	...	2,654,522	2,334,121	2,434,054

The Imports and Exports to ports other than the Straits Settlements ports were:—

		1910.	*1911.*	*1912.*
		$	$	$
Imports	...	602,743	662,813	664,809
Exports	...	727,724	648,333	805,602
Total	...	1,330,467	1,311,146	1,470,411

Considerable quantities of merchandise that formerly came from the neighbourhood of the Limbang, Temburong, and other rivers for shipment in Labuan now go to Singapore *viâ* Kuching by a Sarawak Steamer.

Imports of rice, sago flour, inferior "getah" and petroleum advanced.

A considerable increase is shown in exports to British North Borneo.

The tonnage of shipping which entered Port Victoria and cleared was 252,822, being 20,946 less than in 1911. German tonnage increased considerably which was due to another vessel belonging to the Norddeutscher Lloyd Company being placed in the regular trade between the Straits and the Philippines *viâ* Labuan. There is now a German weekly mail and passenger service to and from Singapore.

H. M. S. *Newcastle* was the only British warship that visited the port during the year.

* The figures given in the 1911 report have been corrected.

H. M. S. *Merlin* (surveying ship) arrived in April to continue the survey in Labuan and Brunei waters and remained till the end of the year. Papan Island Lighthouse has been painted white which facilitates the navigation of vessels approaching the port.

The foundation for a steel Lighthouse on Kuraman Island was commenced and the light should be established in 1913.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was $26,741 exclusive of $5,722 for Personal Emoluments, as against $35,378 in 1911 which included $4,836 for Personal Emoluments.

A sum of $2,000 was spent on anti-malarial works in and around the town of Victoria. The stone-built quarters for the Kuraman Lighthouse were completed and a new contagious ward near the Hospital was erected.

The total number of births registered was 211 and of deaths 125. No epidemic or contagious disease occurred. The total number of patients treated in the Hospital was 221 (of whom 7 were Europeans) as against 296 in 1911 and 338 in 1910.

The total rainfall was 117·54 inches as against 99·82 inches in 1911. The mean temperature of the air was 81·9°, mean maximum 87·9° and mean minimum 73·6°, as compared with 81·51° (maximum 87·47° and minimum 75·76°) in 1911.

The highest temperature recorded was 95·5° and the lowest 71° as against 94° and 71° in 1911.

The Police Force consisted of one European Chief Inspector, 41 Sikhs and 45 Malays. Of the above 14 Sikhs and 20 Malays did duty in Brunei. There was no murder case or crime of a serious nature. In all 69 cases came before the Courts. There were 20 prisoners in the Labuan Criminal Prison on the 1st January and 46 were received in 1912. Of these 43 were discharged and 2 transferred to the Singapore Criminal Prison leaving 21 in Prison on the 31st December. The daily average of prisoners in the Criminal Prison was 22·13. There were no prisoners in the Civil Prison during the year.

The re-survey of the Island, excluding the Northern portion conceded to the Coalfields Company was completed.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue was $93,595.94 as compared with $86,759.57 in 1911.

The total tonnage cleared from the port was 73,596 tons as against 70,399 tons in 1911. This includes 16 trips of the Phosphate Company's steamer *Islander* to Singapore.

Imports other than those from Singapore consisted almost entirely of plant, machinery, tools, etc., for the Phosphate Company and were valued at $49,108.

The total export of phosphate of lime in 1912 was 156,948 tons as compared with 152,865 in 1911, which was the highest figure previously recorded. Taking the average value at 53/- per ton the total value of the exports would be £415,912.

The population at the end of the year was 1,561, compared with 1,384 at the end of 1911. That figure included 22 Europeans, 14 Eurasians, 1,408 Chinese, 47 Sikhs, 63 Malays and 7 Japanese. There were 20 deaths during the year and three births.

The island enjoyed comparative immunity from beri-beri and serious disease. The death-rate from all causes was 13·45 per mille. There were only 25 admissions to hospital on account of beri-beri with 3 deaths from this disease.

The year 1912 was very dry though not quite so dry as 1911. The rain fall being 77·73 inches, rain falling on 156 days as against 70·68 inches in 158 days. The highest temperature recorded was 92·0 and the lowest 70·4, the mean temperature being 81·08.

On November 26th a storm occurred which appeared to be the tail end of a hurricane, and did considerable damage.

Only three charges of serious crime came before the Court and were transferred to Singapore, and of these only one resulted in a conviction. The cases dealt with in the local Court were for the most part unimportant.

Work on a new pier was begun and a large "bin" for storing phosphate and an elevator for loading purposes were constructed. The initial difficulties of a projected new Railway to South Point were to a great extent surmounted by the end of the year.

GENERAL.

Mr. A. T. BRYANT acted as Colonial Secretary from the 26th February to the 26th December.

The most notable administrative event of the year was the decision to sell the Singapore Railway to the Federated Malay States Government at a price to be agreed upon. This sale has since been approved by a resolution of the Legislative Council.

Commissions of enquiry were held on the Quarantine Station and on the Hospital and Medical Service of the Colony. The latter Commission did not issue its report before 1913 but the recommendations of the former were embodied to some extent in the Estimates and are now in process of being carried out.

Statistical comparisons extending over only two successive years are of little value as indications of general administrative tendencies. A longer survey—taking us back to 1901—shows us that the revenue has increased by $4,094,220 in eleven years; but the bulk ($3,812,800) of this increase is represented by the growth of the profit on "licences" (principally opium and spirits), while another substantial item (railway revenue) was non-existent in 1901. The general revenue of the Colony has shown surprisingly little expansion. In the matter of expenditure great spending departments such as the Police, the Hospitals and Education show disproportionate increases. Side by side with these changes there is a noticeable tendency towards decentralization or devolution. In 1901 the three Municipalities were the only great branches of the public service which were not under direct official control. We now have the Municipalities, the Rural Boards, the Hospital Boards, the Education Board, the Indian Immigration Fund Committee, and above all the Harbour Boards,—all possessing great statutory powers, and important revenues. The proposal to administer Estate Hospitals by means of a similar semi-official body is a more recent illustration of the same tendency. It is a very interesting tendency and one that must in time exercise an all important influence on the destinies of the Colony.

R. J. WILKINSON,
Colonial Secretary.

29th September, 1913.

SIAM
CHINA SEA
STRAITS OF MALACCA
SUMATRA
KEDAH
PENANG
PERAK
KELANTAN
TRENGGANU
KEMAMAN
PAHANG
SELANGOR
NEGRI SEMBILAN
MALACCA
JOHOR
SINGAPORE
DINDINGS
LEGEH
JELEBU
MUAR
C.Patani
Hilly C.
Pujoh R.
Perlis R.
P.Langkawi
Kedah R.
Kota Sta
G.Jerai
G.Angus
Muda R.
K.Muda
K.Krian
Port Weld
Tanjong
Bagor
K.Kangsar
Ipoh
Batu Gajah
Kota Bharu
P.Pangkor
Lumut
Tapah Road
Tapah
Teluk Anson
Perak R.
K.Bernam
K.Selangor
Serendah
Batu Caves
K.Lumpur
G.Hantu
P.Klang
Klang
Port Kajang
P.Lumut
Sungei Ujong
Seremban
K.Sepang
Port Dickson
G.Rachado
Malacca Town
Malacca R.
Alor Gajah
Jasin
Mt Ophir
K.Muar
Banda Maharani
Parit Jawa
K.S.Batu Pahat
P.Rupat
P.Bengkalis
P.Piseang (Lin)
G.Pulai
Johor Bharu
Ty Bulus
Singapore Town
Romenia Pt
Kota Tinggi
Johor Lama
K.Sedili
Tg.Dungun
G.Tahan
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COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

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756	St. Helena	1912
757	Weihaiwei	"
758	Ceylon	1911–1912
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	"
761	Somaliland	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
766	Bahamas	"
767	Gambia	"
768	Fiji	"
769	Basutoland	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast	1912
771	Ashanti	"
772	Nyasaland	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
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781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

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79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 838.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912 see No. 789.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

March, 1915.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1913 amounted to $12,397,747, (exceeding the estimate by $1,507,379), whilst the expenditure was $10,468,618 (which is less than the estimate by $549,496).

The actual figures for 1912 and 1913 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—Revenue.

	1912.	*1913.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	257,360	133,544	...	123,816 (*a*)
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	9,920,134	9,487,388	...	432,746 (*b*)
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	611,862	631,915	20,053	...
4. Post and Telegraphs ...	657,131	748,803	91,672	...
5. Government Railway ...	150,217	...	...	150,217 (*c*)
6. Rents of Govt. Property	595,999	639,142	43,143	...
7. Interest	359,444	444,852	85,408	...
8. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	129,429	115,679	...	13,750
	$12,681,576	12,201,323	240,276	720,529
9. Land Sales	231,001	196,424	...	34,577
Total ...	$12,912,577	12,397,747	240,276	755,106
		Net decrease	...	$514,830

(*a*) Due to abolition of certain light dues.
(*b*) Decreased consumption of chandu.
(*c*) Sale of the railway to the Federated Malay States Government.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1912.	*1913.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	533,155	90,550	...	442,605
2. Pensions ...	406,979	442,114	35,135	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	11,505	10,390	...	1,115
4. The Governor ...	87,247	87,175	...	72
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	135,389	147,113	11,724	...
6. Government Printing Office	73,846	83,895	10,049	...
7. Land and District Offices	219,452	232,237	12,785	...
8. Forests	32,242	30,208	...	2,034
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	104,260	82,730	...	21,530
10. Treasury	92,925	95,613	2,688	...
11. Audit	49,692	49,872	180	...
12. Marine	330,510	376,974	46,464	...
13. Legal	376,815	389,616	12,801	...
14. Police	867,925	911,316	43,391	...
15. Prisons	227,769	238,380	10,611	...
16. Medical	221,735	252,370	30,635	...
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	365,763	365,746	...	17
18. Education	270,786	304,879	34,093	...
19. Ecclesiastical ...	19,032	19,583	551	...
20. Transport	14,687	24,328	9,641	...
21. Military Expenditure ...	1,973,391	2,657,836	684,445	...
22. Miscellaneous Services ...	647,321	965,103	317,782	...
23. Post Office	467,612	596,531	128,919	...
24. Railway	65,352	...	...	65,352
25. Government Monopolies	393,572	391,865	...	1,707
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	48,769	52,461	3,692	...
27. Public Works Department	321,314	321,532	218	...
28. Public Works, Recurrent	226,358	217,615	...	8,743
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	709,699	1,030,586	320,887	...
TOTAL ...	$9,295,102	10,468,618	1,716,691	543,175
		Net increase ...	$1,173,516	

The expenditure upon personal emoluments ($3,612,435) and "other charges" ($2,382,763) shows a decided increase upon the expenditure for the preceding year when the figures were $3,421,622, and $1,997,706 respectively.

The following statement shows how both the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony have increased in the last five years:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1909	...	8,795,001	8,542,731
1910	...	9,336,328	7,532,242
1911	...	11,409,221	9,085,389
1912	...	12,912,577	9,295,102
1913	...	12,397,747	10,468,618

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1913, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits	... ...	2,140,923	Indian Agency Account	...	313,399
Suspense	... ...	611,557	Investments ...	...	5,979,749
Drafts and Remittances	...	10,312	Advances ...	...	358,535
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	...	12,809,749	Loans to Municipalities	...	304,060
			Imprests ...	...	11,895
			Loan Account ...	...	4,724,653
			Cash in Transit	...	5,248
			Cash ...	...	3,875,002
TOTAL	...	$15,572,541	TOTAL	...	$15,572,541

The credit balance of the Colony increased during the year by $1,929,129.

The principal excesses of revenue over the Estimates were in respect of Opium Revenue ($1,155,895), Liquors ($246,262), Interest ($102,472), Postage Stamps ($41,344), Premia on Grants ($133,174), and Land Rents ($60,960). The principal excesses of expenditure were upon Military Expenditure ($608,449) and Miscellaneous Services ($419,311). The principal savings were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $980,912 (which is not a matter for satisfaction) and the charge on account of the Public Debt $114,950.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony is in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907, and its amount on the 31st December, 1913, was £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $68,491,819.

Outstanding debentures amounting to £500 were paid off during the year.

The expenditure upon the services in respect of which the loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board	...	44,807,318
Penang Harbour Board	...	2,595,367
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	11,966,465
		65,103,610
Expenses of issue less interest received		3,388,209
Total	...	$68,491,819

The charge on account of interest on the public debt was $2,074,293 in 1913. The great portion of this charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted, and the actual sum paid by the Colonial Government itself was $90,550 only.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/4 $\frac{3}{16}$ and 2/3 $\frac{31}{32}$. It was, however, only quoted below par on two days during the year (30th and 31st July) and other quotations show that par was obtainable on those days.

CURRENCY.

The currency of the Colony in circulation, exclusive of subsidiary coins, consisted of $43,222,548 in Government currency notes, $230,277 in bank notes issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and $6,604,013 in dollars and half-dollars.

The total cost of the investments (including depreciation fund) held by the Currency Commissioners against the Government Currency Notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1913, was $22,162,935 and the market value of the securities on the same date was $18,441,550. The coin reserve held by the Commissioners amounted to £57,450 in gold and $12,402,859 in legal tender silver in Singapore and £1,285,376 in London.

The total withdrawals from circulation of old subsidiary coin represented at the end of the year a sum of $3,624,353. Coins to the value of $2,071,353 were sent to Bombay to be reminted into new subsidiary coin and $1,553,000 were sent to the Crown Agents for sale as bullion. The greater part of the reminting of the new subsidiary coin was completed in March, 1913, but one subsequent shipment of $32,000 worth of old subsidiary coin of 800 fineness was sent in October, 1913 to Bombay for reminting into new subsidiary coin of 600 fineness. The reminting of this last shipment had not been completed at the end of the year. The total amount received from the mint up to 31st December was $2,373,817 and the profit on the coinage amounting to $501,381 of which $450,000 has been duly credited to the Gold Standard Reserve Fund. The balance will be so credited when the last transaction is completed.

The cancellation and destruction of notes is in a very backward state, and more attention must be given to this important part of the duties of the Currency Commissioners. No less than 2,915,776 cancelled notes were in the hands of the Commissioners at the end of the year awaiting sorting, and the various processes connected therewith, prior to destruction. The number of soiled notes in circulation is another matter to which greater attention is being given.

TRADE.

Although the totals both of imports and exports show increases, the year cannot be said to have been a good one for the trade of the Colony. During the first half of the year, the demand for goods both in the import and export departments was fair, but afterwards a heavy fall took place in the price of rubber, and the prices of tin and produce generally declined, and the depression in the exports reacted unfavourably upon the import trade.

Compared with 1912, foreign imports of merchandise advanced by 3·6 million pounds sterling or 7·1 per cent and exports by 1·9 million or 4·5 per cent.

In imports there was a general increase in the quantities of manufactured goods.

In exports, the quantities were practically the same—with the exception of tin and rubber—but the values with the exception of that of copra, were lower.

The following figures show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	1912.	*1913.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Merchandise—				
Imports ...	49,982	53,559	3,577	...
Exports ...	41,620	43,510	1,890	...
Coin and Bullion—				
Imports ...	2,523	2,926	403	...
Exports ...	2,145	1,865	...	280

The value of the inter-port trade including treasure was in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	1912.	*1913.*	*Increase.*
	£	£	£
Imports	3,208	3,230	22
Exports	3,149	3,189	40

The aggregate gross trade was therefore £108·3 million pounds, an increase of £5·6 million, compared with 1912 or 5·5 per cent.

Trade with British and Foreign Countries.

The trade including coin and bullion with the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries, respectively, is given below in millions of dollars :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1912.	*1913.*	*1912.*	*1913.*
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	46·7	52·9	85·4	92·1
British Possessions and Protectorates ...	231·8	235·2	120·1	121·0
Foreign Countries ...	171·5	196·0	169·6	175·8

The following statement shows the position of the Colony as a market for British and European foreign goods since 1896 in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	1896 to 1900.	*1901 to 1905.*	*1906 to 1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
From United Kingdom ...	2,981	3,752	4,012	4,694	5,380	6,064
„ Continent of Europe and United States	1,553	2,314	2,208	2,415	3,144	3,679
British Excess ...	1,428	1,438	1,804	2,279	2,236	2,385

Percentages of Total.	*1896 to 1900.*	*1901 to 1905.*	*1906 to 1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	65·7	61·9	64·5	66	63·1	62·2
Continent of Europe and United States	34·3	38·1	35·5	34	36·9	37·8

The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were hardware and ironware including cooking utensils, sarongs, slendangs and kains, cigars and cigarettes, steel, paper and stationery, silk piece goods, telegraph and telephone materials, machinery including electrical goods, cycles, motor cars and accessories, malt liquors, tin plates and india rubber goods.

The articles showing declines in values from the United Kingdom were apparel, hosiery and millinery, hats and caps, fancy goods, toys and sporting materials, lamps and lampware, cabinetware and linen cloth.

Imports from the Continent show advances from all countries.

The increases were chiefly as follows :—

Austria, in apparel, hosiery and millinery and yarns;

Belgium, in glass and glassware, nails, paints, steel, cotton piece goods and perfumery;

Denmark, in butter and cheese, cement, and beer and ale;

France, in brandy, umbrellas and silk piece goods;

Italy, in milk, clocks and watches, cotton piece goods, hats and caps, and yarns;

Germany, in earthenware and crockery, hardware, ironware and cooking utensils, musical instruments, beer and ale, lamps and lampware, and india rubber goods;

Holland, in cotton piece goods, butter and cheese, earthenware and crockery, milk, sarongs and slendangs, hardware, ironware and cooking utensils, cigars and cigarettes, synthetic indigo and chemicals;

Norway, in milk.

The principal decreases were in apparel, hosiery and millinery and linen cloth from the United Kingdom; cotton piece goods, hardware, ironware and cooking utensils from Austria; hardware, ironware and cooking utensils from Belgium; and glass and glassware and cotton piece goods from Germany.

From the United States import values advanced by over half a million dollars, principally in cigars and cigarettes and cycles, motor cars and accessories. Petroleum and lubricating oil show decreases.

The total increase of exports to the United Kingdom is accounted for by advances in such articles as tin, black and white pepper, copra, gutta-percha, preserved pineapples and Para rubber, but large decreases took place in sago, tapioca and india rubber.

Of exports to the Continent tin, black and white pepper and copra advanced, declines being apparent in gambier, sago, Borneo rubber, Para rubber and phosphate of lime.

Exports to the United States advanced in values of rattans, gutta-percha and Para rubber, but fell in values of tin, gambier, black and white pepper, jelutong rubber and Borneo rubber.

Import values from Australia and New Zealand, Japan, Siam and Siamese States, Federated Malay States, Netherlands India, Hongkong and China, French Indo-China, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu, and Kedah advanced, but there were decreases in the total values from British India and Burma, British North Borneo, and Sarawak.

There was a rise in the total value of exports to British India and Burma, Japan, Federated Malay States, Netherlands India, Hongkong and China, French Indo-China, and Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu and Kedah, but exports to Australia and New Zealand, Siam and Siamese States, and British North Borneo and Sarawak fell off.

BANKRUPTCY.

In the first half of the year, trade conditions continued to be as prosperous as in the preceding year. They declined rapidly towards the end of the year, and the failure of the Kwong Yik Bank, which closed its doors on the 19th November, and is now in liquidation under the supervision of the Court, brought several bankruptcies in its train. The estimated loss by bankruptcies was $1,244,209 in Singapore and $52,950 in Penang.

The number of bankruptcies was not great, nor the amount involved large, but at the close of the year the Chinese market generally was in a more than uneasy condition.

AGRICULTURE.

One of the most notable events of the year was the collapse of the price of rubber, which fell from 4*s.* 8*d.* for fine plantation para in London to 2*s.* 3*d.* With the enormous increase in the production of this commodity throughout the world it was impossible for a high price to be maintained, but the suddenness of the fall and its arrival so much earlier than had been anticipated, may be attributed to certain causes subsidiary to that of over-production. Of these the first in time was the stagnation of certain trades in Germany, Austria and neighbouring countries consequent on the Italy-Turkish War and the wars in the Balkans, but the most important was the uncertainty with regard to the American tariffs, on account of which American importers, hitherto by far the largest buyers, have been unable to purchase largely in advance. The combined effect was the oversupply of the British and Continental markets. With the reduction of the American tariffs a largely increased consumption by America may again be expected but the continual increase of production precludes the hope of any large recovery in price; in fact it is probable that the price is now practically established. A revival must in any case be preceded by an improvement in the general financial situation throughout the world. With the fall in price came the necessity for a reduction in estate expenditure. The cost of production naturally diminishes as the trees mature, but many economies have in addition been found possible. In Malacca on the motion of the Malacca Planters' Association wages were reduced without friction, thus satisfactorily proving that the supply of labour is adequate. Many estates are using disc-harrows drawn by draught animals as cheaper than manual labour, and one estate is using steam ploughs.

Though the inflated dividends of previous years are gone for ever, reasonable profits can be expected, and the only really unsatisfactory feature of the situation is that the market still considers average plantation rubber to be inferior to fine hard Para. Certain known marks, however, have been sold at the same price as Para, and if standardization can be effected it is to be hoped that producers of other marks, at present less known, will share in the enhanced price that recognized quality can command.

The planting of fresh land in rubber continues in every Settlement of the Colony, and shows that the planters still retain their confidence. The area under rubber cultivation in Malacca is 117,200 acres.

Catch crops under rubber are being abandoned generally. The result is an enormous diminution in the output of tapioca. The area under this crop has dropped from 16,643 acres in 1912 to 7,353 acres in 1913.

Along with the decrease of tapioca, there has been a correspondingly large diminution in pig raising. It was, and still is, the custom for squatters to rear pigs under the Chinese-owned coconut palms fattening them on the *ampas* or refuse of tapioca manufacture. In past years the pigs so raised met the whole demand of Malacca and were sent to the Federated Malay States in large numbers. Now, however, the export has almost ceased; and to fatten the supply for local demand an import of the refuse is required.

The rice harvest was fair in Province Wellesley, and bad in Penang and Malacca. In Malacca, not only was the season unfavourable to the growing crops, but there was a smaller area than usual under cultivation owing to the attractions offered by fairly high pay and moderately easy work upon the rubber estates.

Coconut estates in Singapore have largely failed to attain their estimates. In some cases this has been due to inflated expectations and a want of knowledge of the nature and yielding power of the trees on the estate, and in others to want of attention to the trees. This has especially been the case where there have been joint interests in rubber and coconuts.

Some large estates in the Dindings are, however, said to be doing well.

Coconut pests were troublesome in Singapore. There was an increase of the Palm weevil in the centre of the island, and a serious outbreak of the moth *Brachartona catoxantha* in the east of the island, which will affect the crop of nuts in 1914.

The cultivation of gambier is rapidly decreasing, and indigo cultivation has practically disappeared.

The plague of locusts which has been afflicting the Federated Malay States appeared in Malacca during the year. Its presence is as yet confined to the vicinity of the Negri Sembilan boundary.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with

the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	338 2 14	4,542 1 30	4,944 3 02	1,275 0 12	1,374 3 01
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	45,514	22,956	206,010	59,242	51,517
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	33	100	127	68	91
Premia paid ...	$13,202.90	$154,506.77	$148,222.79	$69,821.25	$83,734.70

PENANG.

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	723 1 05	4,004 1 06	2,764 0 04	2,962 3 38	928 3 05
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	7,535	76,423	409,787	9,249	21,792
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	102	129	169	79	98
Premia paid ...	$4,890.75	$16,275.97	$14,310.19	$18,567.75	$31,058.25

MALACCA.

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	4,025 1 21	2,716 0 37	1,789 0 11	6,074 3 27	11,427 3 03
		sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	...	22,440	43,328	31,762	25,991
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	*270	266	212	465	552
Premia paid ...	$42,895.40	$114,553.50	$105,485	$95,631.45	$104,836.53

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 27,124,789 as compared with 25,985,526 in 1912. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

* 265 Statutory Grants, 4 Mining Leases and one Freehold Grant.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1912 and 1913.

Nationality.	1912.					1913.				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
American	...	...	...	...	...	1,448	...	...	3,446	4,894
Austrian	345,122	264,166	...	19,474	628,762	324,902	316,308	...	12,103	653,313
British	8,340,708	5,892,713	575,350	135,350	14,944,211	8,556,443	5,978,940	558,438	157,126	15,250,947
Chinese	9,382	...	...	...	9,382	43,838	...	...	...	43,838
Danish	149,826	96,046	...	5,052	250,924	163,102	115,966	...	9,504	288,572
Dutch	2,063,360	307,717	3,446	330	2,374,853	2,116,731	460,304	560	16,260	2,593,855
French	634,909	...	...	...	634,909	760,705	...	...	...	760,705
German	1,949,273	1,179,402	1,040	195,300	3,325,015	2,043,629	1,131,850	...	221,530	3,397,009
Italian	116,314	79,998	...	...	196,312	69,550	27,642	...	...	97,192
Japanese	1,653,763	530,378	...	8,436	2,192,577	1,881,726	704,999	...	4,218	2,590,943
Norwegian	283,291	42,828	...	9,082	335,201	426,253	31,022	...	15,612	472,887
Russian	488,252	131,156	...	4,486	623,894	450,504	44,750	...	...	495,254
Sarawak	100,069	...	...	...	100,069	109,948	...	...	27,160	137,108
Siamese	131,729	40,186	...	...	171,915	123,356	22,320	...	...	145,676
Spanish	125,998	...	...	...	125,998	119,628	...	...	...	119,628
Swedish	52,160	...	...	19,344	71,504	63,190	...	...	9,778	72,968
Totals ...	16,444,246	8,564,590	579,836	396,854	25,985,526	17,254,953	8,834,101	558,998	476,737	27,124,789

From the above table it will be seen that the following countries show an increased tonnage, entered and cleared, in 1913 as compared with 1912:—

Japan	398,366
Britain	306,736
Holland	219,002
Norway	137,686
France	125,796
Germany	71,994
Sarawak	37,039
Denmark	37,648
China	34,456
Austria	24,551
America	4,894
Sweden	1,464

The following countries show a decrease:—

Russia 128,640; Italy 99,120; Siam 26,239; Spain 6,370.

In the last four years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1910	...	...	23,561,229 tons.
1911	...	...	24,233,886 „
1912	...	...	25,985,526 „
1913	...	...	27,124,789 „

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 43,796 in number and 1,714,241 in tons as compared with 40,479 and 1,535,201 respectively in 1912.

Twelve new steamers with a tonnage of 661 tons gross and 50 sailing vessels of 5,179 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the "Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1910," nineteen new sailing vessels of 1,989 tons were licensed under section 425, and 888 vessels of 11,419 tons were under section 428.

LEGISLATION.

During the year 1913 eighteen Ordinances were passed, eight being amending and ten principal Ordinances.

Of the principal Ordinances the most important are :—

(1) The Municipal Ordinance, which is referred to in the part of this report dealing with Municipalities.

(2) The Arms and Explosives Ordinance, which consolidates and amends the existing law dealing with fire-arms and explosives formerly contained in nine different Ordinances.

(3) The Infectious Diseases Ordinance, a temporary measure dealing with cases of infectious diseases, pending the introduction of a comprehensive Public Health Ordinance.

(4) The Federated Malay States Export Duties Collection Ordinance, the object of which is to enable export duties payable to the Government of the Federated Malay States on goods and baggage carried into the Colony on the Federated Malay States and Johore State Railways to be collected in the Colony.

(5) The Tobacco Revenue (Labuan) Ordinance, which was passed to abolish the system previously in force of farming out the collection of duty on tobacco and to provide for the collection being done by the Government.

The only important amending Ordinance is the one which amends the Estate Labourers (Protection of Health) Ordinance 1911, and empowers the Governor in Council with the approval of the Legislature to erect central estate hospitals in suitable areas for the treatment of estate labourers.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the eight Government English Schools was $100,058, on 34 Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $124,672, and on the 186 Government Vernacular Schools, $111,482.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $13,706.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show a small increase over the figures for 1912.

The Normal Classes continued their work during the year. Twenty-one Normal Certificates were issued.

POLICE.

The total strength of the force at the end of the year was 2,646, which was distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,225
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	1,012
Malacca	316
Labuan and Brunei	93

The authorized strength of the force is 2,736.

Recruiting showed an improvement during the year especially amongst the Malays.

The wastage from the force is very heavy, and is far from satisfactory, amounting to no less than 465 men (of whom 159 were dismissed, 66 deserted and 25 were pensioned). The number of recruits during the year was 582, nearly one-fifth of the total force; and it must be remembered that a man does not become available for police duties until he has left the recruit stage and emerged in the second class constable stage, a process, which according to his intelligence takes from six to twelve months.

Discipline is improving. The weak spot is in the native non-commissioned officers, who with few exceptions, cannot keep to the middle path between laxity and undue severity.

The health of the force was good.

CRIME.

There is a marked reduction in the number of serious offences reported to the police. The returns are murder, 22 (37) reports—(the figures in brackets denote the corresponding number in the preceding year)—gang robbery 31 (49), robbery 164 (180), housebreaking 545 (567), and theft 2,315 (2,602). It must be remembered that these are returns of reports, of which many are later proved, upon investigation by the police, to be mistaken, imaginary, or false.

The total number of arrests effected in the Colony during the year was 19,353, compared with 17,735 in 1912. The increase is in Singapore, where there have been many more arrests under the Minor Offences Ordinance. The Inspector-General of Police reports that ten years ago, when the population of the Colony was far smaller than it now is, the average number of arrests in a year was 23,000.

Sixty-four persons, as against 74 in 1912, were tried before the Supreme Court.

Three hundred and fifty-five persons were banished during the year. The great majority were habitual criminals.

PRISONS.

The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons shows a marked reduction. It is seen in the following statement:—

		1912.	*1913.*
Singapore ...	Criminal ...	770	713
	Civil ...	95	66
Penang ...	Criminal ...	208·99	163
	Civil ...	29·27	24
Malacca ...	Criminal ...	31·11	25
	Civil ...	13·93	6

The health of the prisoners was good, the number of deaths being twenty in Singapore, six in Penang and one in Malacca.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 19,964 and 29.950 respectively. The figures for the preceding year were 20,594 and 28,422.

The estimated population of the Colony was 743,010. It was estimated at 728,635 in 1912, and ascertained in 1911 (the year of the Census) to be 711,951.

The birth-rate has fallen from 28·26 to 26·87 per mille.

The death-rate has also decreased, having fallen from 46·45 in 1911, and 39·01 in 1912, to 34·93 per mille in the year under review.

The principal causes of death were malaria (2,878 cases), infantile convulsions (3,822), tuberculosis (2,544), beri-beri (1,657), and dysentery (1,016). Under all these heads, and especially under the head of malaria there is reduction in the numbers recorded in the preceding year. It has been shown however that the total number of deaths in 1913 exceeded those in 1912, and the reduction in the number of deaths from these diseases is perhaps to be ascribed partly to different diagnosis. Of the dangerous infectious diseases of the Colony, there were recorded 116 deaths from small-pox, 104 from cholera and one from plague. The corresponding figures in 1912 were 73, 121, and 37.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—CHINESE.

Immigrants arrived from China to the number of 240,979, a decrease of 4·2 per cent as compared with the figure for 1912 and of 10·7 per cent as compared with that for 1911, the highest yet recorded.

Adult males formed 82 per cent and adult females 9 per cent of the immigrants.

Immigration was affected by quarantine restrictions in Singapore during May and June.

The following table shows the total number of Chinese Immigrants during the last five years:—

Year.	*Men.*	*Women.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*
1909	128,878	12,126	7,946	2,802	151,752
1910	184,856	16,395	11,522	3,548	216,321
1911	226,126	22,738	16,033	4,957	269,854
1912	206,018	23,327	16,794	5,505	251,644
1913	197,872	22,847	15,060	5,200	240,979

(II).—INDIAN.

The number of immigrants from India during the year was 118,583, the highest number ever recorded, exceeding the return for 1911, the previous record, by 10,112.

The excess of immigrants over emigrants during the year amounts to 42,892 adults and 5,601 children. The corresponding figures in 1912 were 37,894 and 5,149.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

Singapore ...	... 131·12	inches.
Labuan ...	... 141·30	„
Penang ...	... 120·05	„
Province Wellesley	... 106·12	„
Malacca ...	... 75·15	„
Dindings ...	... 73·21	„

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 82°. The maximum recorded was 97° (in Penang on March 13th) and the minimum 66° (in Province Wellesley on January 25th).

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The Insured Letter system was extended to Johore and Kedah. A parcel post service by German Mail to England was inaugurated on the 1st November; and arrangements were made for a direct parcel service by P. & O. Mail to Italy.

The Penang–Kuala Muda trunk telephone line was extended to Alor Star, the capital of the State of Kedah, and opened to traffic in April, 1913.

Telegraph offices were opened at Tanjong Pagar and Keppel Harbour and Savings Bank branches at Labuan, Prai, and Seletar.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 9,147,653, an average of 12·81 per inhabitant. The number received for delivery was 7,983,199. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 244,301 to 263,274, and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 561 to 645.

The amount at the credit of the depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1913, was $899,752, the highest sum on record. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $160. There was a profit on the year's working of $5,111. The present value of the investments is $894,858.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES.

As in previous years, the price of raw opium varied greatly, fluctuating between $850 and $1,765 per chest.

During the year, 3,627 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory, and gave a total yield of 4,585,474 tahils of chandu, a decrease of 387,973 tahils compared with the preceding year. The greater part of this chandu was destined for the States of the Malay Peninsula, which obtain their supplies from the Factory. The amount sold in the Colony was 1,493,254 tahils.

The selling price of chandu was raised on the 22nd February from $5 to $6 per tahil (wholesale) and from $5.50 to $6.50 (retail).

Liquor and tobacco (the latter in Labuan only) produced a revenue of $1,630,578.

During the year 422 cases were instituted in Singapore for offences against the Chandu and Liquors Ordinances and Deleterious Drugs Ordinances, 168 in Penang and 76 in Malacca.

Seizures were made of 8½ tahils of opium, 2,333 tahils of chandu, 200,285 grains of cocaine, 46,152 grains of morphia, and 3,050 tahils of bhang.

MUNICIPALITIES AND RURAL BOARDS.

The "Municipal Ordinance 1913" effected important changes in the constitution and powers of the Municipal bodies in the Colony. It abolished the elective system, and substituted for it that of appointment by the Governor. It also gave power to the Governor, after a report to, and discussion in, the Legislative Council, to order the Commissioners to carry out any duty, in which they had failed. In addition to what may be described as the ordinary rates, it provided two special rates, one in respect of improvements in insanitary areas, and the other in respect of expenditure upon back-lane schemes. The borrowing powers of the Municipalities have also been revised. As a whole, the Ordinance has greatly improved the law relating to Municipalities.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $4,658,524, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $4,940,248. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure, and of the debts of the Boards, showing the provision made for repayment, appear below.

REVENUE.

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,448,179	2,512,507	2,555,478	3,062,526	3,202,551
Penang ...	1,002,472	1,103,587	1,206,244	1,268,267	1,321,766
Malacca ...	68,647	76,853	91,828	112,529	134,207
TOTAL ...	$3,519,298	3,692,947	3,853,550	4,443,322	4,658,524

EXPENDITURE.

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,191,299	2,446,041	2,527,579	3,197,526	3,498,277
Penang ...	1,026,676	1,116,307	1,150,693	1,255,757	1,306,566
Malacca ...	61,538	76,282	90,895	100,247	135,405
TOTAL ...	$3,279,513	3,638,630	3,769,167	4,553,530	4,940,248

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Singapore Island ...	57,370	160,602
Penang Island ...	62,813	88,586
Province Wellesley ...	229,765	186,829
Dindings	8,269	25,194
Malacca	261,359	306,294

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

HARBOUR BOARDS.

SINGAPORE.

When the "Ports Ordinance 1913" came into force on the 1st July, 1913, the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board was superseded in respect of the property in Singapore by the Singapore Harbour Board, and in respect of the property in Penang and Province Wellesley by the Penang Harbour Board.

The revenue and expenditure of the Board at Singapore (first as the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and latterly as the Singapore Harbour Board) for the five years 1908–1913, have been as follows:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1908	...	5,822,811	4,271,715
1909	...	5,849,063	4,267,797
1910	...	5,896,156	4,328,184
1911	...	5,740,965	4,074,669
1912	...	6,015,648	4,216,015
1913	...	6,091,296	4,070,912

The capital debt due to Government stood at the end of 1913 at $44,925,072 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent.

In addition to the above-mentioned capital the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,256,172 from reserve fund.

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1909.	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*
Number of vessels ...	2,366	2,393	2,528	2,693	2,708
Tonnage ...	4,433,105	4,605,035	4,877,317	5,397,155	5,794,536
Coal (inwards and outwards) ...	1,160,711	1,063,768	1,084,974	1,200,545	1,338,495
Cargo (inwards and outwards) ...	974,016	1,305,014	1,285,994	1,335,846	1,462,788

Lagoon Wet Dock and Main Wharf Reconstruction. (Tanjong Pagar.)

The questions at issue between the Dock Board and Messrs. John Aird & Company were settled early in the year, the total amount of money paid to the latter for permanent work executed and in settlement of all claims was £664,000; the whole of the contractors' plant and effects of every description and their stocks of materials on the ground for permanent work remaining the property of the Board.

During the year the new contractors, Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, continued to make very satisfactory progress with the works, and on the 21st June, the water was admitted to the Lagoon Dock. As soon as this operation, which took fourteen days, was completed, a start was made to remove the cofferdam and build the entrance walls, and by the end of the year work on these was well advanced.

During the latter half of the year the work of making the metalled roadways and quays, laying the railways and building the foundations for the godowns round the dock was put in hand and good progress was made, some of the godowns along the south wall being already erected by the end of the year.

A total amount of £407,700 has been paid to Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, of which £155,200 was in respect of work carried out during the year 1913.

The average number of men employed per diem on the works and at the quarries during the year was 1,775.

New Graving Dock at Keppel Harbour.

This work was successfully completed during the year, and the dock was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor Sir ARTHUR HENDERSON YOUNG, K.C.M.G., on the 26th August under the name of The King's Dock. All outstanding questions with the various contractors have been satisfactorily settled, and the working of the dock and the machinery and equipment in connection with it have proved entirely satisfactory.

PENANG.

The capital debt of the Penang Harbour Board, fixed in accordance with the Ordinance, amounted at the end of 1913 to $3,036,911.

During the year new coolie lines to accommodate 120 men were built at Prai, the new launch "Betty" was added to the fleet, four steam cranes were erected, two at Prai Wharf and two at Swettenham Pier, and a light railway was put down at Prai coal sites.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

During the year good progress was made in connection with the works. The north strengthening wall and 350 linear feet of the south strengthening wall were completed. The whole of the North Pier and 800 linear feet of the South Pier were practically completed and 560 linear feet of the latter were under construction. The dredging of the harbour outside the quay walls was practically completed and in the tidal basin dredging is in progress. During the year 243,273 tons of granite from Pulau Ubin were deposited on the mole.

The average number of men employed at the end of the year was 330 Asiatics and 25 Europeans at Pulau Ubin Quarry and 1,101 Asiatics and 43 Europeans at Telok Ayer Quay Wall and the Reclamation works.

During the year £324,000 was paid to the Contractors. The total cost of the Harbour Works up to 31st December, 1913, amounted to £1,396,087.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department under all heads of service was $2,392,173, the highest on record.

It was distributed as follows:—

	$
Singapore	955,320
Labuan	73,718
Malacca	594,885
Penang and the Dindings	498,990
Province Wellesley	269,260

The works exceeding in $2,000 in cost, which were completed during the year were 32 items in Singapore, 4 in Labuan, 12 in Malacca, 15 in Penang and the Dindings and 2 in Province Wellesley. Among the more important works completed were the Pearl's Hill School (at a cost of $58,596), the Singapore River Improvements ($39,987), a revetment wall to the Malacca reclamation ($24,999), the Kuruman Island light-house ($32,161), and the Penang Girls' School ($43,564).

Progress with items of expenditure exceeding $2,000 was made in respect of eleven items in Singapore, two in Malacca, one in Penang, and four in Province Wellesley.

The principal works in hand are in Singapore, and are the new District Court, the additions to the Government Offices, the extension to the Printing Office, and the erection of concrete bank-walls alongside the Rochore Canal.

The special expenditure upon metalling or re-metalling roads amounted to $160,535. Thirty-one miles of road were thus treated, at an average cost of $5,178 per mile.

With the exception of the short extension of the Teluk Bahang road in Penang, no new road construction was undertaken.

The annually recurrent expenditure upon road-maintenance was $550,285.

The road system thus maintained comprises 552 miles of metalled road, 65 miles of gravelled road (45 miles in Malacca, and 20 miles in the Dindings) and 752 miles of natural road (of which the greater part lies in Malacca and Province Wellesley).

The cost of maintenance per mile varies from $1,161 in Singapore (where the roads are metalled, with the exception of 3½ miles of natural road) down to $153 in the Dindings where natural roads and gravelled roads form more than two-thirds of the road system.

The labour supply was ample, but the wages of skilled labour tend to rise. The price of building materials is increasing.

GENERAL.

The first half of the year was a fairly prosperous one for the Colony but the fall in the price of rubber re-acted unfavourably upon all the local trade conditions, and left them at the end of the year in a decidedly unfavourable position. The fall had been generally anticipated, though many planters were inclined to doubt it, founding their hopes upon increasing markets as compensation for increasing supplies. No one however expected that the fall would come so soon or be so rapid; and it was the upset of calculations in this respect that caused the general dislocation in the local circles. The estates are fitting themselves to the altered circumstances, which still leave ample room for reasonable profits, business is adjusting itself accordingly, and on the whole the Colony will be much the better for the shock which it received, and from which at the date of this report it is recovering.

The Colony lost the services of a valuable officer by the retirement during the year of Mr. J. C. ANTHONISZ who had been Treasurer since 1908. He received the honour of a C.M.G., at the end of the year.

W. GEORGE MAXWELL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

1*st September*, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
808	Sierra Leone	1913
809	Bahamas	1913–1914
810	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912–1913
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	"
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	"
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	"
820	Jamaica	"
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	"
823	Zanzibar	"
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	"
827	British Honduras	"
828	Colonial Survey Committee	"
829	Tonga Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	1913–1914
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 862.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913, see No. 838.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1915.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1914 amounted to $14,016,882, (exceeding the estimate by $3,672,652), whilst the expenditure was $10,180,189 (which is less than the estimate by $972,669).

The actual figures for 1913 and 1914 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—REVENUE.

	1913.	*1914.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	133,544	37,139	...	96,405 (*a*)
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	9,487,388	11,312,250	1,824,862 (*b*)	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	631,915	632,973	1,058	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	748,803	698,068	...	50,735
5. Rents of Govt. Property	639,142	646,309	7,167	...
6. Interest	444,852	409,079	...	35,773
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	115,679	115,521	...	158
	$12,201,323	13,851,339	1,833,087	183,071
8. Land Sales	196,424	165,543	...	30,881
TOTAL ...	$12,397,747	14,016,882	1,833,087	213,952
		Net increase	...	$1,619,135

(*a*) Due to the Government Wharves, Penang, having been placed under the Penang Wharves Committee on 1st July, 1913.

(*b*) Net revenue from opium increased owing to less purchases of opium at less cost during 1914, chandu consumption decreased.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1913.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	90,550	...	...	90,550
2. Pensions ...	442,114	488,391	46,277	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	10,390	12,175	1,785	...
4. The Governor ...	87,175	84,757	...	2,418
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	147,113	150,263	3,150	...
6. Government Printing Office	83,895	72,531	...	11,364
7. Land and District Offices	232,237	236,591	4,354	...
8. Forests	30,208	29,618	...	590
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	82,730	74,012	...	8,718
10. Treasury	95,613	99,348	3,735	...
11. Audit	49,872	47,694	...	2,178
12. Marine	376,974	379,017	2,043	...
13. Legal	389,616	371,830	...	17,786
14. Police	911,316	927,873	16,557	...
15. Prisons	238,380	230,357	...	8,023
16. Medical	252,370	250,008	...	2,362
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	365,746	459,972	94,226	...
18. Veterinary	...	31,058	31,058	...
19. Education	304,879	286,872	...	18,007
20. Ecclesiastical ...	19,583	18,070	...	1,513
21. Transport ...	24,328	22,007	...	2,321
22. Military Expenditure ...	2,657,836	2,320,473	...	337,363
23. Miscellaneous Services ...	965,103	863,659	...	101,444
24. Post Office	596,531	672,521	75,990	...
25. Government Monopolies	391,865	357,029	...	34,836
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	52,461	54,779	2,318	...
27. Public Works Department	321,532	327,963	6,431	...
28. Public Works, Recurrent	217,615	254,244	36,629	...
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	1,030,586	926,077	...	104,509
War Expenditure ...	...	131,000	131,000	...
TOTAL ...	$10,468,618	10,180,189	455,553	743,982
Net decrease ...			$288,429	

The expenditure upon personal emoluments ($3,733,124) and "other charges" ($2,292,696) shows an increase upon personal emoluments and a decrease under other charges for the preceding year when the figures were $3,612,435 and $2,382,763 respectively.

The following statement shows how both the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony have increased in the last five years:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1910	...	9,336,328	7,532,242
1911	...	11,409,221	9,085,389
1912	...	12,912,577	9,295,102
1913	...	12,397,747	10,468,618
1914	...	14,016,882	10,180,189

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1914, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits	...	2,567,892	Indian Agency Account	...	118,742
Suspense	...	340,289	Investments	...	4,854,729
Drafts and Remittances	...	107,362	Advances	...	262,174
Cash in Transit	...	711	Loans to Municipalities	...	304,060
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	...	16,646,443	Loan to Sultan of Trengganu		50,000
			Loan to Kelantan Govt.	...	120,000
			Imprests	...	13,594
			Loan Account	...	8,575,888
			Cash	...	5,363,510
TOTAL	...	$19,662,697	TOTAL	...	$19,662,697

The excess of the assets of the Colony over its liabilities increased during the year by $3,836,694.

The principal excesses of revenue over the Estimates were in respect of Opium Revenue ($3,545,203.97), Liquors ($165,244.35), Interest ($33,804.04), Premia on Grants ($94,092.82), and Land Rents ($11,749.99). The principal excesses of expenditure were upon Military Expenditure ($310,607) and Miscellaneous Services ($174,109). The principal savings were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $1,115,357 and Government Monopolies $114,599.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony is in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907, and its amount on the 31st December, 1914, was £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon the services in respect of which the loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board	...	47,397,273
Penang Harbour Board	...	2,628,098
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...		1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	13,392,804
		69,152,635
Expenses of issue less interest received		3,388,199
Total	...	$72,540,834 *

The charge on account of interest on the public debt was $2,073,980 in 1914. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

* Practically all the balance over and above the proceeds of loans already issued has been advanced by the Colony pending a further issue.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/4$\frac{1}{8}$ and 2/3$\frac{7}{8}$. The latter quotation, however, was a purely nominal quotation in the earlier days of August. From January 1st to July 30th the rates ranged between 2/4$\frac{1}{8}$ and 2/3$\frac{29}{32}$ and exchange in its fluctuations followed the previous year throughout that period but was steadily lower than on the corresponding days of 1913. On the 31st July opening rates dropped to 2/3$\frac{29}{32}$ for demand drafts but 2/3$\frac{15}{16}$ was obtainable. August was a month of nominal quotations with 2/4$\frac{1}{8}$ as the highest rate and 2/3$\frac{7}{8}$ as the lowest. From September onwards demand rates varied between 2/4$\frac{1}{8}$ and 2/4$\frac{1}{16}$.

CURRENCY.

The currency of the Colony in circulation, exclusive of subsidiary coins, consisted of $48,487,648 in Government currency notes, $198,975 in bank notes issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and $6,121,284 in dollars and half-dollars.

The total cost of the investments (including depreciation fund) held by the Currency Commissioners against the Government Currency Notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1914, was $25,901,348.93 and the market value of those securities calculated at prices obtaining at the end of July, 1914, was $22,541,812.85. The coin reserve held by the Commissioners amounted to £327,310 in gold and $12,885,588 in legal tender silver in Singapore and £1,205,376 in London, a total of $26,022,902.

The total withdrawals from circulation of old subsidiary coin to the end of 1914 amounted to $3,673,578.50. Coins to the value of $2,071,353.50 were sent to Bombay to be reminted into new subsidiary coin and $1,553,000 were sent to the Crown Agents for sale as bullion. The balance $49,225 remains in the Treasuries in Singapore and Penang pending sale at a favourable price. Reminting of new subsidiary coin has now been completed. The total amount received from the mint up to 31st December was $2,408,299.85 and the profit on the coinage amounting to $510,056.45 has been duly credited to the Gold Standard Reserve Fund.

The cancellation and destruction of notes is still in a very backward state. No less than 3,388,719 cancelled notes were in the hands of the Commissioners at the end of the year awaiting sorting, and the various processes connected therewith prior to destruction. The great majority of these notes consisted of one dollar notes and the organization of a considerable staff will be necessary before any reasonable reduction can be expected.

TRADE.

The foreign trade of the Colony in 1914 and 1913 shows in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	1913.	1914.	
	£	£	
Imports—			
Merchandise ...	53,011	43,856	
Treasure ...	2,926	1,804	
Total ...	55,937	45,660	Decrease £10,277
Exports—			
Merchandise ...	43,510	38,032	
Treasure ...	1,865	949	
Total ...	45,375	38,981	Decrease £6,394

The following statement shows the gross trade between the Colony and the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries, respectively, in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	Imports into Colony.			*Exports from Colony.*	
	1913.	1914.		1913.	1914.
	£	£		£	£
From			*To*		
United Kingdom ...	6,175	4,873	United Kingdom ...	10,745	9,981
British Possessions	26,898	21,178	British Possessions	14,117	11,371
Foreign Countries	22,864	19,609	Foreign Countries	20,513	17,629
Total ...	55,937	45,660	Total ...	45,375	38,981

The results on the trade of the Colony of the extraordinary conditions prevailing in 1914 are not brought out fully by these figures. These are necessarily somewhat slow in responding, as trade contracts cannot suddenly be terminated, and as there are difficulties in the way of the immediate cancellation of pending transactions.

The decreased values of merchandise (in comparison with 1914 which like its predecessor may be classed as satisfactory) show over 17 per cent in imports and over 12½ per cent in exports.

The year opened in a period of financial stringency caused by the failure of a large banking institution which affected Chinese firms especially in Singapore and Bangkok. The scarcity of money and the slender reserves of dealers generally, kept the markets depressed, but later there took place a recovery as the weak firms were weeded out, checked however at the outbreak of war when absolute stagnation characterised the market. Produce could not safely be shipped at one time owing to the presence of a marauding enemy cruiser which succeeded in sinking several vessels, among them the s.s. *Troilus* laden with nearly 1,500 tons of valuable Straits cargo. Importers demanded cash for goods while the banks refused advances on produce, and this state of affairs continued for nearly two months.

Prices of produce during the first half-year fell steadily to a point in some cases near producing cost, relieved by two fluctuations of short duration, but towards the third quarter a recovery took place and prices have been maintained somewhat better since. The Singapore prices of the staples of produce indicate a fall averaging 17½ per cent. Every product except hides and copal displayed lower values; and in the cases of tin and Para rubber declines occurred of no less than approximately 26 per cent and 27 per cent respectively.

The volume of Straits produce shipped was about the same as in 1913, increases being apparent in Para rubber, copra, gambier and tin only. The shipments of tin from the Colony reached 66,233 tons, an increase of 483 tons compared with 1913. Of Para rubber 20,107 tons were exported from the Colony. This does not include transhipment cargo not marketed in Singapore, being an increase of 9,700 tons.

Raw cotton fell steadily in price throughout the year and the volume of imports of manufactured cottons was about 30 per cent less. Stocks at the close were generally considerably over the average of corresponding periods in other years, especially in grey goods.

The volume of manufactured metals imported declined by about 30 per cent. Stocks of these, excluding tin plates, and of miscellaneous goods including cement, paints, glass, etc., all show depletion as well as European foods such as milk, biscuits, etc.

The exclusion of Belgian, German and Austrian goods, valued at considerably over £100,000 monthly, had the effect of raising the prices of imported articles identified with these countries and stocks were rapidly cleared. Holland, Italy, America, Japan and the Mother country have to some extent supplied the deficiency. It is to be hoped that British manufacturers will now endeavour to capture and retain a substantial portion of the trade hitherto done by Germany and Austria.

IMPORTS.

Import values of foodstuffs, drinks, and narcotics fell off approximately by nearly 12 per cent, raw materials including tin by 17 per cent, and all manufactured articles by nearly 28 per cent. The decline of nearly £2⅜ million in foods, drinks and narcotics is accounted for principally by reduced values of opium, rice and grains, sugar, provisions of all kinds, live animals, vegetables and fruits, etc., and liquors. In the raw material class the fall of nearly £3¾ million is accounted for principally by tin and tin ore with a decline of over £3 million followed by coal, hides, raw cotton and silk and oils with smaller deficiencies. Manufactured articles with a fall of £3 million showed the greatest reduction in the import values of cotton and silk piece goods and sarongs, apparel, hosiery, and haberdashery, yarns and thread, manufactured metals generally, motor cars and cycles, paper and stationery, and jute gunnies.

In quantities imported, there was an increase under rice, padi and milk, decreased volume being apparent in opium, sugar, liquors, tobacco, wheat flour, lard, onions and live animals. Tin ore shows much the same import quantity in spite of the fall in price but coal and petroleum fell off. Manufactures declined in the quantity imported of cottons, yarns, silk piece goods, jute gunnies, blankets, bar iron, corrugated iron, nails, steel-plates, tin-plates, cement, matches, and explosives.

EXPORTS.

Export values show a decline in the class foods, drinks, and narcotics of over 11½ per cent or about £1¾ million. Raw materials exported fell off by £3 million. Tin, rattans, phosphates of lime, tanned hides, and shells all showed large reductions. On the other hand gums as a whole and copra gave enhanced values.

Export values of manufactured articles show a falling off of nearly £700,000, textiles contributing £378,000 of this, and metals £111,000.

The quantities of Para rubber, copra, gambier and tin, exported show an increase. A decrease in volume is recorded of sago, tapioca, coffee, black pepper, pineapples, gutta percha, jelutong, hides, rattans and phosphates of lime.

TRADE BY COUNTRIES.

Imports of merchandise from the United Kingdom in 1914 were valued at £4⅜ million, a decline of £1⅜ million or about 24 per cent. Cotton textiles with yarns and thread contributed over £600,000 of the fall, followed by apparel, hosiery and millinery, motor cars and cycles, etc., telegraph and telephone materials,

malt liquors and spirits, hardware and ironware, cement, paper and stationery, steel, machinery, india rubber goods including tyres, provisions, and metals generally, paints, and boots and shoes. The only articles giving important increases are tobacco, with cigars and cigarettes, coal and tramway and railway materials.

Exports of merchandise to the United Kingdom were valued at close on £10 million, a reduction of over £¾ million or more than 7 per cent. Tin, gutta percha, india rubber, Borneo rubber, sago, shells, and (by smaller amounts) preserved pineapples and gum copal all give reduced values. Increases are, however, seen in Para rubber, copra, peppers, illipi nuts, and gambier exported.

Import values of merchandise from the Continent of Europe reached about £2½ million, a fall of over 26 per cent compared with 1913. France, Norway and Russia show advances, but other countries all give declines.

A review of this trade may be interesting at the present time so I subjoin particulars of the value of each country's shipments to the Straits in thousands of pounds :—

	1913.	*1914.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Austria-Hungary	279	128	...	151
Germany ...	878	415	...	463
Belgium ...	407	218	...	189
Denmark ...	75	47	...	28
Holland ...	363	300	...	63
Italy ...	569	488	...	81
Norway ...	18	76	58	...
Sweden ...	[illegible]	12	...	7
France ...	293	451	158	...
Spain ...	25	9	...	16
Russia ...	5	10	5	...
Total ...	2,931	2,154		

The value of the trade in manufactured goods of the two European enemy countries with the Colony has thus decreased by 53 per cent over the whole year, while France seems to have benefited, but included in her trade as well as in that of Italy are large quantities of Swiss goods, especially milk. It is more than probable, however, that Italy and Holland have benefited largely, although this is not to be inferred from the trade returns. German and Austrian goods have always been shipped from Genoa and Holland, and declared here according to the first port of shipment, and the cessation of these to a large extent has to be taken into account.

All the principal articles of import identified with Belgium, Germany and Austria give evidence of the great decline in values. Thus hosiery and undershirts, hardware and cooking utensils, beer, paper and stationery, milk and tinned provisions, crockery and glass, lamps, nails, and numerous sundries all evidence enormous reductions, and falls are also recorded of cement from Denmark, brandy from France, cottons and yarns from Italy, and sarongs, hardware, gin and tobacco from the Netherlands.

Shipments of Swiss milk have been diverted to French ports accounting for nearly £160,000 of the increase from that country, while milk from Genoa exhibits a decline. Scarcely any article shows an increase and none of any importance, except perhaps milk from the Netherlands.

Exports of merchandise to the Continent of Europe are valued over £4½ million, a decrease of nearly 23 per cent. Tin, copra, peppers, and rattans give enormous decreases, followed by tapioca, sago, pines, wolfram ore, gutta percha, gambier, oilcakes, and copal. Increases are apparent in Para rubber and illipi nuts, Germany, Belgium, and France taking more Para rubber and the latter two countries greater values of illipi nuts, while Denmark received larger shipments of copra.

The principal countries showing increased values of goods sent to the Colony are:—French Indo-China and the Non-Federated Malay States of the Malay Peninsula. The following countries give declines in value, viz.:—Australia, British India, Japan, Siam and Siamese States, Dutch Indies, Hongkong and China, British North Borneo and Sarawak, and the Federated Malay States.

BANKRUPTCY.

The failure of the Kwong Yik Bank on the 19th November, 1913, although it was followed by several large and complicated bankruptcies, did not prove as disastrous as was anticipated. Trade, however, continued to be dull and was temporarily suspended by the outbreak of war. By the end of the year trade had shown good recovery; profits were better on a smaller volume of business.

There were 51 trade bankruptcies during the year, and many insolvents made with their creditors arrangements of which eleven were registered.

The Chinese market is said to be in a sound condition.

AGRICULTURE.

During 1914 the prices of the chief Malayan agricultural exports which are shipped west, fell in the world's markets. Rubber, for instance, after repeating the seasonal rise of three out of the last four years, fell again before war broke out to the point from which it had risen; near to which it has since been maintained by the decrease of its import into London, and elsewhere. The actual imports into London during 1914 amounted to less than those of 1913, and the total world's production appears also to have been slightly less; for though the production of plantation rubber has increased enormously, the decrease in output from wild sources has been even greater. Coconut products fell gradually towards the outbreak of war, lost their market when the crisis came, and then after a month began to find it again, the prices varying closely with the freedom of the sea. After the destruction of the German cruiser *Emden* they began to rise in a promising way. Sago and tapioca, low when the year began, went lower like the coconut products, but are now obtaining somewhat better prices. Putch leaves lost their market entirely when war was declared.

On the other hand gambier, which chiefly goes east, is a little more profitable than it was.

The amount of rubber produced in the Malay Peninsula shows a great increase, in which the Settlements have taken a more or less even part. An area of moderate extent has been newly planted in Singapore island, and a small one in the territory of Malacca. In the first named the rubber growing on the new lands seems to be entirely a subsidiary product for, by the terms under which the land has been let for the growing of pineapples, a permanent crop has to be planted and rubber seems to the occupiers to be best for such a purpose. In the territory of Malacca, the surrender to Government of lands taken up speculatively or unwisely by rubber companies in the boom, has been rather more than was anticipated, and many estates are finding it necessary to use revenue for completing development; but the revenue promises generally to suffice. Great economies have been found possible; the cost of production has been reduced wonderfully; and there are companies producing and marketing at below one shilling per lb.

In the older and Chinese-planted estates of Malacca thinning is being carried out extensively. Ploughing is also being resorted to more and more. Not a few factories are acting as centrals for small neighbouring estates—a procedure which goes

some way towards reducing the variability of the quality of the product. The rubber plantations are very free from disease.

There is now extremely little tapioca associated anywhere with rubber, and the European estates in Province Wellesley which formerly made tapioca have ceased to do so. A little Chinese tapioca-manufacture continues in Malacca.

Coconuts in most places have had a productive year. New land is being planted with them to a small extent in Province Wellesley and in Singapore. The older estates in Province Wellesley, in some cases planted unsatisfactorily, have received a considerable amount of attention, and the trees are said to have responded to manure and cultivation given in 1913.

Pineapples occupy a slightly reduced area in Singapore island in consequence of their removal from under rubber on the larger rubber estates. But this has caused new lands to be planted with them. The price of pineapples in Singapore town fell at the commencement of the war to fifty cents per hundred (which was also its minimum during the excessively large crop of 1913) in consequence of the cessation of work at the canneries. However, the work was soon resumed. It seems that fifty cents per hundred is the minimum price at which picking and carting can be done, the cost of cultivation then being lost.

The success of pineapple-planting in Singapore seems to have stimulated a small increase in the crop on Chinese-owned land in Malacca and Province Wellesley, but without canneries the market is there very limited.

Gambier is being removed from under rubber in Malacca only very slowly. In Singapore island its cultivation persists in three mukims; and so long as the market maintains its present prices and labour is abundant, the crop is unlikely to disappear.

Vegetable growing is extending, especially in Singapore island, in consequence of the freeing of labour from estates. The last season has been favourable to vegetables; and prices on the Singapore markets have been much lower than they were. Chillies are among the special products of 1914. The Chinese who plant vegetables are in Singapore also planting a little indigo.

There is a slight further increase in Singapore of plantain cultivation. Small crops of tuba are by no means uncommon in the east of the island.

Throughout the Settlements the crop of mangosteens and other fruits has been very good.

The rice crop of 1913–14 was in places excellent: that of 1914–15 unfortunately started badly, for rain did not fall when required.

The locust pest in Malacca has done very little damage. The locust is destructive elsewhere under certain conditions; but is not so as yet in the Peninsula. Its favourite foods are certain pasture grasses, maize, etc., which do not play a large part in local agriculture; but it has attacked rice, sugar cane, coconuts and some other economic plants in a small degree. Measures are being taken against it in the hope of preventing it becoming really destructive. These measures are being carried out on the same lines as those undertaken in the Federated Malay States, and are taken in consultation with the Agricultural Department of the States.

LAND.

The revenue collected exclusive of revenue from miscellaneous collections amounted to $229,137, as compared with $196,919 in 1913.

The totals under the various sub-heads were as follows:—

—	1914.	1913.	1913 compared with 1914.	
			Excess.	Deficit.
	$	$	$	$
Land Revenue ...	135,090	128,395	6,695	...
Reimbursements ...	9,501	9,895	...	394
Land Sales ...	84,546	58,629	25,917	...
	229,137	196,919	Excess. 22,218	

The demand for the temporary occupation of Crown land in the town and vicinity continued and the revenue from this source is now very considerable. In the country districts only 26 applications for Crown lands were received, but at least 1,000 acres were added to the cultivated area of the Settlement. The large estates and the great majority of the smaller holdings were kept in excellent order.

Within Municipal limits the sale of a block of land in Orchard Road was completed and a site for the new gasholder at Kreta Ayer was purchased by the Municipal Commissioners. An area was acquired as a site for a wireless station at Paya Lebar and a small piece of land at Pasir Panjang was acquired for Military purposes.

The debt of Sultan Ali's Estate to the Government was $2,156.01 as against $21,381.58 at the end of 1913 and $38,534.90 at the end of 1912. The revenue collected amounted to $25,103.44. The estate is therefore in a very flourishing condition and during the year it was decided to double the allowances paid to the family of Sultan Hussain.

Other miscellaneous collections brought the total revenue from all sources to $400,167.27.

The expenditure of the office amounted to $24,470.90 as against $21,799.05 in 1913.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	4,542 1 30	4,944 3 02	1,275 0 12	1,374 3 01	813 0 24
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	22,956	206,010	59,242	51,517	494,406
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	100	127	68	91	137
Premia paid ...	$154,506.77	$148,222.79	$69,821.25	$83,734.70	$156,772

PENANG.

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	4,004 1 06	2,764 0 04	2,962 3 38	928 3 05	6,841 0 02
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
	76,423	409,787	9,249	21,792	9,960
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	129	169	79	98	77
Premia paid ...	$16,275.97	$14,310.19	$18,567.75	$31,058.25	$16,289.50

MALACCA.

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,716 0 37	1,789 0 11	6,074 3 27	11,437 3 03	10,379 0 33
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	22,440	43,328	31,762	25,991	3,000
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	266	212	465	552	494
Premia paid ...	$114,553.50	$105,485	$95,631.45	$104,836.53	$85,506.30

THE REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

The number of deeds presented for registration was 3,944 as compared with 4,125 in 1913 and the number of deeds finally registered 4,172, compared with 4,092 in 1913. The chief items were Conveyances and Assignments (1,959), Mortgages (1,080) and Reconveyances (596).

The total amount of fees collected during the year was $17,858.75, compared with $12,717.40 in 1913. This is the highest sum collected in any one year since the land boom in 1903. Many of the deeds presented were of great length and the average fee for registration was considerably higher than that of the previous year. The total also includes some heavy fines for late registrations.

One marked effect of the war on land transactions was that the number of deeds presented for registration decreased by nearly half during the later months of the year.

RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

The number of works purchased during the year was 587 at a cost of $2,155.76, as against 609 at a cost of $1,844.04 in the previous year.

The number of subscribers remains approximately the same as before and was drawn from seventeen distinct nationalities.

In October the Taxidermist, Mr. DE FONTAINE, joined Mr. MOULTON of the Sarawak Museum, in an expedition of exploration into the Kalabit country, Sarawak, and especially the mountain Murud. The expedition was productive chiefly as regards birds, insects and ethnological specimens.

The collection of replicas of the Perak regalia, depleted by burglaries, has been replaced.

In September a large party from the British Association Meeting in Melbourne passed through Singapore and visited the Museum.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 24,859,917 as compared with 27,124,789 in 1913. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1913 and 1914.

NATIONALITY.	1913.					1914.				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
American	1,448	...	...	3,446	4,894	...	...	...	...	...
Austrian	324,902	316,308	...	12,103	653,313	190,900	190,664	...	...	381,564
British	8,556,443	5,978,940	558,438	157,126	15,250,947	8,286,023	5,179,967	523,624	221,566	14,211,180
Chinese	43,838	...	...	...	43,838	42,486	...	...	...	42,486
Danish	163,102	115,966	...	9,504	288,572	172,364	113,254	...	...	285,618
Dutch	2,116,731	460,304	560	16,260	2,593,855	2,073,743	461,071	...	...	2,534,814
French	760,705	...	...	...	760,705	663,404	31,104	...	...	694,508
German	2,043,629	1,131,850	...	221,530	3,397,009	1,410,542	706,094	...	123,974	2,240,610
Italian	69,550	27,642	...	...	97,192	...	...	...	...	...
Japanese	1,881,726	704,999	...	4,218	2,590,943	1,948,654	850,709	277,452	9,902	3,086,717
Norwegian	426,253	31,022	...	15,612	472,887	548,838	74,918	...	29,488	653,244
Russian	450,504	44,750	...	...	495,254	292,014	20,882	...	...	312,896
Sarawak	109,948	...	...	27,160	137,108	101,218	...	...	...	101,218
Siamese	123,356	22,320	...	...	145,676	104,146	...	...	...	104,146
Spanish	119,628	...	...	...	119,628	131,018	...	...	...	131,018
Swedish	63,190	...	...	9,778	72,968	53,800	4,612	...	21,486	79,898
TOTALS ...	17,254,953	8,834,101	558,998	476,737	27,124,789	16,019,150	7,633,275	801,076	406,416	24,859,917

From the above table it will be seen that the following countries show an increased tonnage, entered and cleared, in 1914 as compared with 1913 :—

	Increase.
Japan	495,774
Norway	180,357
Spain	11,390
Sweden	6,930

The following countries show a decrease :—

	Decrease.
Germany	1,156,399
Britain	1,039,767
Austria	271,749
Russia	182,358
Italy	97,192
France	66,197
Holland	59,041
Siam	41,530
Sarawak	35,890
America	4,894
Denmark	2,954
China	1,352

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows :—

In 1910	23,561,229	tons.
1911	24,233,886	„
1912	25,985,526	„
1913	27,124,789	„
1914	24,859,917	„

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 43,796 in number and 1,714,241 in tons in 1913 as compared with 45,739 and 1,951,044, respectively, in 1914.

Ten new steamers with a tonnage of 630 tons gross and 41 sailing vessels of 4,033 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the "Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1910," twenty new sailing vessels of 1,893 tons were licensed under section 425, and 899 vessels of 9,749 tons were under section 426.

LEGISLATION.

During the year 1914 thirty-three Ordinances were passed, fourteen being amending and nineteen principal Ordinances.

Of these three are purely war measures. They deal with the regulation of the press, trading with the enemy, and the compulsory winding up of the business of alien enemies.

Of the remaining principal Ordinances the following are the most important:—

(*a*) The Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance the object of which is to prevent the sale of any food or drug in an impure or adulterated state. It was passed as the result of a report made by the Municipal Analyst after prolonged examination and analysis to the effect that the adulteration of food and drink in Singapore were widely prevalent.

(*b*) The Domestic Servants Ordinance which imposes, subject to limitations, compulsory registration on domestic servants of a different nationality from their employers with a view to checking the use of false testimonials and to enable masters to obtain information as to the character of the persons they employ.

(*c*) The Copyright Ordinance which applies to the Colony the provisions of the Imperial Copyright Act 1911 with regard to importation into a British Possession of copies of works made out of that Possession.

(*d*) The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance which lays down the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorized to be raised by the Government of the Straits Settlements and to provide for the creation of inscribed stock.

(*e*) The Aerial Navigation Ordinance which makes provision for controlling the navigation of aircraft over the Colony.

(*f*) The Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance which consolidates and amends the previous legislation on this subject. The amendments proceed on the lines of recent legislation at home for the suppression of the white slave traffic.

(*g*) The Trustee Ordinance consolidates and amends the law relating to trustees and brings it into practical agreement with the Imperial laws on the subject.

(*h*) The Life Assurance Companies Ordinance which applies the provisions of the Imperial Acts of 1909 and the Indian Act of 1912 to the Life Assurance Companies established in the Colony for the purpose of preventing scandals such as occurred in India a few years ago.

The only amending Ordinances of importance are the Companies Amendment Ordinance which prohibits certain companies from making advances to their own directors or officers except upon trustee securities; and the Labour Contracts Ordinance which marks the end of Chinese contract labour in the Colony.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the eight Government English Schools was $153,658.87, on 34 Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $152,207, and on the 187 Government Vernacular Schools, $114,283.54.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $12,177.19.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show a small increase over the figures for 1913.

The Normal Classes continued their work during the year. One Normal Certificate was issued.

SUPREME COURT, SINGAPORE.

The Court of Appeal sat in Singapore from the 15th to 27th June and from the 23rd November to the 1st December.

The Court fees collected amounted to $36,896.05, as against $31,458.10 in 1913.

There were 56 cases, in which 71 persons were tried, at the Assizes during the year and in 43 of these cases convictions resulted.

Sir WILLIAM HENRY HYNDMAN-JONES, for the last 8 years the honoured and respected Chief Justice, retired, whilst on leave, in July and was succeeded by Mr. Justice BUCKNILL, formerly Attorney-General of Hongkong.

Mr. Justice EARNSHAW, appointed a Puisne Judge of the Straits Settlements in May, reported his arrival on the 4th November.

The war rendered it necessary for the Prize Court to sit during the latter part of the year, there being six Prize causes, but otherwise it had no marked effect on the work of the Court.

POLICE.

The total strength of the force at the end of the year was 2,620, which was distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,208
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	993
Malacca	329
Labuan and Brunei	90

The authorized strength of the force is 2,736.

Recruiting showed a still further improvement during the year amongst the Malays, due no doubt to the reduction of labour staffs on rubber estates.

The wastage from the force is very heavy, and is far from satisfactory. Though not so heavy as last year it amounted to no less than 355 men (of whom 153 were dismissed, 67 deserted and 47 were pensioned). The number of recruits during the year was 389. A man does not become available for police duties until he has left the recruit stage and emerged in the second class constable stage, a process, which according to his intelligence takes from six to twelve months.

Discipline is improving. The weak spot is in the native non-commissioned officers, who with few exceptions cannot keep to the middle path between laxity and undue severity.

The health of the force was good.

CRIME.

In spite of five months of war the criminal statistics are more or less normal, though increases are shown in the more serious offences against property and the person, as indicated in the returns given below. The returns are murder, 41 (22) reports—the figures in brackets denote the corresponding number in the preceding year—gang robbery 34 (31), robbery 123 (164), housebreaking 475 (545), and theft 2,427 (2,315). It must be remembered that these are returns of reports, of which many are later proved, upon investigation by the police, to be mistaken, imaginary, or false.

The total number of arrests effected in the Colony during the year was 19,022, compared with 19,353 in 1913.

One hundred and nine persons, as against 64 in 1913, were tried before the Supreme Court.

Four hundred and sixteen persons were banished during the year. The great majority were habitual criminals.

PRISONS.

The total number of prisoners in the Criminal Prisons was:—

In Prison 1st Jan., 1914.	*Received during 1914.*	*Discharged, etc., during 1914.*	*Remaining 31st Dec., 1914.*
—	—	—	—
913	5,172	5,065	1,020

The daily average was 944 as compared with 901 in 1913. The decline in numbers which has been so noticeable in recent years would no doubt have continued in 1914, but for the general lack of employment owing to the war. Of the sentences inflicted two-thirds were for periods of less than a month; there were only twenty-one long-sentence prisoners classed as "habitual," *i.e.*, with more than two previous convictions of over two months.

The number of prisoners in the Civil Prisons was:—.

1st January, 1914.	*Received during 1914.*	*Discharged, etc., during 1914.*	*Remaining 31st Dec., 1914.*
—	—	—	—
111	5,488	5,411	188

The daily average was 115.

The Prisons in Singapore, Penang and Malacca were used as Houses of Detention for vagrants. Eight hundred and one vagrants were received during the year and 795 discharged, the great majority of whom were repatriated; a common cause of vagrancy was inability to find work.

The health of the prisoners was good. The morphia habit seems, temporarily at any rate, to have bee given up by the lower classes of the Colony. The amount realized by the sale of Prison manufactures was $695.58 and articles worth $34,031.49 were supplied to Government departments. Total expenditure was $225,878.58.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 22,080 and 25,880 respectively. The figures for the preceding year were 19,964 and 25,950.

The estimated population of the Colony was 759,067. It was estimated at 743,010 in 1913, and ascertained in 1911 (the year of the Census) to be 711,951.

The birth-rate has increased from 26·87 to 29·09 per mille.

The death-rate has decreased, having fallen from 46·45 in 1911, 39·01 in 1912, and 34·93 in 1913 to 34·09 per mille in the year under review.

The principal causes of death were malaria (3,548 cases), infantile convulsions (4,707), tuberculosis (2,079), beri-beri (1,482), and dysentery (1,186).

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony during the year caused 36 deaths from small-pox, 282 from cholera and 15 from plague. The corresponding figures in 1913 were 27, 85 and 1.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—CHINESE.

Immigrants arrived from China to the number of 147,150, a decrease of 38·9 per cent as compared with the figure for 1913 and of 45·4 per cent as compared with that for 1911, the highest yet recorded.

Adult males formed 82 per cent and adult females 9 per cent of the immigrants.

Immigration was prohibited at the beginning of August. The prohibition continued to the end of the year.

The following table shows the total number of Chinese Immigrants during the last five years:—

Year.	*Men.*	*Women.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*
1910	184,856	16,395	11,522	3,548	216,321
1911	226,126	22,738	16,033	4,957	269,854
1912	206,018	23,327	16,794	5,505	251,644
1913	197,872	22,847	15,060	5,200	240,979
1914	121,355	13,017	9,710	3,068	147,150

(II).—INDIAN.

The number of immigrants from India during the year was 51,217, falling short of the return for 1913 by 67,366. The large decrease in 1914 is chiefly due to the fact that after 6th August no immigrants from Madras or Negapatam arrived owing to the total suspension of the immigration of deck passengers from these ports.

During the year there was as regards adults an excess of emigrants over immigrants of 12,599 and as regards children an excess of immigrants over emigrants of 743. In 1913 the excess of immigrants over emigrants was 42,892 adults and 5,601 children.

The total number of immigrants that arrived at Penang from Southern India in 1914 was 51,217, as compared with 118,583 in 1913, a decrease of 67,306.

Immigration of deck passengers from Madras and Negapatam was discontinued from the 6th August to the end of the year, but there are indications that in any case the number of immigrants would have been very considerably less than in 1913 owing to a greatly diminished demand for labour on estates.

The figures for arrivals for the last three years are as follows:—

	1912.	*1913.*	*1914.*
Assisted immigrants (*i. e.*, with passages paid for from the Immigration Fund) ...	79,838	91,236	36,905
Other immigrants ...	27,090	27,347	14,312
Total ...	106,928	118,583	51,217

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 63,073, *i. e.*, 60,408 adults and 2,665 children, as against 66,695 adults and 3,395 children in 1913.

The excess of emigrants over immigrants was as regards adults 12,599, while as regards children immigrants exceeded emigrants by 743.

Out of 36 steamers that arrived during the period 1st January to 6th August 16 were actually quarantined on arrival (3 for cholera, 2 for small-pox and 11 for plague observation). Quarantine expenses average $1.38 per head.

The assisted immigrants consisted of 34,247 adults and 2,658 minors. Of the adults 27,991 were men and 6,256 women giving a proportion of approximately 18 per cent of women.

Nine hundred and thirty-seven labourers were recruited through the Government Agency in India, and two thousand one hundred and seventy were independent labourers supplied with free passages on application.

The remaining 31,140 adult assisted immigrants were of a class known as "kangany labourers."

The figures for 1914 actually represent only the first 7 months of the year, for, owing to the temporary stoppage of immigration, the last steamer carrying immigrants arrived on 6th August.

All the Tamil labour now employed throughout the Colony is free.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory, and the death-rate in these districts was not as high as 50 per mille on any place of employment. The health conditions on estates in Malacca were, as usual, not so satisfactory as in the other Settlements.

It is satisfactory to note that no complaints were received during August and September when, owing to special financial circumstances arising from the war, many employers were compelled to make small advances in cash and provisions weekly instead of paying wages in full as they became due.

Tamil schools are maintained on Prye, Batu Kawan and Caledonia Estates. The results of the annual examination conducted by Mr. H. G. R. LEONARD, Deputy Superintendent of Immigrants, proved most satisfactory, each of the schools earning the Government Grant-in-Aid.

Between the 1st January and 6th August 671 decrepit and destitute Indians were repatriated through this department.

The revenue collected by the Immigration Committee during 1914 was $1,226,824.34 and the cash balance at the end of the year was $736,994.55. The balance of assets over liabilities amounted to $893,400. This balance includes an estimated sum of $60,000 due for assessment for the fourth quarter of the year.

(III).—NETHERLANDS INDIAN.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers known to be on estates in the Straits Settlements is 3,885.

The number of labourers on contracts of service, usually known as indentured labourers, remaining at the end of the year was 1,580 of whom 2 were in the Dindings, 144 in Malacca and 1,434 in Province Wellesley.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

Singapore	... ...	85·84 inches.
Labuan	... ...	82·02 ,,
Penang	... ...	89·54 ,,
Province Wellesley	...	117·71 ,,
Malacca	... ...	83·50 ,,
Dindings	... ...	74·27 ,,

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 83·2°. The maximum recorded was 97·5° in Province Wellesley on February 21st (in Singapore 97° on May 13th). The minimum was 67° in Malacca on August 7th.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 8,916,270, an average of 12·48 per inhabitant, as against 12·81 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 6,953,133, as compared with 7,983,199 in 1913. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines decreased from 263,274 to 235,776, and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 645 to 642.

The maximum postage on newspapers published locally and posted within seven days of publication or on publications registered as newspapers in the United Kingdom and posted locally to addresses in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States or Johore was fixed at two cents.

A Sub-Post Office was opened at Sea View Hotel and a Telegraph Office at Orchard Road.

Week-end telegrams were introduced on 1st July, 1914, but the service was discontinued on the outbreak of war.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1914, was $769,115. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $149.98. There was a profit on the year's working of $5,194.70. The estimated present value of the investments is $757,961.

The Savings Bank rule regarding the limitation of deposits was modified to admit of depositors, besides depositing $500 in any year, replacing in whole or in part any one (but not more than one) withdrawal made during the year.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES.

The price of opium varied between $905 and $1,165 per chest.

During the year 2,787 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory, and gave a total yield of 3,702,205 tahils of chandu, a decrease of 883,269 tahils compared with the preceding year 1913. The amount sold in the Colony was 1,402,057.4 tahils, the remainder of the production being for outside States.

No alteration was made in the selling price of chandu during the year.

The revenue on liquor and tobacco (the latter in Labuan only) amounted to $1,611,326.55.

During the year 674 cases were instituted in Singapore for offences against the Chandu and Liquors Ordinances and Deleterious Drugs Ordinances, 199 in Penang, and 48 in Malacca.

Seizures were made of 6,673 tahils of opium, 1,357.7 tahils of chandu, 528,000 grains of cocaine, 100 grains of morphia, 8,906 bundles + 480 tahils of bhang.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The "Municipal Ordinance 1913" effected important changes in the constitution and powers of the Municipal bodies in the Colony. It abolished the elective system, and substituted for it that of appointment by the Governor. It also gave power to the Governor, after a report to, and discussion in, the Legislative Council, to order the Commissioners to carry out any duty, in which they had failed. In addition to what may be described as the ordinary rates, it provided two special rates, one in respect of improvements in insanitary areas, and the other in respect of expenditure upon back-lane schemes. The borrowing powers of the Municipalities have also been revised. As a whole, the Ordinance has greatly improved the law relating to Municipalities.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $5,173,274, and their expenditu excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $5,121,288. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure, and of the debts of the Boards, showing the provision made for repayment, appear below.

REVENUE.

		1910.	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*
		$	$	$	$	$
Singapore	...	2,512,507	2,555,478	3,062,526	3,202,551	3,626,243
Penang	...	1,103,587	1,206,244	1,268,267	1,321,766	1,399,639
Malacca	...	76,853	91,828	112,529	134,207	147,392
TOTAL	...	$3,692,947	3,853,550	4,443,322	4,658,524	5,173,274

EXPENDITURE.

		1910.	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*
		$	$	$	$	$
Singapore	...	2,446,041	2,527,57[illegible]	3,197,526	3,498,277	3,679,944
Penang	...	1,116,307	1,150,6[illegible]	1,255,757	1,306,566	1,295,549
Malacca	...	76,282	90,895	100,247	135,405	145,795
TOTAL	...	$3,638,630	3,769,167	4,553,530	4,940,248	5,121,288

RURAL BOARDS.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	$	c.	$	c.
Singapore Island ...	59,241	00	212,811	00
Penang Island ...	61,540	43	91,239	52
Province Wellesley ...	190,364	43	236,792	59
Dindings	9,298	00	35,378	00
Malacca	225,595	00	354,640	00

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

LAGOON WET DOCK AND MAIN WHARF RECONSTRUCTION. (TANJONG PAGAR.)

During the year, the progress made by the contractors, Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, was very satisfactory and the construction of the entrance walls and dredging of the entrance was sufficiently advanced by the 2nd of June to enable the Dock to be opened for traffic.

Since that date the Dock has been in regular use and no difficulties have been experienced by shipping in entering or leaving the Dock.

The erection of the godowns, the formation of roads and quays and the laying of the railways round the Dock was completed by the end of the year.

Work in connection with the reconstruction of the Main Wharf was commenced in June over a length of 700 feet measured westwards from the Victoria Dock and by the end of the year a length of 200 feet of blockwork wall had been completed, and very good progress had been made with the reinforced-concrete construction.

A total amount of £620,900 has been paid to Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Limited, of which sum £213,200 was paid for work carried out during the year under review.

The following are the principal items of work executed during the year:—

Dredging at entrance of dock	27,300	C. yards.
Dredging for entrance walls ...	9,500	"
Dredging at Main Wharf Reconstruction	55,000	"
Steel and ironwork in Cylinder Wharf	2,427	Tons.
Mass Concrete in Dock Walls & Main Wharf Reconstruction	11,220	C. yards.
Concrete in Blocks made ...	32,300	"
" set ...	15,800	"

The average number of men employed per diem on the works and at the quarries during the year was 1,691.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

During the year good progress was made with the works. They are now nearing completion. The north and south walls have been completed together with their metalled quays. The north and south piers were practically completed but for the provision of the transit sheds that are to be erected thereon. The depositing of granite rubble on the mole stopped in July. When the landing stages and temporary lights at its heads are erected the mole will be complete. The reclamation work is complete, but a small amount of filling material will yet require to be deposited in the work to make good the settlements of the ground due to consolidating of materials already deposited. During the year the dredging proceeded as usual and 183,000 cubic yards were dredged and taken to sea; the dredging is practically finished.

At the end of the year the average number of men employed on both at Singapore and at the quarries at Pulau Ubin was 28 Europeans and 760 Asiatics.

During the year the sum of £129,500 was paid to the contractors. The total cost of the Harbour Works up to the end of the year amounted to £1,545,000.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department under all heads of service was $2,465,511.

It was distributed as follows:—

	$
Singapore	1,048,284
Labuan	17,261
Malacca	568,781
Penang and the Dindings ...	531,757
Province Wellesley	299,426

Among the more important works completed were the:—

	$
New Offices and Supper Room, Government House, at a cost of	89,500
Extension to Government Printing Office at a cost of	64,000
Revetment walls to both sides of Rochore Canal from Kandang Kerbau to Bencoolen Street	91,200
A revetment wall to the Malacca Reclamation	38,000
Additions and alterations to Durian Daun Hospital, Malacca	35,999
New Girls' School and Teachers' Quarters, Northam Road, Penang ...	62,958

The principal works in hand are: in Singapore the erection of 19 quarters for clerks, Kandang Kerbau; lining the banks of Rochore Canal with concrete between Bencoolen Street and Arab Street; and in Penang the construction of the Penang Hills Railway.

The "special" expenditure upon metalling or re-metalling roads amounted to $106,304: 18¾ miles of road were thus treated at an average cost of $5,669 per mile.

The Annually Recurrent Expenditure upon road maintenance was $560,193.

The road system thus maintained comprises 552 miles of metalled road, 65 miles of gravelled road (45 miles in Malacca, and 20 miles in the Dindings) and 752 miles of natural road (of which the greater part lies in Malacca and Province Wellesley).

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The total revenue collected at the District Office in 1914 was $4,283.50. The chief item was $3,523.15 from liquor duty. In 1913 the revenue was $4,222.75. Besides this revenue there is due a sum of $1,500 for rent of the island, and a royalty on phosphate exported.

The expenses paid by the District Office amounted to $14,746.37, compared with $11,408.55 in 1913. The increase is due to the presence of a more highly paid staff.

The imports consisted of machinery, tools, railway material, locomotives and lorries. The value was £15,282-2-4 against £20,127-12-4 in 1913, but the imports of that year were exceptionally valuable.

Ninety-three thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine tons of phosphate of lime were exported, against 150,003 tons in 1913. Germany, Austria and the Scandinavian countries continued to be the chief customers.

The total tonnage entered and cleared at Flying Fish Cove was 96,110 tons, compared with 150,016 tons in 1913.

In spite of the alteration of labourers' contracts in June no scarcity of labour occurred.

During the year the Christmas Island Co. laboured steadily in opening up the island. A railway stretching six miles from Flying Fish Cove has approached within a mile of the Grantswell Lines. The pier begun in 1912 has progressed slowly.

Health in 1914 was on the whole, fair.

The population on 31st December numbered 1,527: on 31st December, 1914, 1,036—made up of 986 men, 33 women and 17 children.

The average temperature was 81·4° F.

GENERAL.

The war affected the prosperity of the Colony less than might have been expected. The revenue for 1914 ($14,016,882) was the highest ever recorded, exceeding the next highest—that of 1912—by $1,104,305. Although this rise was due mainly to greater profits on opium it was accompanied by a decreased consumption of the drug. Moreover, in spite of the prohibition of Chinese and Tamil immigration after the beginning of August the total volume of local produce shipped from our ports remained about the same. Rubber, tin, copra and gambier all showed increases in export.

The year began badly. The failure of the Kwong Yik Bank had injured many small local undertakings and had shaken public confidence in Chinese banking methods; it seemed as though the interests of depositors were being sacrificed to those of borrowers and directors. Naturally depositors became nervous; and the fear of a sudden panic among investors led the Chinese Commercial Bank to discuss its affairs frankly with Government with a view to special assistance should any unexpected crisis threaten it. These discussions were destined to bear fruit later when war

broke out. In the meantime the Companies' Amendment Ordinance was passed to check the abuse of directors' powers; and arrangements were made to strengthen the department of the Official Assignee and Registrar of Public Companies so as to bring it into closer touch with local business enterprise.

In May there was made with the Sultan of Johore an agreement which in peaceful times would have been regarded as the most important event of the year. Under this agreement His Highness accepted the General Adviser as the representative of the British Government and arranged to govern in accordance with that officer's advice. His Highness's aims and wishes were embodied in a letter addressed by him to the Governor and were accepted by the latter in every detail. Throughout its history the modern Sultanate of Johore has been associated so intimately with the Settlement of Singapore that the new agreement cannot fail to be to the advantage of both the contracting parties; in fact it has been followed already by improved relations between the two Governments. When war broke out the Sultan placed himself and his forces unreservedly at the disposal of the Imperial Government and has had the opportunity at a more recent date to prove both the value and sincerity of his co-operation.

In June the Governor proceeded on six months' leave to Europe a period of furlough that was destined to be cut short by the march of events. In His Excellency's absence I administered the Government with Mr. W. C. MAXWELL as Acting Colonial Secretary.

In July the fear of war in Europe began to disturb local business conditions. At the close of the month Mr. W. W. COOK of the Straits Trading Company informed me that owing to the state of the tin market it was doubtful whether his company with its limited working capital would be in a position to finance the mining industry indefinitely should the metal cease to find a ready sale. This warning was of supreme importance because of the large numbers of coolies (some 250,000) dependent on the tin industry for their livelihood. The Federated Malay States Government, though primarily interested, was not in a position to help the industry financially; and it became necessary for the Colonial Government to face the possibility of having to take the place of the Straits Trading and Eastern Smelting Companies as the buyer of Federated Malay States tin.

Of course there were alternative proposals. One, suggested in the press and elsewhere, was the provision by the Public Works Department of relief works for the unemployed mining coolies. This proposal would have helped the coolies but not the industry; and even as a measure of relief it was wasteful and unsatisfactory in that a miner is more likely to be efficient and contented at his own work than at a task to which he is unaccustomed. It was also too costly: money spent on relief works would not renew

itself while money spent on the purchase of tin would be replaced from time to time by the sale of the metal. Another proposal—put forward at a later date by the Selangor Chamber of Commerce—suggested the grant of advances to miners. This alternative would have assisted the wealthier mine-owners, but it would not have enabled the poorer workers to sell their tin outright except to speculators who could have exploited them ruthlessly at a time when money was tight.

In any case it became clear that an industrial crisis accompanied by much unemployment was imminent; and on the 3rd August the introduction of deck passengers from Southern China and the Coromandel Coast was prohibited by an order under the Quarantine Enactment. To relieve the labour market still further free passages to their own homes were offered to all destitute and unemployed coolies who wished to be repatriated.

Early in August Mr. COOK, with Mr. NUTT, M.F.C., called at Government House and reported that the Straits Trading Company was no longer prepared to buy tin on its own account. They were authorized at once to purchase it on Government account.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my personal indebtedness to Mr. W. W. COOK whose advice and assistance were invaluable to me at a very critical time.

On the 5th August a conference was held with the Acting Chief Secretary, the Acting Resident of Selangor, and the unofficial members of the Federal Council at Kuala Lumpur. The arrangement as to the purchase of tin was approved, and assistance was also promised to the rubber industry. While the conference was sitting, news was received of the declaration of war against Germany.

The effect of the outbreak of hostilities was discounted by the state of uncertainty and uneasiness that had previously prevailed—a condition as harmful to trade as war itself could have been. Business remained bad but it was no worse than before. The general public concerned itself for the moment with minor issues such as the sufficiency of our food supplies and the attempts of small tradesmen to force up prices. A few days were enough to allay anxiety and make it clear that siege conditions were not going to prevail in Singapore.

The economic position was more intricate. The following figures will make it plain that there was no actual lack of currency at this time:—

	Currency Notes in Circulation.	*Coin reserve.*	
	$	$	c.
31st December, 1913 ...	43,222,548	23,912,802	71
31st July, 1914 ...	43.834,548	24,524,802	71

But this currency was not circulating freely. The "bazaar" hoarded cash, realizing whatever it could and paying out as little as possible. There was a disastrous run on the Chinese Commercial Bank; and other banks were forced to pursue a cautious policy, making few advances and keeping a strict watch on their cash reserves.

For the first day or two Government had been purchasing tin by means of cheques on its bank balances. It was, however, realized that purchases averaging $100,000 a day could not be continued indefinitely without disturbing banking conditions and making money still tighter. The Currency Commissioners then came forward and bought for $3,155,000 securities from the Federated Malay States Government, paying for them in fresh notes and thus providing the Government with a fund which made it possible to buy tin and to advance money to planters and others without depleting in any way its reserves in the banks. Certain banks also increased the currency in circulation by giving gold for notes. The following figures give the nett result of these transactions:—

	Notes in Circulation.	*Coin reserve.*	
	$	$	c.
31st July, 1914 ...	43,834,548	24,524,802	71
31st August, 1914 ...	48,176,148	25,711,402	71

This increase of the currency relieved the tension of the money market materially and with the increase in confidence brought about a return to normal business conditions at a comparatively early date. At the close of the year the notes in circulation amounted to $48,487,648 and the coin reserve to $26,022,902.71.

Besides the help given to the Federated Malay States Government for the purchase of tin and for advances on rubber the Colonial Government lent $50,000 to assist the planting industry in Malacca, $300,000 to the Chinese Commercial Bank, and $400,000 to another bank. A few small loans to planters are still outstanding; but for this exception the sums lent as above mentioned in the crisis have been repaid in full.

It may now be mentioned that the supply of unissued currency notes of small denominations in the hands of the Commissioners was too limited for war purposes when war broke out. The stock was barely sufficient to meet the more pressing demands for currency. This deficiency (which has since been made good) intensified the strain of the situation for those who had to deal with it. An ampler supply of notes would have given a proper margin of safety and would have allayed all anxiety as to the financial position.

The outbreak of hostilities raised some important issues as to the status and trade of alien enemies residing in the Colony. Trade with Germany itself was of course prohibited at once; but the practice of nations in previous wars had not been such as to justify the immediate internment of enemy subjects and the closing down of enemy firms, with the result that the Colony was for a few days in the anomalous position of a base from which Germans of military age might possibly set out to bear arms against us. On the 7th August a number of enemy reservists attempted to leave Singapore by the s. s. *Rumphius* for the express purpose of joining the garrison at Tsingtau. They were made prisoners of war and were released only on parole. All German subjects were then made to sign undertakings not to take part in certain hostile acts against Great Britain and were subjected to certain restrictions. In justice to them it must be added that their conduct gave very little cause for complaint. There were one or two minor offences against trade rules or against the censorship, but there is no evidence that any German or Austrian prisoner was guilty of serious political crime. The rumours of secret wireless installations set up in the Colony by enemy subjects were mere *canards* unsupported by any evidence.

On the 6th September the Governor returned from leave. The financial position was then somewhat easier, there being a market for tin, but on two subsequent occasions the Government was compelled to assist the mining industry for short periods by purchases of the metal.

Very early in the war the question of providing a Malaya Contingent for service at the front had been taken up by the Military Authorities but it was understood that the system of providing small irregular forces was not well adapted to the needs of a great European war. In September the proposal was modified and it was suggested that passages should be provided by public subscription for men who desired to enlist in the new forces. This new proposal was open to the objection that passages would be given to intending recruits who might be rejected on arrival in England as physically unfit for service in the Army. The Government thereupon telegraphed to England offering to provide the passages if the War Office would consent to open a recruiting office in the Colony. After some delay an arrangement was arrived at under which the risk of rejection was minimized by the holding at Singapore of a medical examination of would-be recruits by officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps. By the end of the year passages had been given to 245 recruits.

The question of inaugurating a relief fund for the sufferers by the war was also discussed in August; but it was decided that the tightness of money and the uncertainty of trade conditions made it expedient to await more settled times. In September matters had improved. On the 5th October a public meeting

was held under the presidency of the Governor for the appointment of a Committee to collect subscriptions for the Prince of Wales' Fund. By the end of the year $192,747 had been collected from the Singapore public, and £10,000 had been voted to the fund by the Government of the Colony. A portion (about 20 per cent) of the Singapore subscriptions were allocated to local relief. The collections for the Prince of Wales' Fund amounted on 31st December, 1914 to $68,483.47 at Penang and $7,985.08 at Malacca.

On the 10th September in the Bay of Bengal the German cruiser *Emden* began its long series of attacks upon British merchant shipping in Eastern waters. It succeeded in destroying a number of vessels but in no case did it sink any trader that had only just left one or other of the ports of the Colony. If, as has been suggested, the cruiser obtained its information of the movements of shipping from newspapers found on captured vessels the strict censorship exercised in the Colony over such details may account for the comparative immunity enjoyed by ships plying continuously in our local waters. The destruction of the *Troilus* after its departure from Colombo with a valuable Singapore cargo was the most serious injury done by the *Emden* to the British Mercantile Marine. On the 28th October the *Emden* made a bold dash into the harbour of Penang and sank the Russian cruiser *Jemtchug* at her moorings and the French destroyer *Mousquet* off Muka Head. This was its last success. On the 9th November a telegram reached Singapore to the effect that the German man-of-war had appeared off the Cocos Islands and was landing a party to destroy the cable-station. Very shortly afterwards a further message was received that an unknown British cruiser had arrived suddenly on the scene and had attacked the *Emden*. After an anxious period of silence and suspense the news came through that H. M. A. S. *Sydney* had driven the enemy's warship ashore on North Keeling Island.

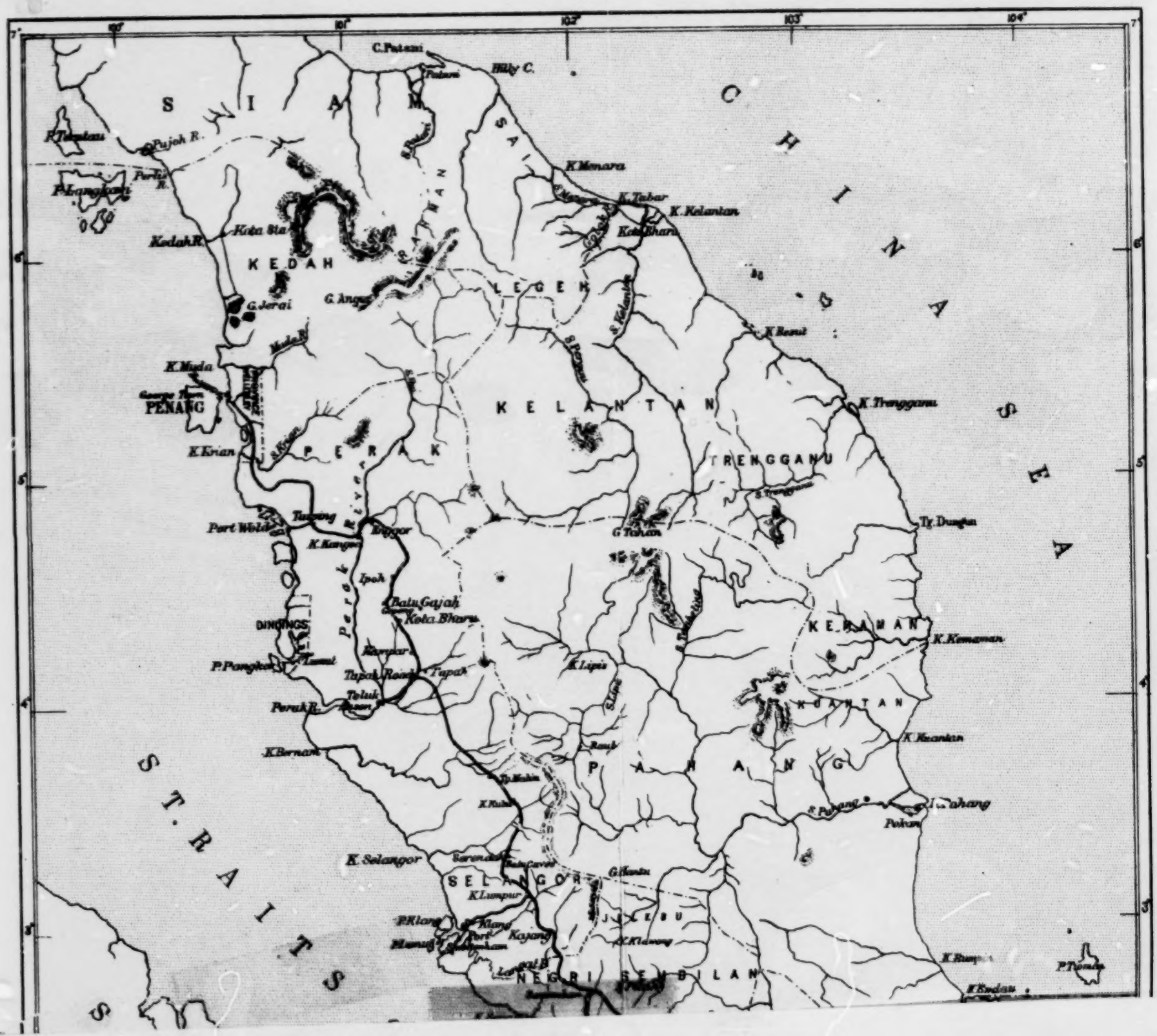
The doings of the *Emden* drew attention to the risk involved in giving almost unlimited freedom to alien enemies living in our ports. It is only fair to the German residents to say that most of them are known to have behaved in an exemplary manner at a very trying time and that there is no evidence whatever that information of the movements of British shipping reached the *Emden* through any breach of their parole. But the business done by German firms with neutral states, which in turn traded with Germany, made it difficult to prevent money and information filtering through from the Colony into enemy countries. The one serious objection to general internment—its being contrary to the usual practice of nations in previous wars—had been removed by the action of the German Government itself which had interned its own enemy subjects and had

shown a repeated disregard for international law and treaties. On the 25th October general instructions were issued for the internment of Germans and Austrians. On the 4th December this action was followed up with a bill for the compulsory winding-up of enemy companies. On the 11th December this bill became law.

The attention of the general public during the closing months of the year has been so focussed on imperial issues that a change of great moment to the Colony has escaped almost unnoticed. For some years past it had been the endeavour of the Straits Settlements Government to arrive at some arrangement for purchasing raw opium at a fixed price direct from the Government of India. Some such system is necessary in the interests of our revenue of which no accurate forecast can be given so long as the price of opium is driven up or down by the intrigues of speculators in India and the success or failure of smuggling into China. True, the Colony had suffered little in actual practice. Estimates have always erred on the side of caution; and the profits on the drug have been guarded against temporary fluctuations of price by the maintenance of large reserve stocks. But the keeping of such reserves means the locking up of capital; and cautious revenue estimates require a similar caution on the expenditure side if the risk of financial trouble is to be avoided. Above all, the system of direct dealings in raw opium between the various Governments concerned (if it became general) would be the surest preventive of smuggling in that it would not allow the raw material to pass into private hands. In October last the desired agreement was arrived at. Opium is now sold direct by India to the Colony to the full extent of its requirements; and the capital locked up in our reserves of the raw product is being made available for other purposes at a time when it is specially needed.

R. J. WILKINSON,
Colonial Secretary.

24th April, 1915.


SIAM
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Perak R.
K.Bernam
K.Selangor
K.Lumpur
Klang
Port Swettenham
Kajang
K.Menara
K.Tabar
K.Kelantan
Kota Bharu
G.Angus
K.Besut
K.Trengganu
Tg.Dungun
G.Tahan
K.Lipis
K.Kemaman
K.Kuantan
Tg.Kuantan
Pekan
Tahang
G.Mantu
K.Klang
K.Rompin
P.Tioman
K.Endau

C. O. No 19.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	"
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	"
841	Leeward Islands	"
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
845	Weihaiwei	"
846	Seychelles	"
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	"
861	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 905.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 862.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1916.

PRINTED IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1915.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1915 amounted to $14,131,691, (exceeding the estimate by $2,330,166), whilst the expenditure was $10,196,560 (which is less than the estimate by $388,136).

In spite of the fact that the year 1914 included five months of war, the revenue of the Colony reached a record figure in that year and it is remarkable that in the second year of war that record was not only maintained but was even exceeded by $114,809. It is worthy of note that the revenue of the Colony has increased by more than fifty per cent since 1910.

The actual figures for 1914 and 1915 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—REVENUE.

	1914.	*1915.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	37,139	3,096	...	(a) 34,043
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	11,312,250	11,463,164	150,914	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	632,973	602,054	...	30,919
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	698,068	681,290	...	16,778
5. Rents of Govt. Property	646,309	768,561	122,252	...
6. Interest	409,079	361,379	...	47,700
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	115,521	118,771	3,250	...
	$13,851,339	13,998,315	276,416	129,440
8. Land Sales	165,543	133,376	...	32,167
TOTAL ...	$14,016,882	14,131,691	276,416	161,607
		Net increase ...	$114,809	

(a) Due to the Government Wharves, Penang, having been placed under the Penang Wharves Committee on 1st July, 1913.

The principal constituents of the head "Licences, etc.," are Opium Revenue, Liquors and Stamp Duties. Revenue from Opium in 1915 showed a decrease of about $31,000 as compared with the previous year, but revenue from liquors increased by more than $114,000, or about 7 per cent.

Stamp duties, though far below the estimated figure, produced approximately $67,000 more than in 1914. Estate duty brought in $372,780 in 1915 as compared with $313,751 in 1914.

Under Rents of Government Property, the increase is mainly accounted for by an increase in land rents of $117,000, for $87,000 of which the Settlement of Malacca is responsible. The increase in the revenue from Government buildings let for profit shows a satisfactory return on extra capital expenditure.

On the other hand war has, as might be expected, adversely affected the revenue from Posts and Telegraphs. The only item included in that revenue which shows an increase over pre-war receipts is "Telephone Exchanges" and it must be remembered that there has been considerable corresponding capital outlay in the recent past. The sale of Postage Stamps has declined by ten per cent as compared with 1913, while the receipts from telegrams show a reduction of twelve per cent in the same period.

Interest on investments produced roughly $74,000 less than in the previous year, but interest on bank accounts showed an increase of some $11,000 and, moreover, owing to the high rate of exchange obtaining in the latter months of the year, the amount credited to profits on exchange on remittances almost reached $40,000.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1914.	*1915.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	—	—	—	—
		$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	...	...	...	...
2. Pensions	488,391	525,860	37,469	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	12,175	10,841	...	1,334
4. The Governor ...	84,757	76,474	...	8,283
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	150,263	176,256	25,993	...
6. Government Printing Office	72,531	66,612	...	5,919
7. Land and District Offices	236,591	236,362	...	229
Carried forward ...	1,044,708	1,092,405	63,462	15,765

B.—EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

	1914.	*1915.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	—	—	—	—
	$	$	$	$
Brought forward ...	1,044,708	1,092,405	63,462	15,765
8. Forests	29,618	30,877	1,259	...
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	74,012	62,968	...	11,044
10. Treasury	99,348	102,600	3,252	...
11. Audit	47,694	56,531	8,837	...
12. Marine	379,017	352,596	...	26,421
13. Legal	371,830	399,132	27,302	...
14. Police	927,873	931,737	3,864	...
15. Prisons	230,357	217,971	...	12,386
16. Medical	250,008	245,775	...	4,233
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	459,972	525,726	65,754	...
18. Veterinary	31,058	27,254	...	3,804
19. Education	286,872	299,453	12,581	...
20. Ecclesiastical ...	18,070	18,920	850	...
21. Transport ...	22,007	12,906	...	9,101
22. Military Expenditure ...	2,320,473	3,021,433	700,960	...
23. Miscellaneous Services ...	863,659	497,137	...	366,522
24. Post Office	672,521	611,593	...	60,928
25. Government Monopolies	357,029	351,874	...	5,155
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	54,779	52,509	...	2,270
27. Public Works Department	327,963	326,344	...	1,619
28. Public Works, Recurrent	254,244	233,213	...	21,031
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	926,077	676,463	...	249,614
War Expenditure ...	131,000	49,143	...	81,857
TOTAL ...	10,180,189	$10,196,560	888,121	871,750
	Net Increase	...	$16,371	

The expenditure upon personal emoluments ($3,779,115) and "other charges" ($1,887,585) shows an increase upon personal emoluments and a decrease under other charges for the preceding year when the figures were $3,733,124 and $2,292,696 respectively.

The most noticeable feature of the above table is the increase in Military Expenditure, this increase was due to the payment of arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the excess of the record revenue of 1914 over the corresponding estimate.

Miscellaneous Services in 1914 included the Colony's contribution of £10,000 to the Prince of Wales' Fund. In 1915, owing to the fact that fewer officers were on leave, the amount spent on Salaries of Acting Officers was $40,000 less than in the previous year, while the decrease in Rural Board expenditure and increase in the corresponding revenue reduced by $152,000 Government contribution to those Boards. Moreover, the amount written off as loss on sale of Securities was $28,000 less than in the previous year.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of special expenditure connected with the war in the two latter years, the Colony's expenditure in 1913 was $7,878,605; in 1914, $7,746,594; and in 1915, $7,207,478; the corresponding expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary being $1,030,586, $926,077 and $676,463, respectively. This is a clear indication of the Colony's policy of economy in war time.

The principal excesses of revenue over the Estimates were in respect of Opium Revenue ($2,014,428), Liquors ($315,880), Interest ($128,293), Premia on Grants ($69,126), and Land Rents ($80,372). The principal excess of expenditure was upon Military Expenditure ($736,936). The principal savings were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $528,772 and Government Monopolies $81,750.

The following comparative statement shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the last six years:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure*
		$	$
1910	...	9,336,328	7,532,242
1911	...	11,409,221	9,085,389
1912	...	12,912,577	9,295,102
1913	...	12,397,747	10,468,618
1914	...	14,016,882	10,180,189
1915	...	14,131,691	10,196,560

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1915, were as follows:—

Liabilities.	$	*Assets.*	$
Deposits	3,428,787	Indian Agency Account ...	965,011
Suspense (Currency Commissioners) ...	1,072,615	Investments	6,499,366
Drafts and Remittances ...	16,691	Advances	204,189
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	20,581,574	Advances, Singapore Harbour Works ...	4,367,227
		Loans:—	
		Municipalities ...	308,840
		Sultan of Trengganu ...	40,000
		Trengganu Govt. ...	22,498
		Kelantan Govt. ...	120,000
		Singapore Harbour Board	1,749,370
		Penang Harbour Board	150,000
		Imprests	15,166
		Loan Account	5,635,076
		Cash in Transit ...	1,970
		Suspense	804,979
		Cash	4,215,975
TOTAL ...	$25,099,667	TOTAL ...	$25,099,667

The excess of the assets of the Colony over its liabilities increased during the year by $3,935,131.

A Department of External Audit was created during the year for the Colony and the Federated Malay States. In the Colony it will audit the accounts of the Municipalities, the Harbour Boards and the Monopolies Department. The Director arrived in March, and began to organize the Department. The only accounts that have so far been taken over by the department are those of the Monopolies Department. A considerable portion of the Director's time has been spent in the Federated Malay States in connection with the audit of the Federated Malay States Railways Department.

MILITARY AND WAR EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1915 on the Volunteers, Reserve Force and Civil Guard amounted to $262,842. Of this, $82,586 was paid from votes on the Estimates and the balance from the War Expenditure Suspense Account.

This expenditure was divided up between the Settlements as follows:—

	Paid from votes on Estimates.	*Paid from Suspense Account.*	*Total.*
	$	$	$
Singapore ...	60,252	114,052	174,304
Penang ...	21,145	56,243	77,388
Malacca ...	1,189	9,961	11,150
Total ...	82,586	180,256	262,842

The total amount expended on services connected with the war, exclusive of the maintenance of the Volunteers, Reserve Force and Civil Guard, was $375,640, giving a total Special War Expenditure of $555,896 in 1915. Special expenditure on war services since the outbreak of war amounted at the end of 1915 to $934,448, the main items included being:—Volunteers $249,034; Examination Service $228,708; Repatriation of Chinese $130,238; Defence Works (Penang) $95,288; Censorship $53,102; and passages of 287 Recruits $42,425. Special War Expenditure to the extent of $180,143 has been debited to votes taken in Legislative Council, the balance, $754,305 at the end of 1915, still remained in the Suspense Account opened at the outbreak of war to deal with special expenditure due to the war.

The amount paid in 1915 for Defence Contribution was $2,938,846 of which $738,381 represented arrears in respect of the actual revenue in 1914. The amount to be paid in 1916 for arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue for 1915 is $454,993.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony is in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907, and its amount on the 31st December, 1915, was £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon the services in respect of which the loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	10,834,286
		66,383,246
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	... ...	3,388,205
Total	...	$69,771,451 *

The charge on account of interest on the public debt was $2,073,000 in 1915. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/4¼ and 2/3 31/32. The latter quotation, however, obtained only for one day in June.

Prior to the end of July the highest quotation was 2/4⅛ and the month of August opened with 2/4 3/32 as the rate. During August quotations rose to 2/4 7/32 at which figure the rate remained almost steady until the middle of November when it again rose to and for the rest of the year remained at 2/4¼.

CURRENCY.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $57,702,348 in currency notes, and $5,736,535 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $182,720.

* Practically all the balance over and above the proceeds of loans already issued has been advanced by the Colony.

From the currency point of view the most remarkable feature of the year was the phenomenal increase of $9,214,700 in the currency note circulation. This increase was almost entirely due to the giving out of the notes in exchange for gold in London during the last five months of the year.

The demand for currency to meet the difference between the value of exports from and imports into the currency area sprang up in August and resulted in the purchase by the Commissioners before the end of the year of telegraphic transfers on London to the extent of £1,030,000. These sterling remittances were all purchased at the pre-war rate of 2/4$\frac{3}{16}$.

The coin reserve held by the commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $33,532,489.57 consisting of £327,250 in gold and $13,270,337.03 in silver in Singapore and £2,036,667-15-11 in gold in London.

The investments held by the commissioners on account of the note guarantee and depreciation funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year $23,080,288.18, the cost price of those investments being $28,063,019.37.

The note guarantee fund at the end of the year was worth $57,685,392.85 (Coin portion $33,532,489.57, Investment portion $23,080,288.18 and on deposit with the government pending investment $1,072,615.10), while the gold standard reserve fund at the same date was worth $1,480,589.43. The total of the funds controlled by the commissioners was, therefore, $59,165,982.28 or $1,463,634.28 in excess of the total note circulation at the end of the year.

The amount of subsidiary silver in circulation on December 31st, 1915, was $5,783,660.15, of which $1,866,295.65 was new and $3,917,364.50 old subsidiary silver. The latter, which is of 800 fineness, is being steadily withdrawn from circulation, the total amount withdrawn to the end of the year being $3,679,448.50, of which $3,624,353.50 has been dealt with and $55,095 remains in the Treasury pending reminting.

The cancellation and destruction of notes is still in a very backward state. No less than 4,091,040 worn-out notes withdrawn from circulation were in the hands of the commissioners at the end of the year awaiting sorting and registration prior to destruction. The number of cancelled notes actually destroyed during the year was 710,510 or 6·2 per cent only of the number in current circulation.

TRADE.

In the trade returns, imports represent goods for consumption and distribution, but exclude goods for transhipment only. Exports do not include Para rubber from the Federated Malay States transhipped in the Colony.

The gross trade of the Colony in 1913, 1914 and 1915 was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	Exports.			*Imports.*		
	1913.	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The United Kingdom	10,745	9,976	8,933	6,176	4,888	4,305
British Possessions and Protectorates, other than the Malay States* ...	6,005	4,839	5,647	13,606	9,783	9,703
The Malay States*	8,112	6,496	6,741	13,292	11,380	14,967
Germany and Austria	2,622	1,820	...	1,165	550	26
European Countries other than Germany and Austria	3,282	2,775	2,758	1,794	1,633	1,383
The United States of America ...	5,285	4,687	11,329	748	589	831
Other Countries	9,324	8,389	11,717	19,156	16,837	19,819
Total ...	45,375	38,981	47,125	55,937	45,660	51,037
Merchandise	43,510	38,032	46,495	53,011	43,856	49,787
Treasure	1,865	949	630	2,926	1,804	1,250
Total ...	45,375	38,981	47,125	55,937	45,660	51,037

The total import values exceed those of 1914 by over 11¾ per cent, but fall below those of 1913 by 8¾ per cent. Export values exceed the figures of 1914 and 1913 by nearly 21 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

TIN AND RUBBER.

It is convenient to deal with these two articles of trade under one heading, rather than to mention them first as imports and again as exports.

The imports of tin in 1915 were *49,527* tons (value *£7,558,321*) from the Malay States*, *6,111* tons (*£938,530*) from the Netherlands Indies, and *11,303* tons (*£1,735,951*) from other countries. The corresponding figures in 1914 were *49,323* tons, *2,950* tons and *9,913* tons.

In 1913, they were *50,169* tons, *2,297* tons and *11,105* tons. Most of this was in the form of tin ore which has been converted at 70 per cent.

The exports of tin in 1915 were *22,724* tons (value *£3,543,369*) to the United Kingdom, *32,286* tons (*£5,009,048*) to the United States of America and *13,778* tons (*£2,134,395*) to

* The Federated Malay States and the Malay States not included in the Federation.

other countries. In 1914 the corresponding figures were *35,506* tons, *19,350* tons and *11,377* tons. They were *35,215* tons, *17,735* tons, and *12,800* tons in 1913.

Rubber imports in 1915 were *23,114* tons (value *£5,253,352*) from the Malay States, *2,198* tons (*£501,298*) from the Netherlands Indies, and *709* tons (*£147,602*) from other countries.

The figures in 1914 were *9,661* tons, *556* tons and *274* tons. They were *4,073* tons, *188* tons, and *189* tons in 1913.

The exports of rubber in 1915 were *12,824* tons (value *£2,824,334*) to the United Kingdom, *21,075* tons (*£5,260,166*) to the United States of America, and *4,383* tons (*£981,479*) to other countries. In 1914, they were *13,376* tons, *4,510* tons, and *2,220* tons. The corresponding figures in 1913 were *7,168* tons, *2,508* tons and *731* tons.

IMPORTS.

The following statement shows in thousands of pounds sterling the usual classification of imports for the last three years:—

	1913.	*1914.*	*1915.*
	£	£	£
A.—Foodstuffs, Live Animals, Drinks and Narcotics ...	20,146	17,763	19,161
B.—Raw Materials ...	21,973	18,243	22,366
C.—Manufactured and partly manufactured goods ...	10,892	7,851	8,260
Total ...	53,011	43,856	49,787

There was a steady demand for imports throughout the year. Deliveries were somewhat slow in the first nine months, after which they kept pace with the sales.

In class *A* (foodstuffs, etc.) there was an increase of 8 per cent in value, and of about 4 per cent in volume. Increased values were principally in sugar, pepper, opium, sago, tapioca, rice and other grains, tea, vegetables and fruits, whilst there was a fall in the provision class, including tinned and bottled goods (including milk, but excepting biscuits), butter, cheese, lard, ghee, and curry-stuffs. In volume, there was an increase in grains (except wheat flour and beans, and peas), opium, spirits, tea and tobacco, and a decrease in wines, malt liquors, sugar, and milk and fish.

In class *B* (raw materials) imports of coal, in which Japan continues to do the bulk of the business, fell off by 30 per cent. Petroleum declined by about 6½ per cent on a total import of nearly eight million gallons. Lubricating oil increased. Tin ore increased by 5 per cent in quantity and 6 per cent in value. Remarks relating to gums, oil and produce will be found under "Exports".

In class *C* (manufactured and partly manufactured goods), textiles showed an increase in value in silk piece goods, sarongs, sewing thread, plain yarn and jute gunnies, but declined in apparel, hosiery, millinery and general drapery, dyed and printed cottons, dyed and mercerised yarns, blankets, and woollen goods generally.

Metals manufactured fell off in value in machinery, motor cars and accessories, ironware and tools and instruments, but increased in zincware (mostly old match box cases returned to Japan), nails, corrugated iron, tin-plates, and telegraph and telephone material.

In the miscellaneous sub-head of class *C*, (comprising goods other than textiles or metals), an increased value of over 16 per cent is shown. Rubber goods (chiefly tyres) were imported to the value of £277,000, (an advance of over 40 per cent), and were the most important increase in this sub-head.

Matches, joss-sticks and joss-paper, paper and stationery, soap, woodenware (mostly for rubber chests), chemicals and acids, and perfumery increased, whilst there were declines in the values of cabinetware, fireworks, lamps and lampware, boots and shoes, and musical instruments.

EXPORTS.

Exports in their usual classification, are shown, in thousands of pounds sterling, and were as follows in the last three years:—

	1913.	*1914.*	*1915.*
	£	£	£
A.—Foodstuffs, Live Animals, Drinks and Narcotics ...	15,506	13,724	15,717
B.—Raw Materials ...	23,199	20,169	25,117
C.—Manufactured and partly manufactured goods ...	4,805	4,139	5,661
Total ...	43,510	38,032	46,495

The export volume of produce (excluding tin and rubber which have been mentioned already) was well maintained during the year. In prices, the level was fairly satisfactory, though below that of the two preceding years.

In class *A* (foodstuffs etc.), export values rose in nearly every article, and was especially marked in rice and grains, pepper, sugar, sago, tapioca, areca-nuts, wheat flour, pineapples, coffee, milk, onions and garlic, and fresh and salted provisions. There were declines in opium and lard. The value of the total export of all spices increased by a third of a million sterling.

In class *B* (raw materials) which includes non-edible produce, oils and metals, there was a heavy fall in copra, amounting to nearly a million sterling in value, and 38,000 tons in volume. There were decreases also in gutta-percha, phosphates of lime (from Christmas Island) and gum copal. The increases were principally in gambier, rattans, hides, coconut oil, chemicals, manure and petroleum.

In class *C* (manufactured and partly manufactured goods) there was an increase of 40 per cent in textiles and in metals, and of 26 per cent in miscellaneous goods. The sub-head of textiles shows increases both in value and in volume in sarongs and piece-goods, jute gunnies, hats and caps, yarns and silk piece-goods.

Manufactured metals advanced in zincware, machinery, nails, hardware, ironware, iron bar and corrugated and tin plates, but fell off in motor cars and accessories.

In the third sub-head (miscellaneous goods) there were increases in India rubber goods (including tyres), matches, joss-sticks and joss-paper, tanned hides, chemicals, crockery and earthenware, paper, soap and woodenware. The only decline was in cabinetware—principally bentwood, which formerly came from Austria.

Trade by Countries.

It is as well known, as indeed it is obvious, that in trade returns the general rule is that the port of shipment is taken as denoting the country of origin. The fact is always prominently stated in the prefatory note to the Annual Trade Returns. Nevertheless it is occasionally forgotten. German goods shipped for instance—in past years—from Antwerp, Amsterdam and Genoa have (as a rule) been credited to Belgium, Holland and Italy. Similarly if they came from a British port, they have been termed British imports. Logically, therefore, the returns should only purport to show our shipping trade with the ports of various countries. "Origin" and "ultimate destination", terms with which the war restrictions upon trade have made us all familiar, should be a matter for separate returns. But a compromise has

been effected, and is somewhat misleading: it is that when the country of origin is known, it is credited with the import. But to this variation from the general rule there is in its turn an exception. Switzerland has no place in the books of the Registrar of Imports and Exports, for to show in his returns the comparatively few instances where the Swiss origin of a consignment is known would be to give a wholly false idea of the extent of Swiss trade. By analogy, from the reason for excluding Swiss returns one may see how wrong an impression of the volume of German trade is gained by a perusal of German imports, even with the modification or compromise indicated above.

The figures may be taken as showing accurately the trade of this Colony with the Continent of Europe *as a whole*, but as wanting in accuracy in respect of the trade with the separate countries of the Continent.

The export and import trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom has been shown in tabular form above. Merchandise imported from the United Kingdom decreased by 7·8 per cent. The more distinctive declines are in import values of cotton piece goods and sarongs, machinery, coal, cycles, motor cars and accessories, cigars and cigarettes, tobacco, hardware and ironware, boots and shoes, cement, tramway and railway material, silk piece-goods, yarns and woollen cloth. There were increases in soap and soda, rubber goods including tyres, tar and corrugated iron, tinned and bottled provisions (especially milk), paints, telegraph and telephone materials, malt liquors and cotton handkerchiefs.

In exports, there was a fall in the value of copra of nearly *£232,000*. There were advances in sago, tapioca, gambier, pines, illipi nuts, rattans, coconut oil and wolfram.

Of this Colony's trade with other Colonies the only feature worthy of remark is the decrease in import values (principally in wheat flour, coal and tin ore) from Australia to the extent of nearly half a million sterling.

The value of the trade in merchandise with the Continent of Europe is shown in detail below in thousands of pounds sterling.

	Exports.			*Imports.*		
	1913.	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1913.*	*1914,*	*1915.*
France ...	1,498	1,150	1,738	293	451	342
Belgium ...	158	359	...	407	218	2
Denmark ...	416	397	492	75	47	78
Holland ...	98	109	15	363	300	323
Italy ...	389	319	448	569	488	479
Norway ...	1	1	3	18	76	116
Sweden ...	58	29	...	19	12	28
Spain ...	65	93	62	25	9	14
Russia ...	598	318	1,188	5	10	4
Germany ...	2,101	1,590	...	878	415	29
Austria ...	521	230	...	279	128	...
Other Countries ...	1	...	...	...	2	...

Increases are shown in imports of beer, ale and matches from Denmark; paper and stationery, perfumery and brandy from France; rubber tyres, paper and stationery from Italy; beer and ale, milk, butter and cheese and hardware from the Netherlands; matches from Sweden; and milk from Norway. The principal decreases were in milk from Switzerland; rubber tyres from France; and cottons and sarongs, hats and caps, and milk from Italy. On the whole, imports from the Continent fell off by 34 per cent in value.

Exports to the Continent decreased by 15 per cent. Copra to Denmark increased by nearly 80 per cent in value, and to France by 127 per cent. France shows increases in tin, wolfram, gambier, sago, pepper, hides and illipi nuts. Italy's increases are in tin, sago, pepper and rubber. Russia took £620,000 worth of tin, and £400,000 worth of rubber more than in last year. Spain took more tin, but less copra.

The Colony's trade with the United States of America has been shown in the table above. Our imports increased by over 45 per cent in value, and were principally under the headings of cigars and cigarettes, iron nails, paper and stationery, hardware and ironware, tools, steel, tramway and railway materials, tin plates, and tin ore (from the Pacific coast).

Exports show the unprecedented rise of 125 per cent over 1914. This was almost entirely under the headings of tin and rubber, but pepper, rattans, and gambier also show increases.

The trade with Japan shows increased imports of 23 per cent, and exports of 73 per cent. There are advances in rubber tyres, matches, wheat flour, woodenware, cement, chemicals and hosiery—coal and fish show decreases. The principal increases in the exports are in rubber, opium, tin, zincware, and shells.

ENEMY PROPERTY AND ENEMY FIRMS.

Under the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, (No. IV of 1915), the Treasurer of the Colony for the time being was appointed Custodian of Enemy property by a *Gazette* notification of the 11th June, 1915. Advertisements in all the newspapers published in the Colony called the attention of the public to the provisions of the Ordinance which require persons holding or managing property on behalf of enemies to notify the Custodian of the fact. Returns of enemy shareholders were also required from, and made by, all companies incorporated in the Colony, or having transfer or share registration offices in the Colony. Dividends and interest payable, but for the state of war, to an enemy have been paid to the Custodian. The amount so paid up to the end of the year, together with the proceeds of property vested by the Court in the

stodian with power of sale, was $187,349, of which $89,400 s invested in securities approved by the Governor. In addition this sum, $113,585 was voluntarily handed over to the Cus- ian for safe custody, pending vesting orders, by persons ebted to enemies. Five applications were made to the Court the Custodian for vesting orders in respect of enemy property, l one application was made by a partner of enemies for a ting order in respect of partnership property. In all six cases orders were made by the Court.

Only one liquidator was appointed in 1914 under the pro- ons of the Alien Enemies (Winding-up) Ordinance 1914 (XXIX 1914). During 1915, ten alien enemy businesses with head ces in Singapore, and three with head offices in Penang, had iidators appointed to wind them up. In no case was the iidation completed by the end of the year.

BANKRUPTCY.

There were 59 trade bankruptcies during the year. A tain number of insolvents made arrangements with their ditors, and of these arrangements seven were registered.

A feature of the year was the failure of Madrasi dealers, ounting for six bankruptcies in the last half of the year and out of the seven registered deeds of arrangement. The inese bankruptcies were, on the whole, unimportant.

AGRICULTURE.

Rubber.—At the beginning of the year the price of plantation ber was 2/3 per pound. It reached its highest point, 3/11, at end of the year. Shipowners took advantage of these prices aise the freight to Europe from 78/- per 50 cubic feet to /6. The profit that still, however, remains to the planter has n such as to create a demand for land that is straining the ources of the land officers. It is very noticeable too how ch better the estates are maintained and clean-weeded than in past, and how the importance of thinning out of trees is oming realized.

The insistence of the war demand has helped "Plantation bber" in its rivalry with "Fine Hard Para." Manufacturers e been compelled to lay aside their aversion to trying lantation" and appear to be satisfied with the result of their l. At the beginning of 1915 "Fine Hard Para" stood, as it done persistently for the preceding eighteen months, at a siderable premium above "Plantation." Early in the year two rivals drew level, and now plantation is leading—though lead is small.

The establishment of a rubber market in Singapore and Penang has also helped plantation rubber. Large forward contracts between rubber estates and rubber manufacturers are now common, and in these days when standardization is still far distant are satisfactory to both parties as the buyer knows the seller's standard.

The direct sales of rubber to America have increased from 2,508 tons in 1913, to 4,510 tons in 1914, and 21,075 tons in 1915.

The total exports from the Colony amounted to 38,283 tons, of which 12,824 tons went to the United Kingdom, 1,998 tons to European countries, 1,230 tons to Japan, and 21,075 tons to the United States of America. Most of this, of course, is rubber imported from the Malay States and Netherlands Indies. Unfortunately there is no record of the amount of rubber actually obtained from the estates in the Colony.

Rice.—The Malay is giving up the hereditary cultivation of his race. It is sad, but with rubber and coconuts showing their present profits, it cannot be helped. From rice, a Malay might expect, if the season did not fail, to make with, the united labour of his wife and family, a bare livelihood: a small rubber plantation yields him enough to make him a comparatively rich man; and instead of the dried fish and the cloth garment that were all that he could afford as a rice-grower, he eats imported rice and dresses himself and his family in silks. Such of the rice-fields as are not cultivated are lying fallow, and cultivation can be resumed when desired.

Coconuts.—Copra at the beginning of the year stood at $8.90 (sundried): the maximum and minimum prices during the year were $12.50 and $7.00; and at the end of the year the price was $10.75. The freight to Europe rose from 39/- per 12 cwt. to 100/-. The exports for the year were 77,381 tons, mostly to France and Denmark.

The oilmills in Singapore and Penang only supply the demands of the local markets, and little, if any, of their oil goes to Europe.

General.—Nutmegs are going out steadily: cloves more slowly. The fruit crop of 1915 was good in the north, but in Singapore not uniformly good. Areca-nuts have done well. Pineapples in Singapore have been abundant, the prices delivered at the Canneries falling as low as $8 per 1,000.

Pests.—Parties of men were engaged throughout the year in Malacca upon locust-destruction, at a cost of $9,317—as compared with $4,081 in 1914.

It is believed that the measures taken have decreased their numbers considerably. The damage done by them to crops (rice and coconuts) has been very small. No other pest of cultivation has been unusually prevalent.

FORESTS.

Particulars of the areas of reserved forests in the different parts of the Colony are shown in the following table:—

Locality.	*Area of locality. (Sq. miles).*	*Area of Reserved Forests. (Sq. miles).*	*Proportion.*
Singapore ...	206	19·5	9·5
Penang Island ...	107	18·0	16·8
Province Wellesley ...	288	5·6	1·9
Dindings ...	265	36·4	13·7
Malacca ...	720	72·2	10·7
	1,586	151·7	9·5

A new area of 680 acres known as the Gunong Tunggal Reserve was finally gazetted during the year. Proposed reserves of 3,830 acres in the Dindings were notified in the *Gazette*.

The total revenue of the department was $16,718 against an estimate of $20,900, whilst its expenditure was $31,126. The Conservator of Forests considers that the department should pay its way when the Dindings and Malacca forests are developed. Preservation of timber is, of course, more important than forest revenue.

Reports from Malacca show that it was an exceptionally good seed year, especially amongst the dipterocarps.

Forty-four cases were taken into Court. Fines amounted to $439 and awards for compensation for damage to forest property to $464. Eleven cases were compounded. There was no change in the Forest Laws.

LAND.

The revenue for 1915 amounted to $903,745 and was thus distributed:—

——	Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore	147,346	9,472	46,416	203,234
Penang	174,998	19,440	22,136	216,574
Malacca	388,049	19,987	69,964	478,000
Labuan	5,177	500	260	5,937
Total ...	717,570	49,399	138,776	903,745

SINGAPORE.

In Singapore, there was an increase of nearly $12,000 under land rents. Fifty applications were received for Crown Lands. The development of the South-west end of the island continues, and two hundred acres in the Mukim of Pengkang were sold at auction at an average price of over $30 per acre. In Pandan and Ulu Kalang Mukims, respectively, Crown Land was sold at $82, and $147, per acre. Applications for land amounting to 1,400 acres in Chua Chu Kang and Bajau were under consideration at the end of the year. The maps of Mukims VII and XV, prepared under the Boundaries Ordinance 1884, were published. The expenditure of the department was $23,444.

PENANG.

Land revenue increased by $38,479.

There were 10 applications for Crown Land in Penang, 28 in Balik Pulau, 97 in Province Wellesley and 221 in the Dindings. Sixty-seven Statutory Grants were registered in Penang, 134 in Province Wellesley and 13 in the Dindings.

MALACCA.

Receipts on account of rents on Grants and Leases and assessment under the Malacca Lands Ordinance amounted to $350,000—exceeding the figure for the previous year by nearly $70,000 and the estimate by $20,000. Expenditure totalled $20,200.

Owing to the fact that many holdings reached the tapping stage, the number of applications for licences to store rubber during the year greatly increased.

The average premium paid for land was 21 an acre. One piece of land at Bukit Lintang was bought for $110 per acre.

In the Central District 144 applications for Crown Land were received: in Alor Gajah 2,289 and in Jasin 1,308. The rise in the price of rubber caused quite a boom in land. In 1914 only 310 applications were received in Alor Gajah.

Customary holdings changed hands freely, 1,445 transfers under the Malacca Lands Transfer Ordinance being registered. During the year 19,341 acres of land under Grant tenure and 1,039 acres under Customary tenure were alienated. One thousand one hundred and eighty-one Statutory Grants and 2,300 Mukim Register Extracts were issued.

A greater number than usual of Conveyances, Mortgages and Reconveyances were registered under the Indian Act of 1839, the numbers being 271, 215 and 60 respectively.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1911.	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	4,944 3 02	1,275 0 12	1,374 3 01	813 0 24	1,772 0 38
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	206,010	59,242	51,517	494,406	254,231
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	127	68	91	137	62
Premia paid ...	$148,222	$69,821	$83,734	$156,772	$90,119

PENANG.

	1911.	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,764 0 04	2,962 3 38	928 3 05	6,841 0 02	2,819 0 13
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	409,787	9,249	21,792	9,960	117,311
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	169	79	98	77	179
Premia paid ...	$14,310	$18,567	$31,058	$16,289	$19,610

MALACCA.

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,789 0 11	6,074 3 27	11,427 3 03	10,379 0 33	19,341 0 01
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	43,328	31,762	25,991	3,000	17,628
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	212	465	552	494	537 & 1 Mining Lease
Premia paid ...	$105,485	$95,631	$104,836	$85,506	$133,108

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

The number of deeds presented for registration in Singapore and Penang was 9,975 as compared with 10,187 in 1914, and the number of deeds finally registered, 9,793, as against 10,318 in 1914. Conveyances and Assignments accounted for 3,905, Mortgages for 2,740, and Reconveyances for 1,892. Revenue amounted to $30,709. The number of deeds presented for registration in Singapore decreased by nearly one quarter, as compared with those presented during the previous year. The Registration of Deeds Ordinance 1886 is not in force in the Settlement of Malacca.

RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

Museum.—A vast collection of insects and moths was added to the Museum as the result of a visit of three weeks by the Director to Bukit Kutu (Selangor). The exhibition of a 500 candle power lamp at night was most successful in attracting them. A visit to the islands off the coast of Pahang produced a fine collection of sea-terns. The results of an expedition to Kedah were disappointing: the heights of Kedah Peak (Gunong Jerai) are poor in bird-life, and the caves of Elephant Hill (Gunong Keriang) contain little animal-life except bats.

In the Museum itself much work was done in adding to the collection of stuffed fish. The Reverend G. DEXTER ALLEN continued his work on his reference collection of beetles, and the Director's time was chiefly taken up with his monograph of the Malayan blattidæ.

Library.—The Committee purchased 550 new books at a cost of $2,604. The number of first class subscribers decreased, the second class remained stationary, whilst the third class increased.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 20,896,952 as compared with 24,859,917 in 1914. Particulars are given in the appended comparative table.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1914 and 1915.

NATIONALITY.	1914.					1915.					Increase in 1915 as compared with 1914.	Decrease in 1915 as compared with 1914.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	...	...	...	...	...	77,185	3,428	...	...	80,613	80,613	...
Austrian ...	190,900	190,664	...	...	381,564	...	...	...	...	...	...	381,564
British ...	8,286,023	5,179,967	523,624	221,566	14,211,180	6,831,656	4,136,801	510,276	252,462	11,731,195	...	2,479,985
Chinese ...	42,486	...	...	...	42,486	130,178	...	...	...	130,178	87,692	...
Danish ...	172,364	113,254	...	...	285,618	141,068	99,416	...	...	240,484	...	45,134
Dutch ...	2,073,743	461,071	...	...	2,534,814	2,370,605	422,677	...	5,132	2,798,414	263,600	...
French ...	663,404	31,104	...	...	694,508	650,480	11,306	...	...	661,786	...	32,722
German ...	1,410,542	706,094	...	123,974	2,240,610	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,240,610
Japanese ...	1,948,654	850,709	277,452	9,902	3,086,717	2,474,834	835,542	448,570	63,192	3,822,138	735,421	...
Norwegian ...	548,838	74,918	...	29,488	653,244	635,382	119,486	...	...	754,868	101,624	...
Russian ...	292,014	20,882	...	...	312,896	249,584	...	...	...	249,584	...	63,312
Sarawak ...	101,218	...	...	...	101,218	109,218	...	...	43,960	153,178	51,960	...
Siamese ...	104,146	...	...	...	104,146	89,178	...	2,338	...	91,516	...	12,630
Spanish ...	131,018	...	...	...	131,018	131,258	...	...	...	131,258	240	...
Swedish ...	53,800	4,612	...	21,486	79,898	47,346	4,394	...	...	51,740	...	28,158
TOTALS ...	16,019,150	7,633,275	801,076	406,416	24,859,917	13,937,972	5,633,050	961,184	364,746	20,896,952	1,321,150	5,284,115
										Net decrease ...		3,962,965

It is somewhat startling to find that the reduction in British tonnage exceeds that in German tonnage. Whilst, however, the British figures show a decrease of 21 per cent, the German figures of course show a fall to zero.

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1911	...	...	24,233,886	tons.
1912	...	...	25,985,526	„
1913	...	...	27,124,789	„
1914	...	...	24,859,917	„
1915	...	...	20,896,952	„

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 48,533 in number and 2,219,430 in tons in 1915 as compared with 45,739 and 1,951,044, respectively, in 1914.

Four new steamers with a tonnage of 1,149 tons gross and 9 sailing vessels of 825 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the "Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1910," twelve new sailing vessels of 1,528 tons were licensed under section 425, and 725 vessels of 9,270 tons were registered under section 426.

LEGISLATION.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1915 are 31 in number exclusive of two Supply Ordinances.

Those which owe their origin to the war are no less than twelve, namely:—

(i) The Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, the primary object of which is to provide for the appointment of a Custodian, to whom moneys due to enemies must be paid and in whom property belonging to enemies may be vested;

(ii) The Trading with the Enemy (Further Amendment) Ordinance 1915, which puts all subjects of any State at war with His Majesty wherever interned or wherever residing or carrying on business in the same category as persons residing or carrying on business in such State, so far as the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, relating to the payment of moneys to, and the vesting of property in, the Custodian are concerned.

(iii) The Trading with the Enemy Amendment Ordinance (No. 3) 1915, extending the range of payments, which are required under the Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Ordinance 1915 to be made to the Custodian of enemy property, and of property the holding of which must be notified to him;

(iv) & (v) The Alien Enemies Winding-up (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, and the Alien Enemies Winding-up (Further Amendment) Ordinance 1915, which make such amendments as the working of the principal Ordinance had disclosed to be expedient;

(vi) The Seditious Publications (Prohibition) Ordinance 1915, which prohibits the publication and importation of seditious newspapers, books and documents;

(vii) The Reserve Force and Civil Guard Ordinance 1915, which provides for the registration of certain British subjects resident in the Colony, and empowers the Governor to establish a Reserve Force to the Volunteer Force, to call out men to undergo military training, and to establish a Civil Guard;

(viii) The Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, the object of which is to prevent the arrangements for censoring postal correspondence being defeated by passengers to or from the Colony smuggling letters either on their persons or in their baggage;

(ix) The Invention (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, which empowers the Governor in Council to cancel or suspend any patent to which the subject of an enemy State, or any person residing or carrying on business in any such State, or any company controlled by or mainly carried on for the benefit of the subjects of such State, is entitled, or to grant a licence to any person other than the person so entitled to exercise such patent rights;

(x) & (xi) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, and the Arms and Explosives (Further Amendment) Ordinance 1915, which extend the provisions of the principal Ordinance to all articles of every description, and give power to prohibit the exportation of any article to any person other than the authorized consignee.

(xii) The Registrar of Imports and Exports (War Powers) Ordinance 1915, which is based on the Customs (War Powers) Acts 1915, (5 Geo. V. c. 51 and 5 and 6 Geo. V. c. 71).

There were six consolidating Ordinances, namely:—

(i) The Currency Ordinance 1915, which abolishes the Note Guarantee Fund, the Depreciation Fund and the Gold Standard Reserve, and substitutes therefor one Fund to be known as the Currency Guarantee Fund;

(ii) The Registration of Deeds Ordinance 1915, the chief amendment made by which is that all instruments must be provisionally registered and that the conditions precedent to complete and permanent registration must be performed within six months;

(iii) The Banishment Ordinance 1915, extending the provisions of the repealed and consolidated Ordinances II of 1896 and II of 1899, which applied to banishees from the State of Johore and the Protected Malay States, to banishees from all British Possessions, all States in the Malayan Peninsula and all British Protectorates;

(iv) The Imperial Light Dues Ordinance 1915, which makes no amendments of any importance;

(v) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance 1915, which introduces important amendments to the repealed law relating to vaccination, makes provision for preventing the introduction into the Colony of infectious disease by road or rail, and gives power to the Governor in Council to make rules prescribing the measures to be taken to prevent the transmission from the Colony of plague, cholera, small-pox and yellow fever;

(vi) The Companies Ordinance 1915, which embodies the provisions of the Imperial Companies (Consolidation) Act 1908 and Companies Act 1913 (8 Edw. VII c. 69 and 3 and 4 Geo. V. c. 25).

Four Ordinances dealt with subjects that had not previously been the subject of local legislation, namely:—

(i) The Public Trustees Ordinance 1915, based on the Imperial Act 1906 (6 Edw. VII c. 55) and the New Zealand Public Trust Office (Consolidation) Act 1908, which is designed to meet the increasing difficulty of finding suitable persons to act as trustees and to safeguard beneficiaries against fraudulent misappropriation by trustees;

(ii) The Libel Ordinance 1915, the main object of which is to extend protection to newspaper reports of the proceedings of public meetings and of various public bodies;

(iii) The Midwives Ordinance 1915, which provides for the training of midwives;

(iv) The Voluntary Conveyances Ordinance 1915, which provides that no purchase for value made after the 8th October, 1915, shall defeat a prior voluntary conveyance of the same lands, if, in fact, such voluntary conveyance had been made *bonâ fide* and without fraudulent intent;

The remaining seven are amending Ordinances. The most important is the Courts (Amendment) Ordinance 1915, which provides for the Sultan of Johore appointing with the approval of the Governor, all or any of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the Colony to perform the duties of Judges of the Court of Appeal of Johore.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the eight Government English Schools was $164,642, on the 37 Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $159,696, and on the 187 Government Vernacular Schools $113,755.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $14,521.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show a small increase over the figures for 1914. The Normal Classes continued their work during the year, and 25 Normal Certificates were issued.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Court of Appeal commenced sittings in Singapore on July 27th and November 22nd, and in Penang on February 23rd and August 17th, and disposed of 56 Appeals.

The revenue of the Supreme Court amounted to $54,499.

One thousand three hundred and eighty-one civil suits were instituted, and 108 criminal cases were tried. These numbers are about the average.

There were 91 criminal and 46 civil appeals from Magistrates' decisions.

Mr. Justice WOODWARD acted as Chief Justice until the 30th June, when Sir J. A. S. BUCKNILL resumed the duties of his office on return from leave.

Mr. Justice R. C. EDMONDS was appointed a Puisne Judge of the Straits Settlements and presided at the third and fourth Assizes at Malacca. His Honour's appointment is shared with the Federated Malay States and Johore, and his Headquarters are at Seremban.

Mr. Justice SERCOMBE SMITH, Senior Puisne Judge, retired after 33 years' service in Hongkong and Malaya.

POLICE.

The total strength of the force at the end of the year was 2,696, which was distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,249
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	1,031
Malacca	327
Labuan and Brunei	89

The authorized strength of the force is 2,750.

Except in the European ranks there was no difficulty in recruiting as many men [Malays, Indians, and Chinese] as were required.

The wastage from the force is very heavy, and is far from satisfactory. It amounted to no less than 392 men (of whom 139 were dismissed, 47 deserted, 120 resigned and 45 were pensioned). The number of recruits during the year was 350. It takes from six to twelve months to make a recruit available for duty.

Discipline continues to improve, and the number of offences against police discipline showed a further considerable reduction.

The health of the force was good, Malaria being the chief cause of disability.

CRIME.

The statistics of crime show a satisfactory diminution. Decreases are shown in the more serious offences against property and the person, as indicated in the returns given below. The returns are, murder, 43 (43) reports—the figures in brackets denote the corresponding number in the preceding year—gang robbery 26 (62), robbery 163 (212), house-breaking 412 (526), and theft 2,273 (2,669). It must be remembered that these are returns of reports, of which many are later proved, upon investigation by the police, to be mistaken, imaginary, or false.

The total number of arrests effected in the Colony during the year was 17,444, compared with 19,309 in 1914.

Ninety persons, as against 190 in 1914, were tried before the Supreme Court.

Three hundred and seventy-one persons were banished during the year. The great majority were habitual criminals.

PRISONS.

Criminal Prisons.—At the beginning of the year, there were 1,025 prisoners in the four Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Labuan); 4,540 were admitted and 4,618 discharged during the year; and 947 remained at the end of the year. In these figures are included a number of military prisoners who served a portion of sentences inflicted in connection with the Mutiny, and 41 men sent down to Singapore from Kelantan for complicity in the disturbances of May, 1915, in that State. If these two classes are excluded, the daily average for the whole of the Colony is 909. In 1914 it was 944, and in 1915 it was 1,417.

There were only 26 prisoners of the "habitual" class in prison at the end of the year. They were either British subjects who could not be banished, or men under sentence for unlawful return from banishment.

Prison offences showed an average of 2·2 per annum per convict as against 2·7 in the preceding year.

There is a marked falling off in Singapore in the number of "Middle-Grade" convicts—the men available for industrial labour—(the figures being 206 in 1915, 231 in 1914, and 263 in 1913)—with the result that the work done by the convicts for various Government departments is nearly enough to keep the men fully employed, and that, in consequence, advertisements of the prison industries are withdrawn. The "Upper-Grade" men (71 in number) are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc.; the "Lower-Grade" men at stone-breaking; and the "Short Sentence" and "Revenue Grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue-duties.

During the year 372 persons were banished from the Colony, and 603 banishees from the Federated Malay States passed through the Colony. It is to the purging of the Colony from this class of offender that the reduction in the number of convicts must be ascribed.

There were nine executions (three in Singapore, four in Penang, and two in Malacca) in execution of the sentences of the Supreme Court. Forty-two men were shot by order of Court-Martial for Mutiny, one was hanged for murder and one (a civilian) was hanged for treason.

Civil Prisons.—There were 187 men in the Civil Prisons of the Colony at the beginning of the year: 4,867 were admitted and 4,973 discharged during the year; and there remained 81 at its end.

Houses of Detention.—In these buildings, which are part of the Civil Prisons, there were 33 men at the beginning of the year and 21 at its end: 240 were admitted and 252 discharged. Of this last number 27 found employment and 209 were repatriated.

General.—The health of the prisoners was good. The total expenditure of the department was $226,769, and its revenue $7,145. In addition to this, articles to the value of $30,472 were supplied to Government departments.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 22,811 and 22,633 respectively. The figures for the preceding year were 22,080 and 25,906.

The estimated population of the Colony was 776,444. It was estimated at 759,105 in 1914, and ascertained in 1911 (the year of the Census) to be 711,951.

The birth-rate has increased from 29·09 to 29·25 per mille.

The death-rate has decreased, having fallen from 46·45 in 1911, 39·01 in 1912, 34·93 in 1913 and 34·13 in 1914 to 29·15 per mille in the year under review.

The principal causes of death were malaria (2,929 cases), infantile convulsions (4,017), tuberculosis (2,580), beri-beri (1,079), and dysentery (769).

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony during the year caused 17 deaths from small-pox, 13 from cholera and 33 from plague. The corresponding figures in 1914 were 36, 268 and 14.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—CHINESE.

Immigrants arrived from China to the number of 95,735, a decrease of 34·09 per cent as compared with the figure for 1914 and of 64·5 per cent as compared with that for 1911. the highest yet recorded.

Adult males formed 80 per cent and adult females 11·1 per cent of the immigrants.

Immigration continued to be prohibited till the end of March when partial immigration was allowed, limited at first to one-third and afterwards to one-half the complement of a steamer. At the beginning of July all restrictions were removed.

There is no indentured Chinese labour in the Colony.

(II).—Southern Indian.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 75,323, as compared with 51,217 in 1914.

The immigration of deck passengers, which had ceased on the 6th August, 1914, resumed on 29th January, 1915. The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 50,320, as against 63,073 in 1914.

The figures for arrivals for the last three years are as follows:—

	1913.	*1914.*	*1915.*
Assisted immigrants * ...	91,236	36,905	54,881
Other immigrants ...	27,347	14,312	20,442
Total ...	118,583	51,217	75,323

The assisted immigrants consisted of 51,278 adults and 3,603 minors. Of the adults 42,174 were men and 9,104 women.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 14·59 per mille, in the Dindings 12·46: there were no deaths among the 240 labourers employed on estates in Penang.

During 1915, 1,096 decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with passages back to India.

The rate of assessment to the Tamil Immigration Fund was $1 per labourer per quarter. The income of the fund was $684,615, and its expenditure $708,905.

(III).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on the estates in the Colony is 3,450: of this number only 242 (of whom 219 were in Province Wellesley and 23 in Malacca) are "indentured labourers."

* "Assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(i) the independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bonâ fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (ii) the Kangany labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kangany, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a month's notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

Singapore	... ...	90·93 inches.
Labuan	... ...	141·27 ,,
Penang	... ...	107·69 ,,
Province Wellesley	...	106·44 ,,
Malacca	... ...	101·29 ,,
Dindings	... ...	80·81 ,,

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 83·5°. The maximum recorded was 98° in Province Wellesley on March 18th (in Singapore 94·5° on May 21st). The minimum was 67° in Malacca on January 25th.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 10,028,804, an average of 14·04 per inhabitant, as against 12·48 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 7,498,634, as compared with 6,953,133 in 1914. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 235,776 to 246,384 and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 642 to 648.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1915, was $796,982.94. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $147.43. There was a profit on the year's working of $4,394.61. The estimated present value of the investments is $707,250.64.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 26 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Office at Durian Tunggal (Malacca). Of these 22 are telegraph offices.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES.

Opium.—During the year 3,270 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory as against 2,787 chests in 1914. The consumption in 1914 was affected by the circumstances which arose in consequence of the outbreak of war. The

sales in the Colony (including 7,800 tahils sold for consumption in Christmas Island) amounted to 1,459,732 tahils (costing $8,722,336), as against 1,412,257 tahils (costing $8,431,024) in 1914.

Sales to the Federated Malay States Government amounted to 1,847,118 tahils, whilst 742,938 tahils were sold to the Governments of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Brunei.

There was no alteration during the year in the selling price of chandu. The market price of opium varied between $914 and $1,037 per chest.

Smuggling by the Blue Funnel line of steamers still continues to a very large extent. During 1915 there were 32 seizures, and the total weight of opium found was no less than four tons. Seizures on other lines of steamers brought the total weight up to nearly five tons. The actual cost of the opium seized may be put at $100,000, and yet it is known that the profits of smuggling are such that even this loss does not seriously check the traffic. Seizures of cocaine and morphia amounted to 426 ounces and 160 ounces, respectively.

Liquors and Tobacco.—The revenue from liquors and tobacco amounted to $1,729,889 as against $1,611,326 in 1914. Labuan is the only Settlement where a tobacco duty is imposed, and the revenue obtained from it there was only $3,972.

Prosecutions.—The total number of cases instituted by the department during the year was 361 in Singapore, 280 in Penang, 38 in Malacca and 3 in Labuan.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $5,262,125, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $5,213,250. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure appear below.

REVENUE.

	1911.	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	2,555,478	3,062,526	3,202,551	3,626,243	3,696,544
Penang ...	1,206,244	1,268,267	1,321,766	1,399,639	1,404,150
Malacca ...	91,828	112,529	134,207	147,392	161,431
TOTAL ...	$3,853,550	4,443,322	4,658,524	5,173,274	5,262,125

EXPENDITURE.

		1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
		$	$	$	$	$
Singapore	...	2,527,579	3,197,526	3,498,277	3,679,944	3,772,692
Penang	...	1,150,693	1,255,757	1,306,566	1,295,549	1,308,600
Malacca	...	90,895	100,247	135,405	145,795	131,958
TOTAL	...	$3,769,167	4,553,530	4,940,248	5,121,288	5,213,250

RURAL BOARDS.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
Singapore Island	...	64,278	173,670
Penang Island	...	73,007	88,166
Province Wellesley	...	209,283	209,067
Dindings ...	...	13,557	28,062
Malacca ...	...	271,970	305,006

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD.

The revenue and expenditure of the Board at Singapore (first as the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and latterly as the Singapore Harbour Board) for the seven years 1909–1915 have been as follows :—

			Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
			$	$
1909	...	...	5,849,063	4,267,797
1910	...	...	5,896,156	4,328,184
1911	...	...	5,740,965	4,074,669
1912	...	...	6,015,648	4,216,015
1913	...	...	6,091,296	4,070,912
1914	...	...	5,834,893	3,875,738
1915	...	...	5,432,425	3,421,271

The capital debt due to Government stood at the end of 1915 $49,469,896 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,283,119 from reserve fund.

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns :—

	1909	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number of Vessels ...	2,366	2,393	2,528	2,693	2,708	2,544	2,364
Tonnage	4,433,105	4,605,035	4,877,317	5,397,155	5,794,536	5,445,273	4,307,082
Coal Inwards and Outwards	1,160,711	1,063,768	1,084,974	1,200,545	1,338,495	1,248,032	1,021,452
Cargo Inwards and Outwards	974,016	1,305,014	1,285,994	1,335,846	1,462,788	1,229,205	1,323,637

The tonnage occupying the Graving Docks during the years 1914 and 1915 based on the daily tonnage in dock was :—

	1914.	1915.
No. 1 Dock ...	223,015	226,745
No. 2 Dock ...	463,493	467,945
The Victoria Dock ...	418,248	386,733
The Albert Dock ...	362,431	693,308
The King's Dock ...	890,861	944,041

TANJONG PAGAR MAIN WHARF RECONSTRUCTION.

The contractors, Messrs. TOPHAM, JONES & RAILTON, Limited, have made very satisfactory progress with the re-construction of the Main Wharf westwards from the Victoria Dock. Up to the end of the year the total length of blockwork wall completed was about 1,200 feet leaving a length of about 1,400 feet still to be completed, and the reinforced concrete wharf near the Victoria Dock was completed for nearly two-thirds of its length.

The formation of quays, roadways and godown areas on the reclaimed area behind the blockwork wall was commenced during the year and was completed over a length of 600 feet from the eastern end of the wall and the foundations of two godowns have been completed. The total amount paid to the Contractors in respect of work executed was £854,300, of which sum £233,400 was paid for work done during 1915.

The following are the principal items of work executed during the year :—

Dredging at Main Wharf Re-construction	74,600	Cubic yards.
Mass Concrete	7,430	,,
Concrete Blocks made ...	45,000	,,
,, set ...	46,750	,,
Reinforced Concrete work con-structed	4,420	,,

The average number of men employed per diem on the works and at the quarries was 53 Europeans and 1,453 Asiatics.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

The works executed by the Contractors, Messrs. Sir JOHN JACKSON, LIMITED, were completed in May, 1915, and were taken over by Government on 1st August. Since that date they have been in regular use. The total cost of the works on final settlement amounted to £1,676,114-8*s*-9*d*.

PENANG HARBOUR BOARD.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock for the year 1915 was $492,304 and the expenditure $468,195.

The following figures are taken from the Wharf tonnage returns:—

	1909.	*1910.*	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*
Number of Vessels ...	...	...	...	610	732	596	728
Tonnage	...	...	...	1,208,503	1,532,361	1,108,319	871,524
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	137,755	177,533	221,209	219,367	282,067	266,146	72,016
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	235,565	241,677	265,371	329,839	399,412	313,360	254,066

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the department was as follows:—

	Singapore.	*Penang.*	*Malacca.*	*Labuan.*	*Total.*
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
ESTABLISHMENTS.					
(1) Salaries ...	98,755.10	75,539.94	27,013.00	5,306.50	206,614.54
(2) Other Charges	41,345.87	20,376.66	20,705.52	670.01	83,098.06
ANNUALLY RECURRENT.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	150,396.08	233,693.09	244,356.94	2,170.34	630,616.45
(2) Buildings, etc.	101,590.45	99,677.33	35,487.14	4,300.61	241,055.53
SPECIAL SERVICES.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	29,540.99	73,634.43	56,584.71	3,449,87	163,210.00
(2) Buildings, etc.	465,100.14	128,051.88	71,389.88	824.90	665,366.80
Miscellaneous Services	33,286.59	21,831.74	3,635.46	Nil.	58,753.79
Total ...	920,015.22	652,815.07	459,172.65	16,722.23	2,048,715.17

The only important public work completed by the department during the year was the Marconi Wireless Station at Singapore. Four works of some importance are in hand: the extension to Raffles Museum (Singapore), the masonry walls alongside the Rochore Canal (Singapore), an installation of a water-borne sewage system at the General Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and adjoining buildings (Singapore), and the erection of a Wireless Station in Province Wellesley (Penang).

In Singapore, the Jurong metalled road was extended for about 600 yards, and a mile of earth road added. In Penang, a further length of 2¼ miles of the road round the island was bottomed with granite spawls and metalled. Five miles of natural road were made in Labuan.

The special expenditure upon metalling or re-metalling roads was $67,615, whilst the annually recurrent expenditure upon road maintenance was $575,641.

The metalled roads in the Colony are as follows:—

	Miles.
Singapore	92·50
Penang	63·25
Dindings	22
Malacca	241
Province Wellesley	163·75
Labuan	4·50
Total ...	587

The department also has charge of 56 miles of gravelled road (36 miles in Malacca and 20 miles in the Dindings) and 118 miles of natural road, of which the greater part lies in Penang, the Dindings and Province Wellesley.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

Christmas Island, 780 sea-miles distant from Singapore, is the only part of the Colony that has suffered from the war. Its sole wealth consists in its deposits of phosphate of lime; and

these have decreased owing to the war from 150,003 tons in 1913 to 93,780 tons in 1914, and 25,738 tons in 1915. The tonnage of steamers showed a similar decrease from 150,116 tons in 1913 to 96,110 tons in 1914, and 21,852 tons in 1915. In 1913, Germany, Austria and Scandinavian countries were the chief consumers: in 1915, the whole export went to Australia.

The population, owing to the reduced staff of coolies, fell from 1,044 at the beginning of the year to 713 at its end.

The Christmas Island Company made good progress with its railway. The rails are laid and ballasted for a distance of eight miles from Flying Fish Cove, and railhead is within four miles from South Point. The steel pier begun in 1912 was completed during the year.

The revenue of the island was $56,061 ($50,339 being derived from royalty on phosphate) and its expenditure was $15,739.

THE SINGAPORE MUTINY.

Monday, the 15th February, 1915, was a public holiday. The Chinese New Year, with its attendant cessation of all business, its festivities and bomb and cracker firing amongst the Chinese, had commenced on the preceding day and the usual three days holiday had been proclaimed. The Fifth Light Infantry was on the point of leaving for Hongkong, and had already sent its machine guns, with their ammunition, to the store, and was preparing to send its small arms ammunition there. Only that morning His Excellency the General Officer Commanding had made his final inspection of the regiment, and had been favourably impressed by the demeanour of the native officers and men. At about 3 P.M. a shot was fired at the regimental guardroom at Alexandra Barracks and a number of the N.C.O.'s and men immediately gathered round the ammunition, which was being packed into motor-lorries, and took possession of it. Some of the British Officers made their way from their quarters to the Indian Officers' Lines, but were persuaded of the impossibility of any attempt to stop the men, and made their way to Normanton Camp, about a quarter of a mile away, where a detachment of the Malay States Volunteer Rifles was undergoing a course of training. Colonel MARTIN, Commanding the Fifth Light Infantry, telephoned to headquarters at Fort Canning, and the naval authorities were warned. A detachment from H. M. S. *Cadmus* immediately disembarked and proceeded along the Pasir Panjang Road towards Alexandra Barracks. The Civil Police got information by telephone from Captain BALL of the Fifth Light Infantry, and immediately transmitted it to the Colonial Secretary. A telephone message reached Lieutenant LOVE MONTGOMERIE at the Prisoners of War Camp just as a

body of about a hundred mutineers arrived on the spot, and began firing upon the guard. They killed three British Officers and one Malay Officer, seven Europeans and two Malay Non-Commissioned Officers and men, and one prisoner of war, and wounded three European men and one prisoner of war. * Having dispersed the guard, the mutineers opened the gate of the enclosure, and shook hands with the prisoners of war, most of whom were in a state of terror. They left soon afterwards in the direction whence they had come. When British officers and doctors arrived on the scene, all the prisoners of war were still there. After dark, seventeen prisoners of war left the unguarded camp. Four were re-captured later, but the others made good their escape.

During the course of the afternoon a number of dastardly murders of Europeans were committed by separate bodies of mutineers. Two men of the Fifth Light Infantry appeared at Sepoy Lines. They shot two officers † of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who were making their way back to cantonments, and wounded two Chinese. After calling upon the native warder at the Central Gaol to surrender the prison keys (and receiving a defiant answer) they held up motor cars containing Europeans taking their afternoon rides, and killed four civilians ‡ and a native chauffeur, and wounded a European, who saved his life by feigning death. They then fired upon the Sikh Guard at the Central Police Station, wounding two men. They evaded the fire of the Sikh Guard by dodging behind rickshaws, and made good their escape in the crowd. A body of mutineers on the Pasir Panjang Road killed three European civilians and a lady § in their cars. Two other civilians ¶ were killed on the Alexandra Road by another body of men, and three Europeans ‖ were murdered in a house on the Pasir Panjang Road. There were isolated murders of an officer of the Malay States Guides, two officers of the Fifth Light Infantry, a private of the Malay States Volunteer Rifles, and a civilian.** The main residential area of the city lying on either side of Orchard Road was not visited by any bodies of mutineers during the afternoon.

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* *Killed.*—Captain P. N. GERRARD, Commandant, Prisoners of War Camp; Second Lieutenant J. LOVE MONTGOMERIE, S. V. R.; Captain H. CULLIMORE, Second-in-Command, Johore Military Forces; Captain JABAR, J. M. F.; Sergeant E. H. SEXTON, A. S. C.; Corporal J. R. V. BEAGLEY, R. G. A.; Corporal J. LAWSON, S. V. R.; Corporal SALLEH, J. M. F.; Lance-Corporal J. HARPER, S. V. R.; Private A. DRYSDALE, S. V. R.; Private A. J. G. HOLT, S. V. R.; Private YAKUB, J. M. F.; Private B. C. CAMERON, S. V. R.; Prisoner of War E. F. SENFTLEBEN. *Wounded.*—Private R. L. V. WODEHOUSE, S. V. R.; Private J. ROBERTSON, S. V. R.; Gunner A. HIND, R. G. A.; Prisoner of War, H. KAMPF. † Major R. H. GALWEY and Captain F. V. IZARD. ‡ Mr. G. WALD, Mr. C. SMITH, Dr. E. D. WHITTLE, Mr. J. CLARKE. § Mr. C. V. DYSON, Mr. W. J. MARSHALL, Mr. & Mrs. G. B. WOOLCOMBE. ¶ Mr. N. F. EDWARDS and Mr. H. B. COLLINS. ‖ Mr. D. MCGILVRAY, Mr. E. O. BUTTERWORTH, Mr. J. B. DUNN. ** Captain M. F. A. MACLEAN, M. S. G.; Captain G. BOYCE, 5th L. I.; Lieutenant N. S. ELLIOTT, 5th L. I.; Private W. H. LEIGH, M. S. V. R.; Mr. A. EVANS.

The detachment of 4 officers and 81 men of the Malay States Volunteer Rifles, on being warned by the officers of the Fifth Light Infantry that the regiment had mutinied, at once fell in, and moved in skirmishing order towards the Officers' Mess at Alexandra. They reached this point without opposition. Thence they proceeded towards the house of Colonel MARTIN (Officer Commanding the Fifth Light Infantry) and came under fire. They made good their advance, however, and without any casualties succeeded in occupying the house in which Colonel MARTIN and a native servant were alone.

At about the same time the naval force from H. M. S. *Cadmus* got into touch on the Pasir Panjang Road with a body of mutineers which was advancing on Keppel Harbour, and, after brisk firing on both sides, drove them back towards Alexandra Barracks.

By sunset, the entire European community had received the alarm; and during the evening the men collected at the Volunteer Drill Hall or at the Central Police Station where they were enrolled and armed. (Singapore owes more than is perhaps realized to the fact that there was a Drill Hall, to which every one instinctively turned.) The women obtained refuge at Government House, or at the hotels or on board ships in the harbour. Martial Law was proclaimed at 6-30 P.M. All this, however, had but little effect upon the Chinese quarter of the city, where everything maintained its normal appearance. Holiday-makers filled the rickshaws, thronged the street stalls, and crowded the theatres. The street murders meant nothing to them, and they regarded the other events of the afternoon (so far as they had heard of them) with unconcern. The mail train left Tank Road for Penang at schedule time after the arrival of the mail train from Penang. The latter brought in 150 men of the Johore Military Forces who, under the command of H. H. the Sultan in person, came in response to a message by telephone.

During the night, 138 men of the Fifth Light Infantry gave themselves up at Bukit Timah Police Station. In this number were two batches of 64 and 53 men.

A small detachment of the 36th Sikhs which had been stationed at Tanglin Barracks reported itself at daybreak of the 16th February to a picket at the head of Orchard Road, and marched into Orchard Road Police Station, whence it proceeded in motor-lorries to the Drill Hall.

The mountain battery of the Malay States Guides was stationed at Alexandra Barracks at the time of the mutiny. Some of the men are supposed to have joined the mutineers, but the remainder retreated in a body to Johore whence they endeavoured to make their way to rejoin the regiment at Taiping. Some were met on the way and proceeded to headquarters by train.

During the night of the 15th February there was a little firing at Colonel MARTIN'S house, which was perhaps saved from being rushed by the mutineers by its being protected by the search light from Blakang Mati. There was also firing at Alexandra Police Station where Dr. A. F. LEGGE (Singapore Volunteer Medical Company) and Gunner J. BARRY (Royal Garrison Artillery) were killed, and sniping at Orchard Road Police Station, where two men of the Fifth Light Infantry were shot by the Europeans and police who occupied the building. In the part of the city where the Europeans had mainly collected the night passed without event, though no one will ever forget its anxiety.

It must not be thought that the whole regiment mutinied. Soon after the detachment of the Malay States Volunteer Rifles had occupied Colonel MARTIN'S house, a body of 80 men came up and offered to join in the defence. It was considered wiser not to accept their offer, and they were directed to go to surrender at the nearest police station. This they did. During the night the Central Police Station was as much occupied in accepting the surrenders of men of the Fifth Light Infantry as in enrolling European additional constables. Ninety-one men surrendered at the Central Police Station during the night of the 15th, and day and night of the 16th.

On the 16th February, at early morning, Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. BROWNLOW, R. A., advanced from Keppel Harbour with a force to relieve the party in Colonel MARTIN'S house. The force consisted of 80 men of H.M.S. *Cadmus*, 50 men of the Singapore Volunteer Corps, 21 men of the Royal Garrison Artillery, and 25 armed civilians. The detachment from the *Cadmus* soon came under fire, and the Singapore Volunteer Corps advanced in support. The force pushed forward and occupied the barracks which had not been held in strength. A heavy fire from a higher ridge held up the reserve, until the men of the *Cadmus*, and the Singapore Volunteer Corps, attacked the ridge from the left. The mutineers gave way, and the force reached Colonel MARTIN'S house without further difficulty. As it was not in sufficient strength to hold the position against the superior numbers of the mutineers, it then retired with the relieved party to Keppel Harbour. In this action two men were killed and four wounded.* Of the mutineers, so far as can be ascertained, eleven were killed.

During the morning of the same day, the Veteran Company of the Singapore Volunteer Corps occupied Tanglin Barracks unopposed and took charge of the prisoners of war. The main body of the Volunteers was divided between the Drill Hall and Keppel Harbour. They also provided guards at Government

* *Killed.*—Stoker C. F. ANSCOMBE, H. M. S. *Cadmus;* Special Constable F. GEDDES. *Wounded.*—Sapper W. FLINT, S. R. E. (V.); Private W. LETTS, M. S. V. R.; Private A. S. GARDNER, S. V. R.; Gunner F. W. SABEY, R. G. A.

House, the General Hospital, and Fort Canning. The European special constables, numbering about 200, and a force of 190 Japanese special constables raised by the Japanese Consul and armed by the Military Authorities, were detailed off to various police stations, whence they supplied armed patrols in various directions. During the day all ladies and children were, as a precautionary measure, removed from the hotels to the ships in the harbour.

On the 17th February, there arrived in the morning the French cruiser *Montcalm* and in the afternoon the Japanese cruiser *Otawa* arrived in response to wireless messages despatched on the afternoon of the 15th. A party of 190 men, with two machine guns, from the *Montcalm* proceeded by motor transport to the Seletar District, where a body of mutineers was said to be. Before their arrival, however, the mutineers crossed over into Johore territory, where 61 of them surrendered to His Highness the Sultan of Johore. The French force, finding the north of the island of Singapore free of the mutineers, moved over to the west. The east was known to be clear.

On the morning of the 18th February, Lieutenant-Colonel BROWNLOW'S force, reinforced by 76 men from the *Otawa* marched out from Keppel Harbour with instructions to retake and effectively occupy Alexandra Barracks. This was done without any opposition being met. Six men were captured in the barracks. A party of Japanese thence proceeded to Normanton Barracks, where it came under fire from snipers. It captured twelve men, all followers and hospital patients. Late in the evening the Russian cruiser *Orel* arrived, and landed 40 men.

It was now clear that there was no longer a "military situation" (though danger from snipers and desperadoes was to be expected) and an official announcement was issued from Government House declaring that the position was completely in hand. A proclamation by the Provost-Marshal declared a considerable part of the residential area to be safe for occupation, and the majority of the women and children left the steamers in the harbour.

Such of the mutineers as still remained in the island were supposed to be in the western part of the island, and arrangements were made on the 19th for "driving" and "rounding-up." The various parties that joined in the operation were however unable to find any signs of the mutineers who by this time had broken up into small scattered bands, which hid in the jungle by day, and came out in search of food by night. The Japanese cruiser *Tsushima* arrived during the day and landed 75 men.

On the 20th February, drives were made in various directions in the western part of the island. The British troops only saw one maimed mutineer, who made his escape, whilst one of the

French columns came across nine mutineers. One was killed, but the others escaped, throwing away their arms which were captured. The s. s. *Edavana* arrived in the evening from Rangoon with six companies of the 4th Shropshire Light Infantry (Territorials).

The operations on the 21st and 22nd consisted of drives similar to those of the previous days, and failed to produce any result.

On the evening of the 22nd February, one week after the outbreak, 614 men of the Fifth Light Infantry had surrendered.

The first of the series of executions of mutineers found guilty by the Summary General Court Martial took place on the 23rd February.

The "safe area" for residence by women and children was further extended on the 24th February so as to cover practically the whole of the residential area. On the 25th February, the Russian party from the *Orel* came into touch with a body of mutineers, who withdrew. In the course of the firing, two Russians were wounded.

His Excellency the Governor inspected and thanked the French detachment on the 23rd February, prior to its re-embarkation and departure. He inspected and thanked the Japanese detachment on the 25th February, the Russian detachment on the 2nd March, the British Naval force and the Malay States Volunteer Rifles on the 12th March, and the local and Johore Forces on the 10th April.

There is no reason to believe that the German prisoners in the Prisoners of War Camp were parties to the mutiny. German money and German Agents doubtless supported the seditionist movement both before and during the war. If any German prisoner of war at Tanglin could find any opportunity of talking to one of the sentries of the Fifth Light Infantry, and if he could get over the difficulty of finding a common language (for few of the Fifth Light Infantry could speak Malay, the ordinary language in Singapore of conversation with an Indian) he would doubtless have seized the opportunity of saying all that he could against the British and for the Germans. But opportunities must have been few. No money that could even be suspected of coming from alien sources was found on any one of the hundreds of men who surrendered. No letters were found amongst their effects, or in the post, that showed any enemy influence. It is established that the prisoners of war were terrified when the mutineers appeared at the Camp, and that none of them attempted to escape until some hours after the mutineers had left. An accident afterwards showed that the prisoners of war had for some time been constructing a tunnel

which on the day of the mutiny was only a yard short of the line of the barbed wire entanglements, and would have reached the surface on the following day, affording thereby an easy means of escape under cover of night. It can hardly be believed that the prisoners who constructed and so nearly completed that tunnel, had any expectation of release as the result of a mutiny. Of the many extraordinary facts in connection with the mutiny none perhaps is more extraordinary than the fact that, with such an opportunity, it achieved so little. If the mutiny had been pre-concerted it is almost impossible to believe that in the whole of Singapore there could not have been one man to help it in some overt manner. But not a finger was stirred. When once the mad looting of the ammunition lorries had been made, the regiment as a whole, had no idea what to do next. Singapore was for some hours at its mercy; and yet beyond the attack upon the guard at Tanglin, and the street murders, but little was attempted and nothing was done. When once the first fatal step had been taken, the men were without a plan or a leader. The regiment, with the exception of the more daring or desperate men, seems to have stayed within barracks and, like children, to have awaited the coming punishment. They were on the defensive on the day after the mutiny, and were fugitives thereafter.

It is no longer a military secret that the loyal section of the regiment which surrendered to the police, left Singapore some months later for the Cameroons, and that, after excellent work there, it is now on active service in another part of the Empire.

W. GEORGE MAXWELL,
Acting Colonial Secretary, S. S.

24th April, 1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	"
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	"
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	"
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	"
881	East Africa Protectorate	"
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	"
887	Fiji	"
888	Sierra Leone	"
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
890	Gambia	"
891	Trinidad and Tobago	"
892	Hong Kong	"
893	Ashanti	"
894	Gold Coast	"
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 940.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 905.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1917.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1916.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1916 amounted to $17,325,695 (exceeding the estimate by $5,649,760), whilst the expenditure was $11,046,353 (exceeding the estimate by $993,474).

The revenue of the Colony in this the third year of war exceeded the record of 1915 by $3,194,004.

The actual figures for 1915 and 1916 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—REVENUE.

	1915.	*1916.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	3,096	2,588	...	508
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	11,463,164	13,963,722	2,500,558	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	602,054	614,208	12,154	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	681,290	797,438	116,148	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property	768,561	704,099	...	64,462
6. Interest	361,379	531,087	169,708	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	118,771	465,725	346,954	...
	$13,998,315	17,078,867	3,145,522	64,970
8. Land Sales	133,376	246,828	113,452	...
TOTAL ...	$14,131,691	17,325,695	3,258,974	64,970
		Net increase ...	$3,194,004	

The principal constituents of the head "Licences, etc.," are Opium Revenue, Liquors and Stamp Duties. Revenue from Opium in 1916 showed an increase of over $940,000 as compared with 1915, and revenue from liquors increased by more than $687,000.

Stamp duties were again below the estimated figure, but produced approximately $84,000 more than in 1915. Estate duty brought in $301,737, against $372,780 in 1915.

The Revenue from Posts and Telegraphs has recovered from the adverse effect of the war and shows a satisfactory increase under almost every item.

Interest on Investments produced $167,000 more than in 1915.

Interest on Bank Accounts showed a decrease of $20,000, but the amount credited to Profit on Exchange on remittances rose from $40,000 to nearly $77,000.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1915.	*1916.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	...	...	...	...
2. Pensions	525,860	546,416	20,556	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	10,841	10,978	137	...
4. The Governor ...	76,474	82,643	6,169	...
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	176,256	177,211	955	...
6. Government Printing Office	66,612	48,359	...	18,253
7. Land and District Offices	236,362	239,714	3,352	...
8. Forests	30,877	31,322	445	...
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	62,968	66,729	3,761	...
10. Treasury	102,600	99,062	...	3,538
11. Audit	56,531	52,844	...	3,687
12. Marine	352,596	315,793	...	36,803
13. Legal	399,132	400,022	890	...
14. Police	931,737	911,314	...	20,423
15. Prisons	217,971	222,369	4,398	...
16. Medical	245,775	236,418	...	9,357
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	525,726	488,432	...	37,294
18. Veterinary	27,254	24,886	...	2,368
19. Education	299,453	304,672	5,219	...
20. Ecclesiastical ...	18,920	20,662	1,742	...
Carried forward ...	4,363,945	4,279,846	47,624	131,723

B.—EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

	1915.	*1916.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
Brought forward ...	4,363,945	4,279,846	47,624	131,723
21. Transport ...	12,906	9,509	...	3,397
22. Military Expenditure ...	3,021,433	2,700,580	...	320,853
23. Miscellaneous Services ...	497,137	251,293	...	245,844
24. Post Office	611,593	584,726	...	26,867
25. Government Monopolies	351,874	385,043	33,169	...
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	52,509	51,831	...	678
27. Public Works Department	326,344	329,398	3,054	...
28. Public Works, Recurrent	233,213	231,970	...	1,243
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	676,463	318,788	...	357,675
War Expenditure ...	49,143	1,046,226	997,083	...
Contribution to Imperial War Funds ...	...	857,143	857,143	...
TOTAL ...	$10,196,560	11,046,353	1,938,073	1,088,280
	Net Increase	...	$849,793	

The expenditure upon personal emoluments ($3,749,326) and Other Charges ($1,575,415) both show decreases, the figures in 1915 being $3,779,115 and $1,887,585 respectively.

The Military Expenditure shows a decrease of $320,853 but the corresponding item for 1915 was unduly inflated by the payment of arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the year 1914.

Miscellaneous Services.—The amount spent on Salaries of Acting Officers again showed a decrease of $19,342 owing to the small number of officers on leave. The decrease in Government contribution to the Rural Board Expenditure was $201,614, partly due to the increase in the revenue of the Boards and partly due to the refund to the Government by the Boards of their cash balances at the end of the year. In previous years cash balances have been carried forward.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of special expenditure connected with the war in the three latter years, the Colony's expenditure in 1913 was $7,878,605; in 1914, $7,746,594; in 1915, $7,207,478 and in 1916, $6,514,527, the corresponding expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary being $1,030,586, $926,077, $676,463 and $318,788. It will be seen that the policy of strict economy has been fully maintained.

The principal excesses of revenue over the Estimates were in respect of Opium Revenue, $2,955,144, Liquors, $829,788, Interest $296,182, Premia on Grants $182,403.

Tobacco duties, which were not estimated for, and were only imposed in June, yielded $698,862. The principal excess of expenditure was upon Military Expenditure. The principal savings were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary, $284,685 and Miscellaneous Services $207,658. Overpayments recovered showed a sum of $348,724 which was not estimated for, and is mainly due to the refund of Rural Board balances credited to this item.

The following comparative statement shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past six years:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1911	...	11,409,221	9,085,389
1912	...	12,912,577	9,295,102
1913	...	12,397,747	10,468,618
1914	...	14,016,882	10,180,189
1915	...	14,131,691	10,196,560
1916	...	17,325,695	11,046,353

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1916, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits	...	7,089,100	Indian Agency Account	...	849,834
Suspense (Currency Commissioners)	...	2,051,274	Investments	...	13,098,364
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	...	26,860,916	Advances	...	194,654
			Advances, Singapore Harbour Works	...	4,411,166
			Loans:—		
			Municipalities	...	305,100
			Sultan of Trengganu	...	30,000
			Kelantan Govt.	...	120,000
			Singapore Harbour Board	...	4,166,148
			Penang Harbour Board		250,104
			Imprests	...	27,461
			Loan Account	...	6,364,399
			Cash in Transit	...	133,732
			Suspense	...	383,916
			Drafts and Remittances	...	211,017
			Cash	...	5,455,395
TOTAL	...	$36,001,290	TOTAL	...	$36,001,290

The excess of the assets over the liabilities increased during the year by $6,279,342.

MILITARY AND WAR EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1916 on the Volunteers, Reserve Force and Civil Guard amounted to $344,518. Of this, $72,122 was paid from votes on the Estimates and the balance from the War Expenditure Suspense Account.

This expenditure was divided up between the Settlements as follows:—

	Paid from votes on Estimates.	*Paid from Suspense Account.*	*Total.*
	$	$	$
Singapore ...	40,963	201,067	242,030
Penang ...	29,972	53,090	83,062
Malacca ...	1,187	18,239	19,426
Total ...	72,122	272,396	344,518

The total amount expended on services connected with the war exclusive of the maintenance of the above was $372,874 giving a total Special War Expenditure of $645,270 in 1916. Special expenditure on war services since the outbreak of war amounted at the end of 1916 to $1,579,619, the main items being:—Volunteers $526,943; Examination Service $408,317; Repatriation of Chinese $133,385; Defence Works, Penang, $95,109; Censorship $105,863. Special War Expenditure to the extent of $1,226,369 has been debited to votes taken in Legislative Council, the balance $353,250 still remaining in the Suspense Account.

The amount paid in 1916 for Defence Contribution was $2,628,457 of which $455,250 represented arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue in 1915. The amount to be paid in 1917 for arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue for 1916 is $851,552.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907, amounted on the 31st December, 1916, to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

Under the provisions of the War Loan Ordinance XVII of 1916 an amount of $5,546,700 in 6 per cent Bonds repayable on 15th November, 1919 had been raised by 31st December, 1916.

The expenditure upon the services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	10,834,286
		66,383,246
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	... ...	3,388,205
Total	...	$69,771,451 *

The charge on account of interest on this loan was $2,071,956 in 1916. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/4$\frac{1}{4}$ and 2/4$\frac{3}{16}$.

CURRENCY.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the Currency Area at the end of the year consisted of $68,394,140 in currency notes, and $6,359,029 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $176,032.

* Practically all the balance over and above the proceeds of loans already issued has been advanced by the Colony.

The phenomenal increase of $9,214,700 recorded last year in the currency note circulation was still further augmented by $10,691,792. This was almost entirely due to the issue of notes in exchange for gold in London.

The demand for currency to meet the difference between the value of exports from and imports into the currency area resulted in the purchase by the Commissioners during the year of Telegraphic Transfers on London to the extent of £1,320,000. These sterling remittances continued to be purchased at the pre-war rate of 2/4$\frac{3}{16}$.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $39,910,345.36 consisting of £327,250 in gold and $12,647,843.32 in silver in Singapore and £2,853,375-4-9 in gold in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the note guarantee and depreciation funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year $24,188,003.97, the cost price of those investments being $32,433,045.51.

The decrease of price compared with original cost is due to the general depreciation of all securities.

The note guarantee fund at the end of the year was worth $66,149,623.16 (Coin portion $39,910,345.36, Investment portion $24,188,003.97 and on deposit with the Government pending investment $2,051,273.83), while the gold standard reserve fund at the same date was worth $2,004,181.45. The total of the funds controlled by the Commissioners was, therefore, $68,153,804.61, or $240,335.39 less than the total note circulation at the end of the year.

The amount of subsidiary silver in circulation on December 31st, 1916, was $6,282,825.45, of which $2,385,216.25 was new and $3,897,609.20 old subsidiary silver. The latter is being steadily withdrawn from circulation the total amount withdrawn to the end of the year being $3,699,203.80 of which $3,694,353.50 has been dealt with and $4,850.30 still remains in the Treasury.

The cancellation and destruction of notes department was reorganised during the year, but only started its extended operations on 1st September. 4,032,714 worn-out notes withdrawn from circulation were in the hands of the Commissioners at the end of the year awaiting sorting and registration prior to destruction. The number of cancelled notes actually destroyed during the year was 1,076,315 but of these 495,028 were destroyed in the last 4 months.

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony in 1916 was satisfactory being an improvement on the previous year, and on 1914, the year when the war broke out.

The gross trade of the Colony for the last three years 1914, 1915 and 1916 in thousands of pounds sterling was as follows:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports Increase over the preceding year.*
	—	—	—	—
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	45,660	38,981	...	...
1915 ...	51,053	47,125	5,393	8,144
1916 ..	63,242	57,436	12,189	10,311

The following figures show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling:—

Merchandise.

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Merchandise Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports Merchandise Increase over the preceding year.*
	—	—	—	—
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	43,856	38,032	...	...
1915 ...	49,803	46,495	5,947	8,463
1916 ...	61,855	56,934	12,052	10,439

Coin and Bullion.

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*	*Exports Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	—	—	—	—
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	1,804	949	...	...
1915 ...	1,250	629	− 554	− 320
1916 ...	1,387	503	+ 137	− 126

The value of the inter-port trade including treasure was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling :—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports Increase over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	3,146	3,002	...	...
1915 ...	4,220	4,249	1,074	1,247
1916 ...	6,412	6,488	2,192	2,239

The aggregate gross trade for the year 1916 was therefore £120·7 millions against £98·2 millions in 1915 and £84·6 millions in 1914, an increase of £22·5 millions over 1915 and of £36·1 millions over 1914.

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows :—

	Imports.			*Exports.*		
	1914.	*1915.*	*1916.*	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	17,762	19,161	22,045	13,724	15,717	17,751
2. Raw Materials ...	18,243	22,365	28,778	20,169	25,117	32,490
3. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles	7,851	8,277	11,033	4,139	5,661	6,693
4. Coin and Bullion ...	1,804	1,250	1,387	949	629	503
TOTAL ...	45,660	51,053	63,243	38,981	47,125	57,437

The figures, excepting coin and bullion, though exceeding those of the previous year, do not really show a corresponding expansion of trade, as prices were on the whole higher than they were in 1915.

Excluding Para Rubber the volume of Straits Produce shipped was about the same as in 1915, except to the Continent.

Articles of Straits Produce gave larger average prices.

Tin.—The imports of tin and tin ore were in 1916, 101,000 and 1,386,000 pikuls, respectively, as against 121,000 and 1,433,000 pikuls, respectively, in 1915. From the Malay States 92,000 pikuls of tin and 978,000 pikuls of tin ore were imported in 1916, from the Netherlands Indies 114,000 pikuls of tin ore, from Australia 35,000 pikuls of tin ore, from Siam 9,000 pikuls of

tin and 195,000 pikuls of tin ore, and from other countries 64,000 pikuls of tin ore, while the corresponding figures of 1915 stand as follows:—

	Tin.	*Tin Ore.*
	Pikuls.	*Pikuls.*
Malay States ...	83,000	1,071,000
Netherlands Indies ...	26,000	109,000
Australia ...	...	35,000
Siam	12,000	174,000
Other Countries ...	...	44,000

The exports of tin in 1916 were as follows:—

421,000 pikuls valued at $38,008,000 to the United Kingdom.
472,000 pikuls valued at $41,768,000 to the United States of America.
203,000 pikuls valued at $17,871,000 to other Countries.

1,096,000 pikuls.

In 1915 the corresponding figures were:—

382,000 pikuls to United Kingdom.
542,000 pikuls to United States of America.
232,000 pikuls to other Countries.

1,156,000 pikuls.

Para Rubber.—The imports of Para Rubber in 1916 were:—

584,000 pikuls valued at $71,878,000 from the Malay States.
95,000 pikuls valued at $11,531,000 from the Netherlands Indies.
24,000 pikuls valued at $3,020,000 from other Countries.

The figures in 1915 were:—

388,000 pikuls from the Malay States.
36,000 pikuls from the Netherlands Indies.
13,000 pikuls from other Countries.

The exports of rubber in 1916 were:—

206,000 pikuls valued at $27,413,000 to the United Kingdom.
621,000 pikuls valued at $83,260,000 to the United States of America.
139,000 pikuls valued at $20,198,000 to other Countries.

966,000 pikuls.

In 1915 the figures were:—

215,000 pikuls to United Kingdom.
354,000 pikuls to United States of America.
74,000 pikuls to other Countries.

643,000 pikuls.

The volume of manufactured metals imported declined by about 36 per cent. Tin plates, however, showed an increase of 67 per cent.

There was a sharp rise in the price of raw cotton; the volume of imports of manufactured cottons increased by 2.4 per cent. The increased cost of commodities, wages, etc., has caused a big increase in the cost of production which resulted in orders for piece goods being checked to a great extent during the year (1916), consequently, arrivals fell off considerably during the last three or four months of the year; but supplies on hand seemed sufficient for requirements and Chinese dealers were buyers up to the close of the year, so that December 31st found them heavy stock-holders although the stocks in European Import firms were considerably reduced.

IMPORTS.

In foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics, increased values are seen under the sub-head animals, rice, bran, brandy, opium, milk, pepper and sugar.

Under the heading "Raw Materials," enhanced values appear in raw cotton, tin ore, wolfram ore, coal, copra, para rubber, raw hides, petroleum, liquid fuel, while decreased import values are apparent in tin and rattans.

In the "Manufactured Class" apparel, etc., cotton piece goods, silk piece goods, machinery, ironware, motor cars, motor cycles and accessories, tin plates, chemicals, paper and paperware and woodenware show increased values.

In quantities imported there was an increase under animals, bran, rice, brandy, milk, sago flour, sugar, raw cotton, copra, para rubber, raw hides, benzine, petroleum, liquid fuel and tin plates.

Declines in quantity are most noticeable in coffee, fish dry and salted, arecanuts, black pepper, tobacco, tin and tin ore, gum damar, rattans, woollen blankets, matches, soap and soda.

EXPORTS.

Exports of the following show increased values:—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics."

Animals, fish dry and salted, pineapples preserved, rice, cigars and cigarettes, sugar.

"Raw Materials.

Raw cotton, tin, para rubber, phosphate of lime, petroleum, liquid fuel.

"Manufactured Class."

Cotton piece goods, sarongs, ironware, chemicals, while decreases are apparent in—

"Foodstuffs, drink and narcotics."

Coffee, wheatflour.

"Raw Materials."

Rattans.

"Manufactured Class."

Rubber tyres.

The quantities of fish dry and salted, rice, sugar, raw cotton, para rubber, phosphate of lime, lubricating oil, woollen blankets, cement, show an increase.

A decrease in volume is recorded of sago flour, arecanuts, pepper, tapioca, pearl, tin, copra, gambier, rattans, gunnies, iron corrugated, matches.

Trade by Countries.

The following statement shows the position of the Colony in the years 1915 and 1916 as a market for British, European, foreign, American and Japanese goods in thousands of pounds sterling:—

(The value of the trade in merchandise with the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, United States of America and Japan is shown in thousands of pounds sterling.)

		Imports.		*Exports.*	
		1915.	*1916.*	*1915.*	*1916.*
		£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		4,263	5,621	8,928	10,916
France	Continent of Europe.	342	385	1,738	1,314
Belgium	Continent of Europe.	2	...	...	...
Denmark	Continent of Europe.	78	45	492	222
Holland	Continent of Europe.	323	311	15	16
Italy	Continent of Europe.	479	525	448	444
Norway	Continent of Europe.	116	259	3	...
Sweden	Continent of Europe.	28	49	...	...
Spain	Continent of Europe.	14	29	62	73
Russia	Continent of Europe.	4	...	1,188	1'876
Germany	Continent of Europe.	29	...	...	...
United States of America		830	1,317	11,329	15,687
Japan		1,740	2,659	710	1,363

The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were cotton piece goods, apparel, cigars and cigarettes, machinery including electrical goods, coal, tin plates, iron nails, and telegraph and telephone materials.

The articles showing declines in values from the United Kingdom were cement, corrugated iron, steel, motor cars and motor cycles, etc., malt liquors.

From the United States of America increases in imports are seen in petroleum, rubber tyres, lubricating oil, motor cars, milk, leatherware, roofing and building materials, steel, tinned provisions including fruits, machinery, and decreases in cigars and cigarettes, wire nails, cement.

From Japan the following show advances in imports:—

Coal, silk piece goods, matches, chemicals, fish dry and salted, glass and glassware, apparel, etc., crockery and porcelain, cabinet and woodenware, cycles parts and accessories, hardware, ironware and cooking utensils, while rubber tyres show a decline.

The total increase of exports to the United Kingdom is accounted for by advances in such articles as tin, gambier, sago, black and white pepper, tapioca, copra, jelutong rubber, para rubber, hides, preserved pines, india rubber, wolfram ore, but decreases took place in rattan, gutta percha, illipi nuts, coconut oil and isinglass.

Of exports

to France—tin, black and white pepper, tapioca, para rubber, wolfram ore,

to Holland—gambier and copra,

to Italy—tin and para rubber,

to Russia—copra and para rubber,

to Spain—tin

all advanced,
declines being seen in—copra to Denmark, gambier, sago, copra, rattans, hides and illipi nuts to France, sago, gambier and rattans to Italy, tin and black and white pepper to Russia, sago, black and white pepper and copra to Spain.

Exports to the United States advanced in values of gambier, tapioca, rattans, jelutong, gutta percha, para rubber, hides; but tin, sago, black and white pepper, and india rubber, fell in values.

Exports to Japan showed increases in values of Borneo rubber, shells, raw cotton, tin, para rubber, and phosphate of lime, while declines are seen in tinware, zincware and opium.

There was a rise in the total value of exports to Australia and New Zealand, Siam and Siamese States, Federated Malay States and Malay States, Netherlands Indies, Hongkong and China, French Indo-China, and British North Borneo and Sarawak, but exports to British India and Burma fell off.

There has been a shortage of tonnage during the year which became particularly marked towards the end and resulted in considerable congestion of produce in Singapore. Tin and

rubber which are good cargo did not suffer, but it was extremely difficult to ship cargo of a bulky or otherwise objectionable nature such as copra, cutch and coconut oil. Italy has been the worst sufferer and France has also been greatly affected. To the United States of America shipping difficulties have not been so marked.

Exports of tin and rubber under licences were very large and little hardship or disturbance to trade has been caused by the necessity for obtaining licences. Licences for the United States of America were late on a few occasions, but the principal difficulty has been in regard to shipments to Vladivostock, a port which was closed by the Russian Government in the fourth quarter of the year. Licences were not issued for the last two months of the year and considerable inconvenience was caused thereby.

Japan has continued to develop a demand for largely increased supplies of various kinds, presumably for Russian use. The exports to Japan were almost double those of 1915.

With regard to imports there has been difficulty in obtaining supplies of various kinds from the United Kingdom. Steel and iron work and chemicals of various kinds have been extremely difficult to obtain.

The United States of America have been called upon for the extra supplies of steel and iron, and Japan, to a certain extent, has supplied chemicals.

Local trade has not been nearly so much affected by war conditions, as might have been expected though the restrictions on export became much more stringent during the year. At one time, owing to the difficulty in exporting gunnies, the import of produce from outlying parts of the Netherlands Indies was considerably curtailed, but it was found possible, fortunately, to make the necessary arrangements and a normal state of affairs was soon restored.

ENEMY PROPERTY AND ENEMY FIRMS.

The balance to the credit of the Custodian of Enemy Property at the end of the year was $3,177,618 of which $3,053,657.97 was invested.

Only one liquidator was appointed in 1914 under the Provisions of the Alien Enemies (Winding-up) Ordinance 1914 (XXIX of 1914). During 1915 liquidators were appointed to wind up ten alien enemy businesses with head offices in Singapore, and three with head offices in Penang. During 1916, five of these businesses in Singapore and one in Penang were ordered to be wound-up. Two liquidations were completed by the end of the year.

BANKRUPTCY.

There were only 20 trade bankruptcies during the year, most of which were of little importance. No deeds of arrangement were registered.

AGRICULTURE.

The war-demand for rubber, and the value and compactness of a cargo of rubber, as well as the certainty of a crop, have brought rubber-growing into still increasing favour. Established estates have prospered greatly; and estates which in 1914 were driven to various undesirable economies, have had funds for the highest cultivation. Much new land has been planted up with rubber trees in Malacca; throughout the three Settlements the coconut palms which have hitherto been intermixed with the rubber trees have been removed on considerable areas for the sake of the better growing of the latter.

Rubber prices on the London market varied as much as 100 per cent, but were always good. That form of rubber which was offered in lesser amount obtained the greatest premium,—Para over Plantation, and Crêpe over Sheet. Accordingly, no doubt, Crêpe would have been made in greater amount, but machinery was difficult to get: on the other hand, many small holdings, too small for elaborate machinery, which must perforce make sheet, have now come into bearing.

Coconut palms produced well, especially in Malacca and Penang; and the market offered better prices for copra than in 1915: but freights have been greatly against coconut produce. Areca palms which are generally productive when coconut palms are productive, in 1916 yielded well.

The nutmeg crop of Penang was small. The clove crop fair.

The rice crop of 1915–16 was good. That of 1916–17 was sown late, but on the whole over an undiminished area; and the promise is good.

Tapioca planting is stationary. Gambier is going out, by its removal from rubber estates.

The fruit crop in 1916 was heavier than in any recent year, and fruit was correspondingly cheap. But vegetable production has diminished, and Singapore has drawn supplies from unexpected quarters.

Knowledge, of pests and plant diseases has been increased. Within the Settlements no serious outbreaks have occurred. The locusts, which are a cause of some apprehension, enjoyed a good breeding year on the Malacca–Negri Sembilan–Johore borders, and for a time gained on the staff employed in their destruction. Their destruction is being organised by the Department of Agriculture of the Federated Malay States.

Rubber-standardisation appears to have been brought materially nearer by the work of this Department.

LAND.

The revenue was thus distributed:—

——		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1915	147,346	9,472	46,416	203,234
	1916	154,171	8,738	68,659	231,568
Penang ...	1915	174,998	19,440	22,136	216,574
	1916	178,028	21,310	20,246	219,584
Malacca ...	1915	388,049	19,987	69,964	478,000
	1916	301,679	21,233	157,556	480,468
Labuan	1915	5,177	500	260	5,937
	1916	3,613	1,745	447	5,805
Total ...	1915	717,570	49,399	138,776	903,745
	1916	637,491	53,026	246,908	937,425

SINGAPORE.

Quit rents showed a steady increase, to which the conversion of 99 year leases contributed and temporary occupation of Crown land was eagerly sought after. Many important applications for land in the west of the island were received, and the extension of the Jurong Road was resumed. Prices of $80 an acre were paid, and 2 acres of swamp at Ulu Kallang fetched $480. Town land at Tanjong Pagar Road realised $2.50 a foot. Expenditure amounted to $19,426 as compared with $23,445 in 1915.

PENANG.

Land Revenue increased by about $3,000.

There were 34 applications for Crown Land in the North-East District of Penang Island, 20 in Balik Pulau, 114 in Province Wellesley and 431 in the Dindings.

There was quite a boom in land in the last named district, the number of applications being nearly double the number in

the preceding year. These applications were spread through the whole district and were not confined to any particular locality.

Now that the survey of the Dindings has been completed the surrender of Agreements for Statutory Grants will be taken in hand forthwith: the number is considerable and their conversion will entail a large amount of work.

A considerable amount of land was sold in small lots in the South District of Province Wellesley to Chinese for rubber planting. Prices varied from $20 to $102 per acre, the average being between $40 and $60.

There was an abnormal number of land transactions in the Settlement, the number of deeds affecting land registered during the year being about 33 per cent higher than in any preceding year.

It appears probable that a good deal of the money made out of tin and rubber is being invested in land, but it is somewhat regrettable that almost every form of cultivation such as coconuts and padi is being sacrificed to the planting of rubber.

MALACCA.

Receipts on account of rents on Grants and Leases and assessment under the Malacca Lands Ordinance amounted to $294,224 as against $350,002 in 1915. The estimate was $368,000, but the policy of extended rebates caused the reduction.

Owing to the fact that many holdings reached the tapping stage, the number of applications for licences to store rubber during the year greatly increased; fees rose to $8,229.

The average premium paid for land was $29 an acre. One piece of land in Alor Gajah District was bought for $200 per acre.

In the Central District 300 applications for Crown Land were received: in Alor Gajah 1,963 and in Jasin 2,022. In October the books had to be closed in Alor Gajah. The continued high price of rubber maintained the boom in land.

Customary holdings changed hands freely, 2,161 transfers under the Malacca Lands Transfer Ordinance being registered. During the year 6,324 acres of land under Grant tenure and 2,102 acres under Customary tenure were alienated. Four hundred and thirty-two Statutory Grants and a large number of Mukim Register Extracts were issued.

A greater number than usual of Conveyances, Mortgages and Reconveyances were registered under the Indian Act of 1839, the numbers being 992, 491 and 342 respectively.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,275 0 12	1,374 3 01	813 0 24	1,772 0 38	1,442 0 39
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	59,242	51,517	494,406	254,231	40,220
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	68	91	137	62	63
Premia paid ...	$69,821	$83,734	$156,772	$90,119	$49,299

PENANG.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,962 3 38	928 3 05	6,841 0 02	2,819 0 13	1,576 2 39
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	9,249	21,792	9,960	117,311	5,840
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	79	98	77	179	161
Premia paid ...	$18,567	$31,058	$16,289	$19,610	$19,906

MALACCA.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	6,074 3 27	11,427 3 03	10,379 0 33	19,341 0 01	4,581 2 20
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	31,762	25,991	3,000	17,628	33,884
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	465	552	494	637 & 1 Mining Lease.	432 & 2 Mining Lease.
Premia paid ...	$95,631	$104,836	$85,506	$133,108	$82,975

LABUAN.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	...	...	...	...	667 2 28
,, Town Lots	...	...	...	...	2 26
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	...	...	...	...	93 (13 new Grants and 80 in exchange for old titles.)
Premia paid ...	...	...	...	...	$447

FORESTS.

The area of Reserved Forest is now about 10 per cent of the area of the Colony. The Forest Department expended $30,971, and collected $23,372 during the year under review. The amalgamation of the Department with the Forest administration of the Federated Malay States is in contemplation. During 1916 the flowering and fruiting of forest trees were general and abundant.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

The number of deeds presented for registration in Singapore and Penang was 12,702 as compared with 9,975 in 1915, and the number of deeds finally registered, 12,406, as against 9,793 in 1915. Conveyances and Assignments accounted for 5,360, Mortgages for 3,093, and Reconveyances for 2,609. Revenue amounted to $26,979.80. The Registration of Deeds Ordinance 1886 is not in force in the Settlement of Malacca.

RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

Museum.—The principal additions to the Zoological section were made during the Director's visit to Gunong Kledang, Perak. The most notable donations received were: a set of birds, from Kedah, presented by the Federated Malay States Museums, and a number of Reptiles and Amphibians, from Siam, presented by Dr. MALCOLM SMITH of Bangkok.

In the Ethnological section three life-size groups were modelled, viz.:—(1) a Sea-Dyak woman, working a loom, (2) a Malanau (Sarawak) woman applying a "tadal" or "apit" to her infant, for flattening the head, and (3) a Javanese Shadow Play (Wayang Kulit), with Orchestra (Gamelan) and four musical performers.

Library.—The new building, begun in August, 1914, was completed, and opened to the public on August 25th, 1916. The number of subscribers was the highest on record, namely, 448,

consisting of 97 First Class, 216 Second Class, and 135 Third Class subscribers. The number of books purchased was 586, at a cost of $2,157. A special grant of $4,000 was voted by Government for furnishing the new building.

PASSPORTS.

1,933 passports were issued during 1916, and $11,579 were collected in fees by the passport office.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 19,528,671 as compared with 20,896,952 in 1915.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1915 and 1916.

Nationality.	1915.					1916.					Increase in 1916 as compared with 1915.	Decrease in 1916 as compared with 1915.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	77,185	3,428	...	...	80,613	89,727	8,455	...	6,016	104,198	23,585	...
Chili ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,576	...	...	...	2,576	2,576	...
British ...	6,831,656	4,136,801	510,276	252,462	11,731,195	6,426,355	3,708,456	494,868	228,316	10,857,995	...	873,200
Chinese ...	130,178	...	...	...	130,178	179,804	19,552	...	...	199,356	69,178	...
Danish ...	141,068	99,416	...	...	240,484	143,112	77,934	...	5,350	226,396	...	14,088
Dutch ...	2,370,605	422,677	...	5,132	2,798,414	2,198,366	565,290	...	5,132	2,768,788	...	29,626
French ...	650,480	11,306	...	...	661,786	800,668	...	...	...	800,668	138,882	...
Rumania ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,808	...	...	...	5,808	5,808	...
Japanese ...	2,474,834	835,542	448,570	63,192	3,822,138	2,315,292	676,552	349,768	27,456	3,369,068	...	453,070
Norwegian ...	635,382	119,486	...	...	754,868	562,722	84,848	...	...	647,570	...	107,298
Russian ...	249,584	...	...	...	249,584	132,884	...	...	7,678	140,562	...	109,022
Sarawak ...	109,218	...	...	43,960	153,178	96,194	...	...	43,280	139,474	...	13,704
Siamese ...	89,178	...	2,338	...	91,516	95,090	1,192	...	...	96,282	4,766	...
Spanish ...	131,258	...	...	...	131,258	104,926	...	...	...	104,926	...	26,332
Swedish ...	47,346	4,394	...	...	51,740	60,674	4,330	...	...	65,004	13,264	...
Totals ...	13,937,972	5,633,050	961,184	364,746	20,896,952	13,214,198	5,146,609	844,636	323,228	19,528,671	258,059	1,626,340
											Net decrease ...	1,368,281

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1912	...	...	25,985,526	tons.
1913	...	...	27,124,789	„
1914	...	...	24,859,917	„
1915	...	...	20,896,952	„
1916	...	...	19,528,671	„

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 52,528 in number and 2,321,862 in tons in 1916 as compared with 48,533 and 2,219,430, respectively, in 1915.

Seven new steamers with a tonnage of 154 tons gross and 21 sailing vessels of 1,941 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1910, seventeen new sailing vessels of 1,215 tons were licensed under section 425, and 824 vessels of 9,518 tons were registered under section 426.

LEGISLATION.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1916 are 26 in number, including two Supply Ordinances. Nineteen of these are amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Trading with the Enemy (Extension of Powers) Ordinance which empowers the Governor to prohibit by proclamation persons in the Colony from trading with individuals of enemy nationality in neutral countries.

(ii) The Tobacco Duties Ordinance which introduces a new form of taxation by imposing duties on tobacco brought into the Colony, the object of such taxation being for the purpose of enabling an annual contribution to be made to the Imperial Government towards the cost of the present war.

(iii) The War Loan Ordinance which empowers the Governor to issue War Bonds repayable at par and to invest the moneys so raised in Exchequer Bonds or other securities issued by His Majesty's Government for the purpose of raising money for the conduct of the present war.

(iv) The Repeal Ordinance which repeals, *inter alia*, the Deutsche Asiatische Bank Ordinance, the Bank established under the provisions of the latter Ordinance having been wound up under the Alien Enemies (Winding-up) Ordinance 1914.

(v) The Admiralty Transports (Maintenance of Discipline) Ordinance which gives additional powers to the masters of Admiralty Transports for the maintenance of discipline on board ship when such ships are in the ports of the Colony.

The principal amending Ordinances are :—

(i) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance which removes any doubt that may arise as to the application of the prohibition of exportation to goods brought here in transit and not landed for transhipment.

(ii) The Registrar of Imports and Exports (War Powers) Amendment Ordinance empowering the Registrar either to refuse permission to ship goods to foreign countries, though such goods are not the subject of a prohibition or restriction of exportation, or to make the grant of such permission subject to such conditions as may in the circumstances appear to be desirable.

(iii) The Reserve Force and Civil Guard (Amendment) Ordinance the chief object of which is to enable the transfer of the Reserves and those undergoing military training in Singapore to the Singapore Volunteer Corps.

(iv) The Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Ordinance conferring power on the Governor to vest enemy property in the Custodian of Enemy Property.

(v) The Poisons (Amendment) Ordinance which requires all importers to be licensed.

(vi) The Volunteer (Amendment) Ordinance having for its object the placing of the Cadet Corps on a statutory footing.

(vii) The Liquors Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance which increases the import duties on intoxicating liquors to the figures at which such duties stand in the Federated Malay States with the object of enabling an annual contribution to be made to the Imperial Government towards the cost of the present war.

(viii) The Trading with the Enemy (Further Amendment) Ordinance providing that no claims made by enemy subjects resident or carrying on business outside the Empire shall be paid out of the funds under the Control of the Custodian of Enemy Property.

(ix) The Alien Enemies Winding-up (Amendment) Ordinance which provides that the debts of any firm in liquidation incurred otherwise than in respect of the trade carried on in the Colony may be paid with the consent of the Governor.

NEW ORDINANCES.

Title of Ordinances.	*No. and Year.*
1. Trading with the Enemy (Extension of Powers) Ordinance	2 of 1916.
2. Tobacco Duties Ordinance ...	14 of 1916.
3. War Loan Ordinance	17 of 1916.
4. Final Supply Ordinance	19 of 1916.
5. Supply Ordinance	21 of 1916.
6. Repeal Ordinance	23 of 1916.
7. Admiralty Transports (Maintenance of Discipline) Ordinance	26 of 1916.

AMENDING ORDINANCES.

Title of Ordinances.	*No. and Year.*
1. Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance	1 of 1916.
2. Registrar of Imports and Exports (War Powers) Amendment Ordinance ...	3 of 1916.
3. Reserve Force and Civil Guard (Amendment) Ordinance	4 of 1916.
4. Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Ordinance	5 of 1916.
5. Poisons (Amendment) Ordinance ...	6 of 1916.
6. Sale of Food and Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance	7 of 1916.
7. Companies (Amendment) Ordinance ...	8 of 1916.
8. Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance ...	9 of 1916.
9. Volunteer (Amendment) Ordinance ...	10 of 1916.
10. Life Assurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance	11 of 1916.
11. The Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance	12 of 1916.

AMENDING ORDINANCES—*continued.*

Title of Ordinances.	*No. and Year.*
12. Liquors Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance	13 of 1916.
13. Trading with the Enemy (Further Amendment) Ordinance	15 of 1916.
14. Alien Enemies Winding-up (Amendment) Ordinance	16 of 1916.
15. Traction Engines and Motor Cars (Amendment) Ordinance ...	18 of 1916.
16. Midwives (Amendment) Ordinance ...	20 of 1916.
17. Companies (Further Amendment) Ordinance	22 of 1916.
18. Sale of Food and Drugs (Further Amendment) Ordinance	24 of 1916.
19. Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance ...	25 of 1916.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the eight Government English Schools was $176,359.34, on the 43 Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese) $162,280, and on the 186 Government Vernacular Schools $123,663.85

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $15,194.18.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show an increase over the figures for 1915. The Normal Classes continued their work during the year, and 18 Normal Certificates were issued.

The Department has been greatly handicapped by a shortage of European Masters, for whom better terms are now being offered.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Court of Appeal commenced sitting in Singapore on the 5th June and 20th November disposing of 27 Appeals from the Supreme Court of which 18 were dismissed.

In Penang the same Court sat from the 22nd February to the 8th March and from the 15th to the 25th August dealing with 23 Appeals, including 4 from the District Judges, of which 17 were dismissed, 4 allowed and 2 sent back for re-trial.

In Malacca there was only one Civil Appeal and this was allowed.

In Singapore 48 Criminal Appeals from Magistrates' decisions were entered of which 33 were dismissed.

In Penang 35 were so entered and 19 were dismissed.

In Malacca there were 9 appeals against the decisions of the District and Police Courts. Four were confirmed and 3 quashed, and 2 are pending.

In Singapore 472 Civil Suits were instituted as against 694 in 1915 and 851 in 1914. In Penang and Malacca 423 and 59, respectively, were entered.

As far as Singapore is concerned a steady decrease in litigation is shown. This, in normal times, would point to good trade; and even under present conditions this inference may be drawn, when the bankruptcy returns are considered. Only 63 petitions were filed in Singapore as against 111 in 1915 and 119 in 1914.

In Penang 37 petitions were filed as against 28 in 1915 and the same number in 1914. Two were presented in Malacca.

These figures have naturally had a considerable effect on the fees of Court as shown below.

	1914.		*1915.*		*1916.*	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Singapore ...	36,806	05	32,289	40	25,654	70
Penang ...	20,630	25	19,108	30	15,811	40

On the 22nd July the Chief Justice proceeded to Brunei to try 3 persons charged with murder—one being against VIR SINGH for the murder of the British Resident Mr. E. B. MAUNDRELL. VIR SINGH was convicted.

The Court of Appeal sat in Johore twice during the year.

On the 11th May the Judges proceeded to Johore to be present at the presentation by His Excellency the Governor of the Order of the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George to His Highness the SULTAN.

POLICE.

The total strength of the force at the end of the year was 2,622, which was distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,202
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	1,032
Malacca	302
Labuan and Brunei	86

The authorized strength of the force is 2,747.

European ranks were depleted by 40 per cent owing to the impossibility of filling vacancies during the war. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain sufficient Malay recruits.

The wastage from the force was exceptionally heavy, and is far from satisfactory. It amounted to no less than 499 men (of whom 146 were dismissed, 36 deserted, 245 resigned, 28 were pensioned, 20 discharged as medically unfit and 24 died). The number of recruits during the year was 390.

Discipline continues to improve, and the number of offences against police discipline showed a further considerable reduction.

The health of the force was good, Malaria being the chief cause of disability. There were fewer admissions to hospital by 725 than in 1915.

The Department has been actively engaged in the suppression of the gambling craze which has spread alarmingly. The cost of the Department was $908,162.

CRIME.

The statistics of crime continue to show a diminution in the number of offences reported to the police. Decreases are shown in the more serious offences against property and the person, as indicated in the returns given below. The returns are, murder, 32 (43) reports—the figures in brackets denote the corresponding number in the preceding year—gang robbery 18 (26), robbery 131 (163), house-breaking 386 (412), and theft 2,163 (2,273). It must be remembered that these are returns of reports, of which many are later proved, upon investigation by the police, to be mistaken, imaginary, or false.

The total number of arrests effected in the Colony during the year was 15,993, compared with 17,444 in 1915.

Eighty-five persons, as against ninety in 1915, were tried before the Supreme Court.

Two hundred and thirty-six persons were banished during the year. The great majority were habitual criminals.

PRISONS.

Criminal Prisons.—At the beginning of the year there were 946 prisoners in the four Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Labuan); 3,962 were admitted and 4,095 discharged during the year; and 813 remained at the end of the year.

There were only 24 prisoners of the "habitual" class in prison at the end of the year. They were either British subjects who could not be banished, or men under sentence for unlawful return from banishment.

Prison offences showed an average of 1·8 per annum per convict as against 2·2 in the preceding year.

The number of "Middle-Grade" convicts—the men available for industrial labour—continued to decline (the figures being 193 in 1916, 206 in 1915, and 231 in 1914)—with the result that the work done by the convicts for various Government departments is enough to keep them fully employed, and that a number of orders from private firms and individuals had to be refused. The "Upper-Grade" men (74 in number) are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc.; the "Lower-Grade" men at stone-breaking; and the "Short Sentence" and "Revenue Grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue-duties.

During the year 221 persons were banished from the Colony, and 540 banishees from the Federated Malay States passed through the Colony. It is to the purging of the Colony from this class of offender that the reduction in the number of convicts must be ascribed.

There were nine executions (three in Singapore, four in Penang, and two in Malacca) in pursuance of the sentences of the Supreme Court.

Civil Prisons.—There were 78 men in the Civil Prisons of the Colony at the beginning of the year: 4,207 were admitted and 4,172 discharged during the year; and there remained 113 at its end.

Houses of Detention.—In these buildings, which are part of the Civil Prisons, there were 21 men at the beginning of the year and 24 at the close of the year: 302 were admitted and 299 discharged. Of this last number 32 found employment and 240 were repatriated.

General.—The health of the prisoners was good. The total expenditure of the department was $217,024.20, and its revenue $9,089.18. In addition to this, articles to the value of $30,098 35 were supplied to Government departments.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 22,342 and 24,371 respectively. The figures for the preceding year were 22,811 and 22,633.

The estimated population of the Colony was 797,739. It was estimated at 776,444 in 1915, and ascertained in 1911 (the year of the Census) to be 711,951.

The birth-rate has decreased from 29·25 to 28·15 per mille.

The death-rate has slightly increased. It was 46·45 in 1911, 39·01 in 1912, 34·93 in 1913, 34·13 in 1914 and 29·15 in 1915 but 30·70 per mille in the year under review.

The principal causes of death were malaria (3,346 cases), infantile convulsions (3,735), tuberculosis (1,870), beri-beri (1,075), and dysentery (791).

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony during the year caused 122 deaths from small-pox, 17 from cholera and 23 from plague. The corresponding figures in 1915 were 17, 13 and 33.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—CHINESE.

Immigrants arrived from China to the number of 183,399, an increase of 91·5 per cent as compared with the figure for 1915 and a decrease of 32 per cent as compared with that for 1911, the highest yet recorded.

As compared with the average for the previous ten years, 1906 to 1915, the number arriving in 1916 is a decrease of only 5 per cent.

Adult males formed 78·7 per cent and adult females 11 per cent of the immigrants.

There were no restrictions on immigration during the year.

There is no indentured Chinese labour in the Colony.

(II).—SOUTHERN INDIAN.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 95,566, as compared with 75,323 in 1915.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 54,479, as against 50,320 in 1915.

The figures for arrivals for the last three years are as follows:—

	1914.	*1915.*	*1916.*
Assisted immigrants * ...	36,905	54,881	72,091
Other immigrants ...	14,312	20,442	23,475
Total ...	51,217	75,323	95,566

* "Assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(i) the independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bonâ fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (ii) the Kangany labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kangany, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a month's notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

The assisted immigrants consisted of 65,173 adults and 6,918 minors. Of the adults 51,611 were men and 13,562 women.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 14·49 per mille, in the Dindings 13·93: there were no deaths among the 231 labourers employed on estates in Penang.

During 1916, 980 decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with passages back to India.

The rate of assessment to the Tamil Immigration Fund for 1st and 2nd quarters 1916 was $1 per labourer per quarter and 3rd and 4th quarters $1.25. The income of the fund was $827,243 and its expenditure $1,053,645.

(III).—Netherlands Indian.

"The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,783. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance 1908 are in force: but approximately 955 local contracts for 300 days are in force in Province Wellesley."

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

Singapore	... ...	94·17 inches.
Labuan	... ...	172·72 „
Penang	... ...	86·20 „
Province Wellesley	...	92·57 „
Malacca	... ...	80·63 „
Dindings	... ...	85·52 „

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 82·5°. The maximum recorded was 96·2° in Province Wellesley on March 7th (in Singapore 93·5° on February 24th). The minimum was 66° in Penang on January 30th.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 11,173,357, an average of 15·64 per inhabitant, as against 14·04 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 7,984,747, as compared with 7,498,634 in 1915. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 246,384 to 330,566 and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 648 to 719.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1916, was $821,955.34. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $140.75. There was a profit on the year's working of $4,313.05. The estimated present value of the investments is $679,545.64.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 26 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Office at Durian Tunggal (Malacca). Of these 22 are telegraph offices.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES.

Opium.—During the year 3,749 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory. The retail price of chandu was raised on 29th April from $6.50 to $8.50 per tahil in Singapore, Penang and Malacca and from $4.80 to $5.50 per tahil in Labuan. The rise did not affect consumption to the extent anticipated and prices were again raised on 23rd November, being then fixed at $6.50 per tahil in Labuan and $10.50 per tahil in the other Settlements. The chandu sales in the Colony (including 6,600 tahils sold for consumption in Christmas Island) amounted to 1,458,615 tahils (realising $10,778,862).

Sales to the Federated Malay States Government amounted to 1,871,700 tahils, whilst 828,042 tahils were sold to the Governments of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Brunei.

The market price of opium varied between $1,031 and $1,862 per chest.

10,317 tahils of opium and 1,362 tahils of chandu were seized during the year. The latter includes a number of small seizures of chandu from the Netherlands Indies and Sarawak and there is reason to believe that the illicit traffic in Sarawak chandu is considerable.

Seizures of cocaine and morphia during the year amounted to 251 ozs. and 123 ozs. respectively.

The traffic in bhang still continues. Several large captures were made, the total amount seized during the year being 14,043 bundles in Singapore and 1,099 tahils in Penang.

Liquors.—The revenue from liquors amounted to $2,389,151 as against $1,725,917 in 1915. On the 16th of June the rates of duty on claret, ale, beer, stout, porter, cider and perry were raised by 100 per cent and on other intoxicating liquors by 60 per cent with the object of raising additional revenue for the purpose of making an annual contribution to the Imperial Government towards War Expenditure.

Tobacco.—The revenue from tobacco in the Settlement of Labuan amounted to $4,386 as against $3,972 in 1915. In the other Settlements tobacco duties were imposed for the first time by an Ordinance passed on the 16th of June, the object of the measure being, as in the case of liquors, to facilitate making a substantial annual contribution towards Imperial War Expenditure. The revenue collected under this head amounted to $698,656.

Prosecutions.—The total number of cases instituted by the department during the year was 437 in Singapore, 217 in Penang, and 17 in Malacca.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $5,491,346, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $5,172,781. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure appear below.

REVENUE.

	1912.	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,062,526	3,202,551	3,626,243	3,696,544	3,884,353
Penang ...	1,268,267	1,321,766	1,399,639	1,404,150	1,429,251
Malacca ...	112,529	134,207	147,392	161,431	177,742
TOTAL ...	$4,443,322	4,658,524	5,173,274	5,262,125	5,491,346

EXPENDITURE.

	1912.	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,197,526	3,498,277	3,679,944	3,772,692	3,743,261
Penang ...	1,255,757	1,306,566	1,295,549	1,308,600	1,268,865
Malacca ...	100,247	135,405	145,795	131,958	160,655
TOTAL ...	$4,553,530	4,940,248	5,121,288	5,213,250	5,172,781

RURAL BOARDS.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
Singapore Island	...	85,029	151,599
Penang Island	...	79,776	87,570
Province Wellesley	...	250,237	223,185
Dindings ...	...	21,647	20,944
Malacca ...	...	386,595	278,284

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD.

The revenue and expenditure of the Board at Singapore (first as the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and latterly as the Singapore Harbour Board) for the seven years 1910–1916 have been as follows :—

			Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
			$	$
1910	...	...	5,896,156	4,328,184
1911	...	...	5,740,965	4,074,669
1912	...	...	6,015,648	4,216,015
1913	...	...	6,091,296	4,070,912
1914	...	...	5,834,893	3,875,738
1915	...	...	5,432,425	3,421,271
1916	...	...	6,785,372	4,203,355

The capital debt due to Government stood at the end of 1916 at $51,886,735 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,283,548 from reserve fund.

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns :—

	1910.	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*
Number of Vessels ...	2,393	2,528	2,693	2,708	2,544	2,364	2,329
Nett Tonnage	4,605,035	4,877,317	5,397,155	5,794,536	5,445,273	4,307,082	4,348,927
Coal Inwards and Outwards	1,063,768	1,084,974	1,200,545	1,338,495	1,248,032	1,021,452	1,067,824
Cargo Inwards and Outwards	1,305,014	1,285,994	1,335,846	1,462,788	1,229,205	1,323,637	1,339,129

The tonnage occupying the Graving Docks during the years 1915 and 1916 based on the daily tonnage in dock was :—

	1915.	*1916.*
No. 1 Dock	226,745	265,522
No. 2 Dock	467,945	578,967
The Victoria Dock ...	386,733	472,979
The Albert Dock ...	693,308	791,398
The King's Dock ...	944,041	1,288,098

TANJONG PAGAR MAIN WHARF RECONSTRUCTION.

The progress of the Contractors Messrs. TOPHAM, JONES & RAILTON on the Reconstruction of the Main Wharf has been well maintained :—

During the year 42,229 cubic yards have been excavated in the foundation, 75,629 cubic yards of concrete deposited in the quay wall and 246,273 cubic yards of filling deposited behind the wall, 1,350 feet of quayage have been completed, leaving 1,590 still in the hands of the Contractors.

Great incovenience has been caused by the non-delivery of material for godowns, and in order to bring the completed quayage into use, the coal sheds erected at the West Wharf were removed and re-erected on the quay as a temporary measure to meet the demands of the shipping.

PENANG HARBOUR BOARD.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock for the year 1916 was $626,943 and the expenditure $573,686.

The following figures are taken from the Wharf tonnage returns :—

	1910.	*1911.*	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*
Number of Vessels			610	732	596	728	661
Nett Tonnage			1,208,503	1,532,361	1,108,319	871,524	810,675
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	177,535	221,209	219,367	282,067	266,146	72,016	93,388
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	241,677	265,371	329,839	399,412	313,360	254,066	245,681

LAGOON WET DOCK AND MAIN WHARF RECONSTRUCTION.

TANJONG PAGAR.

Very satisfactory progress was made during the year by the Contractors, Messrs. TOPHAM, JONES & RAILTON, LTD., on the reconstruction of the Main Wharf.

The reinforced concrete wharf was completed and handed over for the use of the Harbour Board on 27th June, and at the end of the year a length of 1,030 feet of the new wharf on the Blockwork Wall was also in possession of the Board and in regular use for the loading and discharging of vessels alongside.

The whole of the concrete blockwork construction is completed, the last block being laid on 26th December.

The difficulty of obtaining materials from England has delayed the erection of godowns, but five of these have been completed and put into use, and foundations are being prepared for temporary godowns on the sites of the others.

The total amount paid to the Contractors in respect of work executed is £1,106,300, of which sum £252,000 is for work done during 1916.

The principal items of work done during the year are as under:—

Excavation for Blockwork Wall	...	41,339	cub. yds.
Mass-concrete in Blockwork Wall	...	10,345	,,
Concrete blocks set in Blockwork Wall	...	65,203	,,
Filling behind the wall	...	201,997	,,
Coral backing to wall	...	44,274	,,
Reinforced Concrete in Ferro Concrete Wharf	...	1,942	,,

The average number of men employed per diem on the works and at the quarries was 41 Europeans, and 1,264 Asiatics.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the department was as follows:—

	Singapore.		*Penang.*		*Malacca.*		*Labuan.*		*Total.*	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
ESTABLISHMENTS.										
(1) Salaries ...	91,843	00	74,253	61	27,178	00	5,375	44	198,650	05
(2) Other Charges	27,570	49	22,128	30	23,344	10	693	50	73,736	39
Carried forward ...	119,413	49	96,381	91	50,522	10	6,068	94	272,386	44

	Singapore.	*Penang.*	*Malacca.*	*Labuan*	*Total.*
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Brought forward ...	119,413.49	96,381.91	50,522.10	6,068.94	272,386.44
ANNUALLY RECURRENT.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	135,596.93	234,717.07	226,895.07	2,427.91	599,636.98
(2) Buildings, etc.	105,680.95	77,497.32	35,959.54	4,298.79	233,436.60
SPECIAL SERVICES.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	19,154.48	74,329.37	37,338.18	1,776.68	132,598.71
(2) Buildings, etc.	188,007.97	50,490.02	82,042.75	1,627.12	322,167.85
Miscellaneous Services	25,012.23	26,047.45	3,566.60	...	54,626.28
Total ...	$592,866.05	559,463.14	436,324.24	16,199.44	1,614,852.86

The only important works completed by the Department during the year were the extension of the Raffles Museum (Singapore) and the Wireless Station in Province Wellesley (Penang). Further progress was made with building masonry walls alongside the Rochore Canal (Singapore), the installation of a water-borne sewage system at the General Hospital, Lunatic Asylum and adjoining buildings (Singapore), and with the Revetment Walls at the Malacca River.

In Singapore, the Jurong Road Extension was continued.

In Penang, the road round the Island was completed, and in Malacca the Semabok–Kandang Road was improved.

(1) The special expenditure upon metalling or re-metalling roads was $40,530, whilst the annually recurrent expenditure upon road maintenance was $544,966.

(2) The metalled roads in the Colony are as follows:—

	Miles.
Singapore	93
Penang	68
Dindings	22
Malacca	241
Province Wellesley	164
Labuan	4½
Total ...	592½

(3) The department also has charge of 50 miles of gravelled road in Malacca and 110 miles of natural road, of which the greater part lies in Penang, the Dindings and Province Wellesley.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

Christmas Island is probably the only part of the Colony that has suffered seriously from the war. Its chief wealth consists in its deposits of phosphate of lime; and exports of these have decreased owing to the war from 150,003 tons in 1913 to 93,780 tons in 1914 and 25,738 tons in 1915. In 1916, however, the exports rose to 44,209 tons. The tonnage of steamers, after falling from 150,116 tons in 1913 to 96,110 tons in 1914 and 21,852 tons in 1915, rose in 1916 to 28,685 tons. In 1913 Germany, Austria and Scandinavia were the chief consumers of the Islands' produce: in 1915 the whole export went to Australia, and in 1916 Japan took 6,612 tons while the bulk of 37,597 tons went again to Australia.

Work on the railway was suspended in May, when the rails were laid and ballasted as far as the third mile from South Point, which is ten miles from Flying Fish Cove. The timber was felled right up to the end of the line. Since May the Phosphate Hill Quarries have been re-opened to meet increased sales.

Royalty on phosphate exported in 1915 was $11,517 as against $50,339 in 1914. Revenue collected locally in 1916 was $3,924.

REGISTRIES OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Last year was the first year during which the Companies Ordinance, 1915 was in force. Forty-one new companies were registered with a capital of $13,116,400, of these 30 were private companies with a capital of $9,486,400.

At the end of the year 278 companies remained on the register of which 46 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 223 companies, which carry on a business, was $54,511,771.

Three hundred and fifty-seven companies, not registered in the Colony, filed documents under the new Ordinance: of these 297 were British. Apart from these, ten British companies have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance and five foreign companies have their special Ordinances.

The total revenue of the Department was $16,383.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

In Singapore the total imports of live stock were 602 horses, 26,996 cattle, 31,364 sheep, 8,835 goats, 136,056 swine, 155 dogs and 516 buffaloes as compared with 224 horses, 17,678 cattle, 21,873 sheep, 8,701 goats, 99,492 swine, 109 dogs and 253 buffaloes in 1915.

The total number of live stock exported from Singapore were 337 horses, 6,271 cattle, 9,124 sheep, 3,082 goats, 39,993 swine,

147 dogs and 80 buffaloes as compared with 167 horses, 2,515 cattle, 3,814 sheep, 1,216 goats, 18,585 swine, 95 dogs and 10 buffaloes in 1915.

The total revenue collected during 1916 amounted to $32,704.70 as compared with $19,120.65 in 1915.

The general health of animals in Singapore was very good, no cases of contagious disease having occurred during the year.

There were no cases of glanders, rabies or anthrax in Singapore.

LABUAN.

The revenue collected in Labuan amounted to $40,904, and $85,030 was expended. The total volume of trade was $2,668,468 and exports and imports show little variation from the previous year. 263,932 tons of merchant shipping entered and were cleared. A weekly service with Singapore and North Borneo was maintained. There was a general improvement in education and sanitation. The Government bought from the Labuan Coalfields Company, Limited, 10 sq. miles of land and this is being re-alienated in small holdings.

GENERAL.

1. In attempting to give a survey of matters of importance that may have occurred during the past year such an account must of necessity be one of the War in its effect on the attitude of the people, the trade and well-being of the Colony.

2. As regards trade, there is no question that the War has affected to a certain extent the fulfilling of contracts owing to the very natural shortage of shipping and the resulting rise in freights. All trades have naturally been somewhat disturbed and the necessary labour for the productive industries and further development of the Colony's resources, owing to the same causes, has to a certain extent, decreased. As against this, however, the enormous increase of revenue over all previous records indicates the prosperity of producers due to the high prices obtained during the past year. This prosperity and the consequent abundance of wealth has acted as a counterbalance against the restricted consumption of luxuries and imported articles which, of course, has in a way disturbed but only to a slight extent, the dealings of importers, but at the same time has also led to an all-round increase in prices. It may be said that, but for this increase in prosperity, the restriction, that has necessarily had to be imposed on trade, would have otherwise made itself felt, and have led perhaps to a feeling of local unrest which happily however has not been the case.

3. This Colony is fortunate that its exports are in the main necessities for the purpose of carrying on the War to a successful

conclusion, viz.: Rubber, Tin, Copra, Sago, Pepper, Gambier, Wolfram, Rattans, etc. The difficulties in obtaining shipping have not at any rate during the year 1916 been acute and no complaint should, therefore, be made by shippers if owing to the stress of the War and the shortage of cargo space, such difficulties should arise in the coming year.

4. It must always be remembered that Singapore depends greatly for its prosperity on its transhipping facilities, and, in the interests of the Colony, as long as the present War continues, as far as possible the danger of driving trade to other ports through irksome restrictions should be avoided; naturally the necessity or otherwise of these restrictions can only be regulated by the needs of the Imperial Government, and I think the trade of the Colony can safely congratulate itself that everything possible has been done to avoid all unnecessary restrictions, so far as such has been compatible with Imperial interests.

5. It may well be said that the War has brought the Government into closer touch with the community. During the past year the Muhammadan and Sikh Advisory Boards which were constituted in 1915 have worked successfully and fully justified their creation. The Government has, as heretofore, sought the advice and assistance of the Unofficial members of the community in all matters, and the services of members of the public on Boards and Committees have been utilized and have proved of the greatest value to Government.

6. The War has been responsible for unanimous expressions of loyalty from the Asiatic peoples in the Colony which is a proof of their appreciation and gratitude for the protection and prosperity they have enjoyed for so many years under the British Flag. A striking example of this was given in the very large contributions sent by the Colony and Johore towards the Red Cross. A sum of £50,000 was collected and cabled home in connection with "Our Day" to the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. All sections of the Community throughout the Settlements vied with one another in subscribing to the noble object of this Society. Numerous meetings of Indians, Muhammadans, Malays and Straits Chinese have been held at every one of which loyal addresses were given by the speakers voicing as they did the views of the communities they represented.

7. During the past year it was felt not only by the Government but by the people in general throughout the Colony that as far as possible the mother country should be assisted in the enormous expenditure involved on it in the prosecution of the present War. A voice was given to this feeling in the Legislative Council on the 31st March when a resolution to the effect that the sums of £4,258-11-5 and £111,918-17-9 being the amounts

by which the Military contribution paid by the Colony for the years 1913–1914 and 1914–1915, respectively, exceeded the cost of the garrison during those periods, be not recovered from his Majesty's Government, was proposed and unanimously agreed to. Again on the 16th June, the first Council of which the present writer had the honour of attending as Member, the following resolution was moved that "this Council resolves that an annual contribution of £200,000 be made from the funds of the Colony to the Imperial Government towards War Expenditure; such contribution to continue in the first instance for a period of five years from 1st July, 1916, and to be extended for a further period of five years if at the expiration of that period the finances of the Colony permit." The resolution was spoken to by all the Unofficial Members who not only expressed their entire agreement with the proposed contribution but urged that the Colony might contribute still further towards Imperial funds for the purposes of the War. They one and all declared in favour of an Income-tax being imposed for the period of the War for the purpose of making such a contribution to the Imperial Exchequer. The result of the debate on that day was the formation of a Committee for the purpose of reporting on the question of introducing an Income-tax and also to formulate the lines on which a Bill for that purpose should be introduced into the Legislative Council. The Committee was duly formed and during the months that followed there was widespread discussion both in the local newspapers and at meetings held in the various Chambers of Commerce and elsewhere on the question of the wisdom or otherwise of introducing an Income-tax in an Asiatic Community such as we have in the Colony. The striking note, however, of all these discussions was the practical unanimity of the whole people whether Chinese, Indians, Malays or Europeans that a larger contribution should be made from the Colony to the Empire than the £200,000 per annum already voted. Suffice it to say that although it was not possible to introduce an Income-tax before the end of the year the Ordinance at the time of writing has now been passed and is in operation.

During November an issue of 6 per cent War Loan Bonds redeemable in November, 1919, was floated in the Colony a condition of the issue being that the whole proceeds were to be placed at the disposal of His Majesty's Government.

At the outset the sales of these bonds did not reach the anticipated amount but it has to be remembered that the sales commenced only a short time after the payment of the final instalment of the Federated Malay States $15,000,000 War Loan in which residents of the Colony had invested largely.

It is satisfactory, however, to note here that in the first five months of sale more than $15,000,000 worth of bonds have been

taken up and that this amount has been lent to His Majesty's Government at 5 per cent interest, the balance of the interest being borne by the revenues of the Colony.

8. Towards the end of the year in view of the heavy fighting going on at Home and the consequent drain on the Empire's Man-Power a strong feeling was experienced throughout the Community that men of Military Age should if possible proceed Home to offer themselves for active service. To meet this wish the Government decided to appoint Advisory Man-Power Committees for the three Settlements. As regards men of Military age who had been passed fit by the Military Authorities and who were free agents there was no obstacle of course against their returning Home, but with others there were greater difficulties. There is no question that certain industries with which the future of the Straits Settlements is so closely connected are essential for the successful continuance of the present War. I would mention two only, viz.: Rubber and Tin industries. It was felt, therefore, that while no obstacle should if possible be placed in the way of young men wishing to offer their services, yet at the same time if such offers became wholesale the essential industries of the Colonies would suffer probably with no real proportionate gain to the Home country. There was also the feeling reported amongst many young men in the Colony that in the years after the War a slur would be cast on them owing to the fact that they had not taken their share in the fighting. For the dual purpose then of freeing those who would be spared as well as giving the above class of men who could not be spared some sort of certificate of indispensability, these Committees were formed. It may be stated here that the results although of course not coming within the purview of the work of the year, have proved satisfactory and justified the institution of the Committees.

9. Mr. R. J. WILKINSON, C.M.G., left the Colony on January 5th to take up the duties of Governor of Sierra Leone. From that date Mr. W. G. MAXWELL acted as Colonial Secretary until June 8th when Mr. F. S. JAMES, C.M.G., arrived in the Colony and assumed the duties. Mr. JAMES having been appointed Colonial Secretary from the 28th March.

F. S. JAMES,
Colonial Secretary, S. S.

SINGAPORE, *27th April*, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falklands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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No. 991.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 940.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

May, 1919.

PRINTED IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LONDON:
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A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 862 [Cd. 7622–53].

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1917.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1917 amounted to $19,672,104 exceeding the estimate by $6,814,420 whilst the expenditure was $11,369,392 less by $673,451 than the estimate. Revenue from Opium was underestimated.

The revenue of the Colony in this the fourth year of war exceeded the record of 1916 by $2,346,409, a truly remarkable fact.

The actual figures for 1916 and 1917 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—Revenue.

	1916.	*1917.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	2,588	1,995	...	593
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	13,963,722	15,425,019	1,461,297	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	614,208	754,914	140,706	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	797,438	834,975	37,537	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property	704,099	858,001	153,902	...
6. Interest	531,087	1,043,917	512,830	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	465,725	402,671	...	63,054
	$17,078,867	19,321,492	2,306,272	63,647
8. Land Sales	246,828	350,612	103,784	...
Total ...	$17,325,695	19,672,104	2,410,056	63,647
		Net Increase ...	$2,346,409	

R.V.S. 7/15/21 S.N.

The principal constituents of the head "Licences, etc.," are Opium Revenue, Liquors and Stamp Duties.

Stamp duties for 1917 exceeded those for 1916 by $466,186. Estate duty brought in $408,208, against $301,737 in 1916.

The Revenue from Posts and Telegraphs shows an increase of $37,537. Interest on Investments show an increase of $282,399 over 1916. Interest on Bank Accounts show an increase of $16,206. Interest on Loans and Advances was unusually inflated by the bringing to credit of the interest paid by the Singapore Harbour Board under section 36 of the Ports Ordinance which had hitherto been paid into a Deposit Account. This alone amounted to $223,496.97.

Profits on Exchange were $28,504 less than in 1916 but the increase in the Profits on Money Order Rates due to the low rate of exchange with India amounted to $234,412.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1916.	*1917.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	...	18,542	18,542	...
2. Pensions	546,416	565,595	19,179	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	10,978	10,738	...	240
4. The Governor ...	82,643	78,112	...	4,531
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	177,211	166,001	...	11,210
6. Government Printing Office	48,359	86,670	38,311	...
7. Land and District Offices	239,714	244,655	4,941	...
8. Forests	31,322	32,446	1,124	...
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	66,729	75,809	9,080	...
10. Treasury	99,062	111,387	12,325	...
11. Audit	52,844	60,531	7,687	...
12. Marine	315,793	365,725	49,932	...
13. Legal	400,022	400,221	199	...
14. Police	911,314	912,130	816	...
15. Prisons	222,369	215,960	...	6,409
16. Medical	236,418	257,865	21,447	...
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	488,432	552,211	63,779	...
18. Veterinary	24,886	24,140	...	746
Carried forward ...	3,954,512	4,178,738	247,362	23,136

B.—EXPENDITURE—*continued*

	1916.	*1917.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
Brought forward ...	3,954,512	4,178,738	247,362	23,136
19. Education	304,672	313,181	8,509	...
20. Ecclesiastical ...	20,662	19,694	...	968
21. Transport	9,509	15,492	5,983	...
22. Military Expenditure ...	2,700,580	2,944,299	243,719	...
23. Miscellaneous Services ...	251,293	2,057,774	1,806,481	...
24. Post Office	584,726	507,290	...	77,436
25. Government Monopolies	385,043	452,345	67,302	...
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	51,831	51,089	...	742
27. Public Works Department	329,398	321,484	...	7,914
28. Public Works, Recurrent	231,970	299,098	67,128	...
29. Public Works, Extraordinary	318,788	208,908	...	109,880
War Expenditure ...	1,046,226	(*a*)	...	1,046,226
Contribution to Imperial War Funds ...	857,143	(*b*)	...	857,143
TOTAL ...	$11,046,353	11,369,392	2,446,484	2,123,445
	Net Increase	...	$323,039	

The expenditure upon personal emoluments ($3,811,816) and Other Charges ($1,843,859) both show increases, the figures in 1916 being $3,749,326 and $1,575,415, respectively.

The Military Expenditure shows an increase of $243,719 due to payment of arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the year 1916.

Miscellaneous Services.—The amount spent on Salaries of Acting Officers again showed a decrease of $6,626 owing to the small number of officers on leave.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the war the Colony's Expenditure in 1914 was $7,746,594; in 1915, $7,207,478; in 1916, $6,514,527 and in 1917, $6,774,048, the corresponding expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary being $926,077, $676,463, $318,788 and $208,908.

The principal excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were in respect of Tobacco, Opium, etc., $4,305,430, (Opium Revenue $3,182,001), (Liquors $537,399), Interest $735,597, Premia on Grants $178,538, (Tobacco duties $586,030), Stamp duties $524,716, Custodian of Enemy Property

(*a*) Paid out of Suspense and vote taken in 1918 $585,065.
(*b*) Included in Item 23, $1,714,286.

Fees $102,073, Pawnbrokers Ordinance $97,779, Land Rents $66,748. The principal Savings were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $421,105, Post Office $272,071, Police $158,947, and Miscellaneous Services $113,502. Overpayments recovered showed a sum of $31,594, not estimated for.

The following comparative statement shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past six years :—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1912	...	12,912,577	9,295,102
1913	...	12,397,747	10,468,618
1914	...	14,016,882	10,180,189
1915	...	14,131,691	10,196,560
1916	...	17,325,695	11,046,353
1917	...	19,672,104	11,369,392

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1917, were as follows :—

Liabilities.		*Assets.*	
	$		$
Deposits	8,088,593	Indian Agency Account ...	1,034,768
		Investments	17,187,193
		Advances	1,549,154
		Advances, Singapore Harbour Works	4,467,465
Suspense (Currency Commissioners) ...	1,704,082	Loans :—	
		Municipalities ...	368,360
		Sultan of Trengganu ...	20,000
Drafts and Remittances ...	143,747	Kelantan Government	120,000
		Singapore Harbour Board	5,201,138
		Penang Harbour Board	315,104
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	35,163,628	Imprests	28,122
		Loan Account	6,364,399
		Cash in Transit ...	2,313
		Suspense	1,088,588
		Cash	7,353,446
TOTAL ...	$45,100,050	TOTAL ...	$45,100,050

The excess of the assets over the liabilities increased during the year by $8,302,712.

MILITARY AND WAR EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1917 on the Volunteers, Reserve Force and Civil Guard amounted to $258,362.

The amount paid in 1917 for Defence Contribution was $2,881,058 of which $844,419 represented arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue in 1916. The amount to be paid in 1918 for arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue for 1917 is $1,255,768.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907, amounted on the 31st December, 1917, to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...		1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	10,834,286
		66,383,246
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	... ...	3,388,205
Total	...	$69,771,451*

The charge on account of interest on this loan was $2,069,750 in 1917. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

Under the provisions of the War Loan Ordinance XVII of 1916 an amount of $42,063,700 in 6 per cent Bonds repayable on 15th November, 1919, had been raised by 31st December, 1917.

* Practically all the balance over and above the proceeds of loans already issued has been advanced by the Colony.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/4¼ and 2/4 9/32

CURRENCY.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the Currency Area at the end of the year consisted of $87,068,993.60 in currency notes, and $6,634,413 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, to the value of $169,932.

The phenomenal increase of $10,691,792 recorded last year in the currency note circulation was still further augmented by $18,674,853.60. This was almost entirely due to the issue of notes in exchange for gold in London.

The demand for currency to meet the difference between the value of exports from and imports into the currency area resulted in the purchase by the Commissioners during the year of Telegraphic Transfers on London to the extent of £2,210,000. These sterling remittances continued to be purchased at the pre-war rate of 2/4 3/16.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $53,013,770.39 consisting of £328,111 in gold and $12,372,459.78 in silver in Singapore and £4,413,375-4-9 in gold in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the note guarantee and depreciation funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year $31,542,175.89, the cost price of those investments being $39,687,448.37.

The decrease of price compared with original cost is due to the general depreciation of all securities.

The note guarantee fund at the end of the year was worth $86,260,028.61 (Coin portion $53,013,770.39, Investment portion $31,542,175.89 and on deposit with the Government pending investment $1,704,082.33), while the gold standard reserve fund at the same date was worth $3,539,037.80. The total of the funds controlled by the Commissioners was, therefore, $89,799,066.41, or $2,730,072.81 more than the total note circulation at the end of the year.

Owing to the shortage of small silver in the latter part of the year it was found necessary to legislate for the issue of notes of smaller dénomination than the $1 and by the end of the year $323,997.60 worth of the 10-cent notes had been issued.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 3,228,127, against 1,076,315 in 1916. All the notes destroyed were of the denomination of $1.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 4,934,034. During the year there were cancelled a further 1,645,963 notes making a total of 6,579,997 for destruction and leaving a balance at the end of the year of 3,351,870 notes awaiting destruction.

It will be seen therefore that the Cancellation Branch has more than fulfilled its programme for the destruction of 3,000,000 notes a year.

ENEMY PROPERTY AND ENEMY FIRMS.

The balance to the credit of the Custodian of Enemy Property at the end of the year was $9,505,539.39 of which $6,738,904.80 was invested.

Of the twenty liquidations under the Alien Enemies (Winding-up) Ordinance, 1914 (XXIX of 1914), twelve had been completed by the end of the year 1917, and little remained to be done to complete seven of the remainder.

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony in 1917 was on the whole satisfactory, being an improvement on the two previous years, and on 1914, the year when the war broke out.

The gross trade of the Colony for the last four years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917 in thousands of pounds sterling was as follows:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports. Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports. Increase over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	45,660	38,981	...	...
1915 ...	51,053	47,125	5,393	8,144
1916 ...	63,242	57,436	12,189	10,311
1917 ...	75,443	72,747	12,201	15,311

The following figures show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling:—

Merchandise—

		Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Merchandise. Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports Merchandise. Increase over the preceding year.*
		£	£	£	£
1914	...	43,856	38,032	...	...
1915	...	49,803	46,495	5,947	8,463
1916	...	61,855	56,934	12,052	10,439
1917	...	73,987	72,307	12,132	15,373

Coin and Bullion—

		Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*	*Exports. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
		£	£	£	£
1914	...	1,804	949	...	...
1915	...	1,250	629	−554	−320
1916	...	1,387	503	+137	−126
1917	...	1,455	441	+ 68	− 62

The value of the inter-port trade including treasure was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling:—

		Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports. Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports. Increase over the preceding year.*
		£	£	£	£
1914	...	3,146	3,002	...	...
1915	...	4,220	4,249	1,074	1,247
1916	...	6,412	6,488	2,192	2,239
1917	...	8,137	8,720	1,725	2,232

The aggregate gross trade for the year 1917 was therefore £148·2 millions against £120·7 millions in 1916 and £84·6 millions in 1914, an increase of £27·5 millions over 1916 and of £63·6 millions over 1914.

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows:—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals. Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	19,161	22,045	27,761	15,717	17,751	21,447
2. Raw Materials ...	22,365	28,778	33,941	25,117	32,490	43,420
3. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles	8,277	11,033	12,285	5,661	6,693	7,440
4. Coin and Bullion ...	1,250	1,387	1,455	629	503	441
TOTAL ...	51,053	63,243	75,442	47,125	57,437	72,748

The figures, excluding coin and bullion, exceeded those of the previous year, as prices were on the whole much higher than they were in 1916.

Excluding Para Rubber the volume of Straits Produce shipped was slightly less than in 1916.

Articles of Straits Produce gave larger average prices in most cases.

Tin.—The imports of tin and tin ore were in 1917, 107,000 and 1,240,000 pikuls, respectively, as against 101,000 and 1,386,000 pikuls, respectively, in 1916 as shown below:—

	1916.		1917.	
	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.
Malay States ...	92,000	978,000	99,000	835,000
Netherlands Indies	...	114,000	...	133,000
Australia ...	...	35,000	...	20,000
Siam	9,000	195,000	8,000	191,000
Other Countries ...	...	64,000	...	61,000
Total ...	101,000	1,386,000	107,000	1,240,000

The exports of tin in 1916 and 1917 were as follows:—

1916.		1917.	
Pikuls.	Value.	Pikuls.	Value.
	$		$
1,096,000	97,647,000	1,076,000	117,821,000

Para Rubber.—The imports of Para Rubber in 1916 and 1917 from the following countries were as follows:—

	1916.		1917.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
Malay States ...	584,000	71,878,000	928,000	105,501,000
Netherlands Indies	95,000	11,531,000	124,000	13,330,000
Other Countries...	24,000	3,020,000	40,000	4,204,000
Total ...	703,000	86,429,000	1,092,000	123,035,000

The exports of Para rubber were:—

1916.		1917.	
Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
—	—	—	—
	$		$
966,000	130,871,000	1,623,000	208,648,000

It will thus be seen that both imports and exports of Para Rubber show large increases in value as compared with the previous year. Although there was a sharp fall in the price of this article towards the end of the year, yet this fall did not reduce the total value, as the quantity imported and exported was much in excess of that of last year.

As regards exports of tin in 1917 there was a slight decrease in quantity, but this was counterbalanced by the increase in value.

IMPORTS.

In "Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics," increased values are seen under the sub-head animals, coffee, rice, wheat flour, milk, opium, black pepper, sugar, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Under the heading "Raw Materials," enhanced values appear in tin, tin ore, wolfram ore, coal, para rubber and ground-nuts, while decreased import values are apparent in copra, gambier, raw hides, petroleum and liquid fuel.

In the "Manufactured Class" cotton piece goods, yarns, ironware, motor cars, motor cycles and accessories, cement, chemicals, matches and woodenware show increased values.

In quantities imported there was an increase under animals, coffee, wheat flour, rice, malt liquors, opium, salt, sugar, tapioca flour, para rubber, ground-nuts and benzine.

Declines in quantity are most noticeable in fish, dry and salted, bran, padi, brandy, milk, sago flour, tobacco, raw cotton, tin ore, copra, gutta inferior, raw hides, petroleum, liquid fuel, rattans and silk piece goods.

EXPORTS.

Exports of the following show increased values:—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Animals, coffee, fish, dry and salted, rice, milk, opium, salt, pepper, sugar, tapioca, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

"Raw Materials"—

Tin, wolfram ore, para rubber, phosphate of lime, and ground-nuts.

"Manufactured Class"—

Cotton piece goods, gunnies, machinery, chemicals, and tanned hides, while decreases are apparent in—

"Foodstuffs, drink and narcotics"—

Pineapples, preserved, and sago flour.

"Raw Materials"—

Cotton, copra, gambier, gum copal, gum dammar, raw hides, coconut oil, petroleum and liquid fuel.

"Manufactured Class"—

Sarongs, slendangs and kains and rubber tyres.

The quantities of coffee, rice, pepper, sugar, tapioca, para rubber, phosphate of lime and ground-nuts show an increase.

A decrease in volume is recorded of preserved pineapples, chandu (prepared), sago flour, arecanuts, tea, tobacco, raw cotton, tin, gambier, rattans, gutta inferior, raw hides, coconut oil, lubricating oil, petroleum, sarongs, etc., corrugated iron and iron nails.

TRADE BY COUNTRIES.

The following statement shows the position of the Colony in the years 1916 and 1917 as a market for British, European, foreign, American and Japanese goods in thousands of pounds sterling:—

(The value of the trade in merchandise with the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, United States of America, Russia-

in-Asia and Japan is shown in thousands of pounds sterling.)

		Imports.		Exports.	
		1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.
		—	—	—	—
		£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		5,621	5,431	10,916	11,572
France	Continent of Europe.	385	272	1,314	1,770
Denmark	Continent of Europe.	45	23	223	363
Holland	Continent of Europe.	311	90	16	...
Italy	Continent of Europe.	525	261	444	838
Norway	Continent of Europe.	259	88	...	...
Sweden	Continent of Europe.	49	19	...	...
Spain	Continent of Europe.	29	22	73	75
United States of America		1,317	1,839	15,687	24,159
Russia-in-Asia		...	...	1,876	939
Japan		2,659	4,049	1,363	2,083

The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were cotton piece goods, apparel, sewing thread, soap and soda, sarongs, slendangs and kains and silk piece goods.

The articles showing declines in values from the United Kingdom were cement, corrugated iron, steel, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, hardware and ironware including cooking utensils, paper and stationery, telegraph and telephone materials, coal, biscuits and India rubber goods including tyres.

From the United States of America increases in imports are seen in cigars and cigarettes, machinery, paper and stationery, motor cars, milk, hardware, ironware and cooking utensils, steel, and decreases in wire nails, petroleum, lubricating oil, roofing and building materials.

From Japan the following show advances in imports:—

Coal, matches, chemicals, wheat flour, apparel, etc., crockery and porcelain, cabinet and woodenware, cycles, parts and accessories, while hardware, ironware and cooking utensils, silk piece goods and rubber tyres show a decline.

There was a rise in the total value of exports to Australia and New Zealand, Siam and the Siamese States, Malay States, Netherlands Indies, Hongkong and China, North Borneo and Sarawak and British India and Burma.

BANKRUPTCY.

Out of 15 trade bankruptcies 13 were Chinese: in 8 of these the debtors absconded. There were no large trade bankruptcies, the greatest estimated liabilities not exceeding 64,000.

There were no registered deeds of arrangement.

AGRICULTURE.

The agriculture of the Straits Settlements continues to expand, but the conditions are very artificial in consequence of high freights and unusual demands.

Labour has been in deficit: and higher wages resulted from this and from the increased cost of all imports. Further as it has been necessary that the management of the British-owned estates should spare a part of their supervising staffs for the war, it has been difficult to attain estimates in some cases.

The premier crop, rubber, has paid very well; and the market has been without the large speculative element which was present in 1916. Local selling has greatly increased, and with profit to the Colony, because freight to Europe for re-export to America can thereby be avoided, and for the reason that the manipulation of the market becomes harder for dealers when selling can be done in many places.

But the profits from rubber production have decreased, because while prices fell throughout the year, expenses rose, both in increased wages and from the high cost of tools, machinery and chemicals. However, many estates are achieving production at what may be regarded as the minimum current rate; and the market price has been about twice this or higher.

On the other hand coconut produce paid meagrely at the beginning of the year, prices declining further as the year passed; in consequence of which the already established tendency to remove the palms for rubber took further hold, and while leading to but little destruction of trees in bearing in Malacca, led to more in Singapore and to much in Penang or Province Wellesley, until an Enactment was called for to restrain it. The crop of nuts was good in the early part of the year, and fair generally. The difficulty of selling the copra to Europe appears to have favoured crushing for oil in Penang; for exports thence continue to increase. That this should occur is good, for it is of advantage to retain the cake in the country.

The tapioca market was speculative; but prices were generally good. A slight increase of the crop in Province Wellesley has taken place, but nevertheless the total production is small, as the cultivation has moved northwards.

Pig and poultry raising, which are partly subsidiary occupations of the tapioca industry, and partly of vegetable-growing, tend more and more to desert the Colony. So much has this been so in Malacca that there is now an import of twelve thousand pigs in the year, whereas there was an export of as many in 1910: and Malacca has now but a very small export of poultry. Penang, which had a very large export of poultry,

has now a larger import than export: and its export of pigs is not half of what it was three years ago. Singapore has long had a larger import than export of both; though the by-products of its industries would seem to promise plentiful pig or poultry food.

Freights having driven up the cost of imported foodstuffs, those which can be produced in the Colony have fetched better prices in the markets, and the growing of them has received a stimulus. Rice has been more extensively sown than in any recent year, and the crop promises well. Vegetables have been grown in increased quantity in most places: ginger particularly in Malacca.

The fruit crop of 1917 was a very poor one, partly as a result of the bountiful crop of 1916, in consequence of the trees demanding a rest, but mostly because of the unseasonable weather when the trees flowered. For the same reason cloves bore badly in Penang, and the rice crop of 1916–17 was spoiled.

There is no tendency in Penang to neglect the pure clove plantations; but the mixed clove-nutmeg-areca palm gardens are suffering much from want of attention. It appears that this has been caused, like the decrease in the local fisheries and in some other occupations of men of small means, by the attractiveness of rubber-planting. It is certainly responsible for the fact that Penang no longer exports more nutmegs than it imports, and from being a producing centre has become rather an entrepôt for the Sumatra trade. It seems also to be responsible for the reduction in the exports of areca-nuts from Penang.

Similarly village fruit-growing would seem be be declining in Malacca and also the export of areca-nuts.

Gambier just persists in the Colony. As a catch crop for rubber it has virtually ceased to exist. Pineapple cultivation in Singapore is also less in use as a catch crop than formerly: but the industry of canning the fruit is suffering eclipse on account of the impossibility of obtaining tin-plate.

Owing to the good returns rubber has been cultivated on a more scientific basis. Thinning has been very extensively done, and tapping placed on to a more conservative basis: but there are an enormous number of small holdings, the owners of which cannot or will not wait for their profits, and some anxiety is caused by these plots of weakened trees. Fortunately rubber in the Settlements is very free from disease: one small outbreak occurred in Malacca, and the advice of the Department of Agriculture of the Federated Malay States was sought. It is noticeable that more attention is being given to the advantages of manuring.

Coconuts are not receiving much attention, but are generally healthy, save for insect pests, of which a new one, unrecorded, but perhaps not altogether unknown, a beetle,—has done some damage near Malacca town. The moth *Brachartona* has been prevalent in Singapore island.

LAND.

The revenue was thus distributed:—

——		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1916	154,171	8,738	68,659	231,568
	1917	204,768	10,602	107,066	306,686
Penang ...	1916	178,028	21,310	20,246	219,584
	1917	187,102	22,747	11,244	221,093
Malacca ...	1916	301,679	21,233	157,556	480,468
	1917	381,613	28,243	228,952	638,808
Labuan ...	1916	3,613	1,745	447	5,805
	1917	2,708	1,222	460	4,390
Total ...	1916	637,491	53,026	246,908	937,427
	1917	776,191	62,814	347,722	1,170,975

SINGAPORE.

The amount realised by the sale of Crown land as shown above increased chiefly owing to special sales including land at Telok Ayer.

About $8,000 of an increase of land rents was due to a revision of the rents on land held by Statutory Grants and Leases, made in 1915, but collected only for the first time last year. The revision was in accordance with the conditions of the Titles. Rents paid for temporary occupation of Crown land including foreshore sites amounted to the sum of $51,000—considerably more than one-third of the amount paid by holders of permanent Titles. Rents were collected without difficulty. There were no arrears of quit rent, and no land reverted to Government on account of non-payment of rent. Revenue produced by licenses issued for the sale of rubber rose from $3,494 in 1916 to $28,306, the license fee having been raised from $25 to $250.

In the second half of the year it was decided as an experiment to issue 30-year leases on easy terms with a condition requiring at least one-fifth of the area of the lease to be planted and maintained with fruit and vegetables.

For the first time since the land boom in 1903 there was a genuine demand for Telok Ayer land and 17,506 square feet with frontage on Robinson Road were sold at $4.15 a foot.

Large offers were also obtained for the site of the old Cross Street School and the vacant land behind Telok Ayer Police Station which will be sold in all probability in allotments in 1918. The terms of a lease of the island of Sebarok for a term of 50 years to the Standard Oil Company were settled and the Company entered into occupation at the beginning of this year.

Eighty-seven Statutory Grants were issued of which 21 were grants issued on the conversion of 99-year leases and 16 on the subdivision of existing titles.

A fair number of applications were made for the conversion of 99-year leases, but pressure of work in the Survey Office prevented much progress being made with them. A sum of $39,687 received as premium on conversion was placed on deposit and therefore does not appear in the ordinary revenue.

Rural Board Revenue increased by $70,000, indicating development in the country districts.

PENANG.

—	Land Revenue.	Reimbursement.	Land Sales.	Total.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
North-east District ...	44,885 46	4,282 18	713 00	49,880 64

Land rents were increased by $2,859.57. There were 25 applications for Crown Land but only a small piece in the town itself was sold to the Eastern Smelting Company for the extension of their works. Nearly every application was to plant rubber.

The Survey Office found difficulty in keeping pace with the number of applications for sub-divisional surveys and re-surveys and in consequence were able to carry out only a third of the work required.

9,345 deeds were presented for registration as against 8,764 in 1916: the increased fees for registration brought in over $5,200 additional revenue.

The last fruit season was as poor as its predecessor was superabundant.

MALACCA.

Receipts on account of rents on Grants and Leases and assessment under the Malacca Lands Ordinance amounted to $358,109 in 1917 as against $294,224 in 1916.

Fees rose to $26,737 in 1917 on account of the increase in the fees charged which has already been mentioned.

The average premium paid for land was $30 an acre.

In the Central District 258 applications for Crown Land were received: in Alor Gajah 31 and in Jasin 675. In October, 1916, the books were closed in Alor Gajah. The continued high price of rubber maintained the boom in land.

Customary holdings changed hands freely, 2,034 transfers under the Malacca Lands Transfer Ordinance being registered. During the year 3,533 acres of land under Grant tenure and 3,581 acres under Customary tenure were alienated. Four hundred and ninety-four Statutory Grants and a large number of Mukim Register Extracts were issued.

A greater number than usual of Conveyances, Mortgages and Reconveyances were registered under the Indian Act of 1839, the numbers being 1,157, 606 and 338 respectively.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1913.	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*	*1917.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,374 3 01	813 0 24	1,772 0 38	1,442 0 39	2,034 3 10
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	51,517	494,406	254,231	40,220	61,182
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	91	137	62	63	87
Premia paid ...	$83,734	$156,772	$90,119	$49,299	$76,113

PENANG.

	1913.	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*	*1917.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	928 3 05	6,841 0 02	2,819 0 13	1,576 2 39	636 1 10
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	21,792	9,960	117,311	5,840	9,015
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	98	77	179	161	288
Premia paid ...	$31,058	$16,289	$19,610	$19,906	$8,022

MALACCA.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	11,427 3 03	10,379 0 33	19,341 0 01	4,581 2 20	7,113 2 28
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	25,991	3,000	17,628	33,884	...
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	552	494	637 & 1 Mining Lease.	432 & 2 Mining Leases.	494
Premia paid ...	$104,836	$85,506	$133,108	$82,975	$143,267

LABUAN.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	...	...	...	667 2 28	185 2 12
,, Town Lots	...	...	...	2 26	0 2 13
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	...	...	...	93 (13 new Grants & 80 in exchange for old titles.)	62 (18 new Grants & 44 in exchange for old titles.)
Premia paid ...	...	...	...	$447	$460

FORESTS.

The area of reserved forests has been increased to 105,095 acres, and now amounts to about 10·4 per cent of the lands in the Colony. The Forest Department expended $32,414 and collected $25,594 during the year under review, exclusive of $35,319, the sale proceeds of about 43 acres of rubber plantation hitherto managed by the department.

The flowering and fruiting of forest trees was very scanty everywhere. Prosecutions numbering about 85 per cent were conducted by the Department ended in convictions.

A scheme was submitted during the year for the amalgamation of the forest departments of the Federated Malay States and the Colony, and arrangements were completed for the control of the Malacca forests by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Negri Sembilan.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

The number of deeds presented for registration in Singapore and Penang was 13,287 as compared with 21,466 in 1916, and the number of deeds finally registered, 13,048, as against 20,976 in 1916. Conveyances and Assignments accounted for 5,531, Mortgages for 3,350, and Reconveyances for 2,720. Revenue amounted to $33,226.45. The Registration of Deeds Ordinance 1915 is not in force in the Settlement of Malacca.

RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

Museum.—The principal donations were: the skin and skeleton of a Goat-Antelope or Serow (*Capricornis* species), with photographs, notes and measurements, from Phu'ong Mai, Annam, presented by M. LOUIS CHOCHOD and M. GABRIEL SAINT-POULOF, of Quinhon, Indo-China. The skin and skull of the Sumatran Serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*), from Benkoelen, Sumatra, from Mr. JANSEN and Mr. C. J. BROOKS. A Wild Dog (*Cyon rutilans*), from Ulu Pahang, from H. H. the Sultan of Johore. A Wild Dog, a Wild Cat (*Felis planiceps*), and a Bird-eating Spider (*Pœcilotheria* sp.), from Kuantan, Pahang, from Mr. G. SHILLITOE. A number of Reptiles and Amphibians, from Siam, from Dr. MALCOLM SMITH, Bangkok. A number of Reptiles and an exceptionally large Spider (*Pœcilotheria* sp.), from Penang Hill, from Mr. O. FERNANDO, of the Public Works Department there. A huge Stick Insect, from Penang Hill, from Mr. TAN THIAM HOCK, of the Crag Hotel. A large nugget of Wolfram, from Dungun, Trengganu, weighing 52 catties, from Mr. LIM CHWEE CHIAN. A fine example of Stibnite, from Siam, from Mr. LOH FUK WING. The model of a Japanese Steamer, s. s. *Kinkasan Maru*, measuring 16′, from "Our Day" auction, December, 1917, presented by Mr. LIM PENG SIANG. Many additions to the collections, especially to the entomological section, were made during the Director's stay on Penang Hill, in May, and on the Assistant Curator's visit to Kota Tinggi, Johore, in August.

Library.—The number of Subscribers was 482, consisting of 108 First Class, 224 Second Class and 150 Third Class Subscribers, thus considerably exceeding the previous highest record, viz., 448 in 1916. The number of books purchased was 609, at a cost of $2,115.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 15,784,369 as compared with 19,528,671 in 1916.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1916 and 1917.

Nationality.	1916.					1917.					Increase in 1917 as compared w th 1916.	Decrease in 1917 as compared with 1916.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	89,727	8,455	...	6,016	104,198	100,160	5,728	...	...	105,888	1,690	...
British ...	6,426,355	3,708,456	494,868	228,316	10,857,995	4,495,512	2,597,942	472,826	138,292	7,704,572	...	3,153,423
Chili ...	2,576	...	...	...	2,576	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,576
Chinese ...	179,804	19,552	...	...	199,356	326,210	58,392	...	...	384,602	185,246	...
Danish ...	143,112	77,934	...	5,350	226,396	115,612	34,810	...	...	150,422	...	75,974
Dutch ...	2,198,366	565,290	...	5,132	2,768,788	2,117,608	512,189	...	6,024	2,635,821	...	132,967
French ...	800,668	...	...	...	800,668	397,260	7,520	...	...	404,780	...	395,888
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	...	14,776	...	...	...	14,776	14,776	...
Italian ...	...	...	...	...	...	20,176	...	...	...	20,176	20,176	...
Rumania ...	5,808	...	...	...	5,808	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,808
Japanese ...	2,315,292	676,552	349,768	27,456	3,369,068	2,261,925	634,180	287,168	90,888	3,274,161	...	94,907
Norwegian ...	562,722	84,848	...	...	647,570	607,703	78,527	...	...	686,230	38,660	...
Portuguese ...	..	...	...	...	...	2,290	2,290	...	...	4,580	4,580	...
Russian ...	132,884	...	...	7,678	140,562	45,548	15,074	...	26,960	87,582	...	52,980
Sarawak ...	96,194	...	...	43,280	139,474	103,835	188	...	26,760	130,783	...	8,691
Siamese ...	95,090	1,192	...	...	96,282	105,856	...	...	...	105,856	9,574	...
Spanish ...	104,926	...	...	...	104,926	44,760	9,738	...	...	54,498	...	50,428
Swedish ...	60,674	4,330	...	...	65,004	14,616	5,026	...	...	19,642	...	45,362
Totals ...	13,214,198	5,146,609	844,636	323,228	19,528,671	10,773,847	3,961,604	759,994	288,924	15,784,369	274,702	4,019,004
										Net decrease ...		3,744,302

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1913	...	...	27,124,789	tons.
1914	...	...	24,859,917	,,
1915	...	...	20,896,952	,,
1916	...	...	19,528,671	,,
1917	...	...	15,784,369	,,

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 51,481 in number and 2,321,797 in tons in 1917 as compared with 52,528 and 2,321,862, respectively, in 1916.

Five new steamers with a tonnage of 312 tons gross and 23 sailing vessels of 2,728 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1910, twenty-four new sailing vessels of 2,279 tons were licensed under section 425, and 825 vessels of 10,741 tons were registered under section 426.

LEGISLATION.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1917 are 32 in number, including two Supply Ordinances. Twenty-two of these are amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Registration of Aliens Ordinance, which provides for the registration of European Aliens and such other Aliens as the Governor may declare to be subject to the provisions of the Ordinance;

(ii) The War Tax Ordinance, which imposes a tax on incomes of $3,000 or more per annum, for the purpose of providing a contribution to the Imperial Government towards the expenses incurred in the prosecution of the present war;

(iii) The Rubber Lands (Restriction) Ordinance, which provides that no person or corporation shall be competent to acquire from any other person or corporation or from the Government any land exceeding in the aggregate 50 acres, which is cultivated with rubber or is suitable for cultivation with rubber, unless, in the case of a person, he is a British subject or a subject of a British Protected Malay State, or,

if he is not such a subject, unless he has resided in the Colony or in the Malay Peninsula for not less than seven years, and intends to continue to reside therein, and has obtained written authority to acquire such land; or, in the case of a corporation, unless it is incorporated in the United Kingdom, or in some part of the British Dominions, or in a British Protected Malay State, and has obtained written authority to acquire such land;

(iv) The Supervision of Alien Missionaries Ordinance, which provides that—

(*a*) an alien coming into the Colony after the date of the passing of this Ordinance for the purpose of engaging in missionary or educational work must have in his possession a permit from His Majesty's representative in the country from which he proceeds;

(*b*) an alien who is engaged in missionary or educational work in the Colony at the date of the passing of this Ordinance must within two months from such date furnish to the Colonial Secretary a return in the form in the Schedule to this Ordinance;

(*c*) an alien who is in the Colony at the date of the passing of this Ordinance but is not engaged in missionary work cannot subsequently engage in such work unless he furnishes to the Colonial Secretary a return in the form in the Schedule and obtains the permission of the Colonial Secretary to enter upon such work;

(v) The Increase of Rent (War Restriction) Ordinance, the object of which is to restrict the increase of the rent of dwelling-houses assessed under the Municipal Ordinance, 1913, at an annual value of not more than $720. The necessity for restriction is due to the fact that since the commencement of the war rents have been increased out of all proportion to the value of the premises let;

(vi) The Second-hand Dealers Ordinance, which requires that every dealer in second-hand goods shall be licensed, that no purchase or sale shall take place within the time specified in the Ordinance and that books shall be kept in which shall be entered the particulars of all goods bought or sold. This Ordinance was passed with the object of reducing the number of offences against property;

(vii) The Registration and Medical Examination Ordinance, which provides for the registration, medical examination and classification of every male British subject between the ages of 18 and 41 residing in the Colony.

The principal amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, the main object of which is to increase the duty on all tobaccos, except native and cheap European tobaccos, for the purpose of raising additional revenue towards making good the annual contribution to the Imperial Government voted by the Legislature in 1916;

(ii) The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, which enables the Supreme Court Judges to be appointed Judges of the District Courts in order to set free eligible Cadets for military service outside the Colony;

(iii) The Alien Enemies Winding-up (Amendment) Ordinance, which provides

(*a*) that enemy property in liquidation under the principal Ordinance shall not be sold to anyone other than a British subject, power, however, being reserved to the Governor to permit a sale by the liquidator to a foreigner who is not an enemy subject; and

(*b*) that no owner of property which has been sold by the liquidator shall sell or transfer or demise such property to an enemy or after the war to anyone who would have been an enemy if the war had not terminated, or to a foreigner if the Governor had declared, when the property was sold by the liquidator, that such should not be sold to a foreigner;

(iv) Currency Note (Amendment) Ordinance, which empowers the Governor to defer the obligatory encashment of notes issued by the Commissioners of Currency. This Ordinance has been rendered necessary by the rise in price of silver which has made the bullion value of the dollar greater than its face value;

(v) The Theatres (Amendment) Ordinance, which provides that an officer to be styled the Official Censor of Cinematographs shall be appointed for the express purpose of passing films for exhibition in the Colony. It also provides for the establishment of a Committee of Appeal to which all persons aggrieved by any decision of the Official Censor may appeal.

(vi) Currency Note (Further Amendment) Ordinance, which empowers the Commissioners of Currency to issue notes of the denomination of five cents, ten cents, twenty-five cents and fifty cents in order to meet the shortage of subsidiary silver and copper coin in active circulation;

(vii) The Libel (Amendment) Ordinance, the effect of which is that a fair and accurate report published in any newspaper of the proceedings of a public meeting or of a public body other than the Legislative Council will not be protected if the matter published is not of public concern and its publication is not for the public benefit.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the eight Government English Schools was $165,401.10, on the 45 Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Malay, Tamil and Chinese) $167,962.50 and on the 189 Government Vernacular Schools $129,373.33.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $15,848.72.

The numbers in Secondary Classes again show an increase over the figures for 1916. The Normal Classes continued their work during the year, and 22 Normal Class Certificates were issued.

The Department has been (for several years) greatly handicapped by a shortage of European Masters.

It is proposed to add to the curriculum of the Malay Vernacular Schools by the introduction of industrial work and gardening. In the first place teachers of the new subjects which include all kinds of basketry work have to be trained. A basketry instructor from Manila has been engaged through the good offices of the Philippines Government. He is now at work at the Malacca College.

Considerable progress has been made in supplying new text books for use in Malay Vernacular Schools. This was very necessary, many of those in use being unsuitable.

The question of higher Education in the Colony which was already receiving the attention of Government was brought into prominence by a proposal of a missionary body to found a college for the purpose. Simultaneously suggestions were made in the Legislative Council that the time had come to revive the Queen's Scholarships. The Government has in mind the institution of a Government College for higher education. It is thought that such a scheme might well be associated with the movement now on foot to commemorate the centenary of Singapore.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Court of Appeal sat at Singapore on the 11th June and 19th November disposing of 32 Appeals from the Supreme Court of which 24 were dismissed.

In Penang the same Court sat from the 20th February to the 2nd March and from the 14th to the 25th August dealing

with 15 Appeals, including 2 from the District Judges and 1 Criminal Appeal.

In Malacca there were two Civil Appeals. One was dismissed and the other withdrawn.

In Singapore 41 Criminal Appeals from Magistrates' decisions were entered of which 29 were dismissed.

In Penang 40 were so entered and 29 were dismissed.

In Malacca there were 21 appeals against the decisions of the District and Police Courts. (Three were confirmed, 9 quashed, 6 varied or reduced and 3 are pending).

In Singapore 470 Civil Suits were instituted as against 472 in 1916 and 694 in 1915. In Penang and Malacca 475 and 83, respectively, were entered.

Sixty-seven Bankruptcy petitions were filed in Singapore as against 63 in 1916 and 111 in 1915.

In Penang 44 petitions were filed as against 37 in 1916 and 28 in 1915. One was presented in Malacca.

The fees received were as follows:—

	1915.		*1916.*		*1917.*	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Singapore ...	32,289	40	25,654	70	25,298	95
Penang ...	19,108	30	15,811	40	16,044	40

POLICE.

The total strength of the Force at the end of the year was 2,659, which was distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,207
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	1,036
Malacca	327
Labuan and Brunei	89

The authorized strength of the Force is 2,747.

European ranks are depleted by 40 per cent owing to the impossibility of filling vacancies during the war. In the native ranks a slight improvement in recruiting was manifested towards the end of the year, due no doubt to the 15 per cent war bonus paid on salaries to the native police. But for the greater part of the year the Force was much under strength.

Discipline was well maintained, the number of offences against police discipline showing an increase of only 66 offences over last year's total which was exceptionally small.

The health of the Force was good, malaria being the chief cause of disability. There were fewer admissions to hospital by 59 than in 1916. The actual number was 1,193 admissions.

The Department has been actively engaged in keeping within bounds the gambling craze which assumed such proportions in 1916. The cost of the Department was $907,784.

CRIME.

The returns of the more serious offences are, murder 33 (32) reports—the figures in brackets denote the corresponding number in the preceding year—gang robbery 24 (18), robbery 135 (131), house-breaking 379 (386), and theft 2,132 (2,163). It must be remembered that these are returns of reports, of which many are proved, upon investigation by the police, to be mistaken, imaginary, or false.

The total number of arrests effected in the Colony during the year was 16,409, compared with 15,933 in 1916.

One hundred and twenty-one persons, as against eighty-five in 1916, were tried before the Supreme Court.

Four hundred and one persons were banished during the year. The great majority were habitual criminals.

PRISONS.

Criminal Prisons.—At the beginning of the year there were 813 prisoners in the four Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Labuan); 3,804 were admitted and 3,874 discharged, etc., during the year; and 743 remained at the end of the year.

There were only 25 prisoners of the "habitual" class in prison at the end of the year. They were either British subjects who could not be banished, or men under sentence for unlawful return from banishment.

Prison offences showed an average of 1·7 per annum per convict as against 1·8 in the preceding year.

The number of "Middle-Grade" convicts—the men available for industrial labour—continued to decline (the figures being 149 in 1917, 193 in 1916, and 206 in 1915)—with the result that the work done by the convicts for various Government departments is enough to keep them fully employed, and that orders from private firms and individuals which were at one time

sought for have now to be generally refused. The "Upper-Grade" men (74 in number) are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc.; the "Lower-Grade" men at stone-breaking; and the "Short Sentence" and "Revenue Grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue-duties.

During the year 370 persons were banished from the Colony, and 501 banishees from the Federated Malay States passed through the Colony. It is to the purging of the Colony from this class of offender that the reduction in the number of convicts must be mainly ascribed.

There were three executions (two in Singapore and one in Malacca) in pursuance of sentences of the Supreme Court.

Civil Prisons.—There were 113 men in the Civil Prisons of the Colony at the beginning of the year: 4,376 were admitted and 4,368 discharged during the year; and there remained 121 at its end.

Houses of Detention.—In these buildings, which are part of the Civil Prisons, there were 24 men at the beginning of the year and 113 at the close of the year: 485 were admitted and 361 discharged. Of this last number 27 found employment and 344 were repatriated.

General.—The health of the prisoners was not as satisfactory as usual. There was an outbreak of beri-beri towards the close of the year. The total expenditure of the department was $213,914.91, and its revenue $39,262.50 of which $31,707 represented articles supplied to Government departments.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 24,826 and 29,950 respectively. The figures for the preceding year were 22,342 and 24,371.

The estimated population of the Colony was 809,869. It was estimated at 797,739 in 1916, and ascertained in 1911 (the year of the Census) to be 711,951.

The birth-rate increased from 28·15 to 30·65 per mille, against this the death-rate has slightly increased. The rate was 46·45 in 1911, 39·01 in 1912, 34·93 in 1913, 34·13 in 1914, 29·15 in 1915 and 30·70 in 1916, but 36·98 per mille in the year under review.

The principal causes of death were malaria (3,766 cases), infantile mortality (7,571), tuberculosis (3,084), beri-beri (2,075), and dysentery (1,064).

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony during the year caused 176 deaths from small-pox, 9 from cholera and 44 from plague. The corresponding figures in 1916 were 122, 17, and 23.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—Chinese.

155,167 Immigrants arrived from China, a decrease of 15·4 per cent as compared with the figure for 1916 and a decrease of 42·5 per cent as compared with that for 1911 which year showed the highest number yet recorded.

As compared with the average for the previous ten years, 1907 to 1916, the number arriving in 1917 shows a decrease of 20 per cent.

Adult males formed 78·7 per cent and adult females 10·6 per cent of the immigrants.

There were no restrictions on immigration during the year.

There is no indentured Chinese labour in the Colony.

(II).—Southern Indian.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 90,077, as compared with 95,566 in 1916.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 57,583, as against 54,479 in 1916.

The figures for arrivals for the last three years are as follows:—

		1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*
Assisted immigrants *	...	54,881	72,091	78,407
Other immigrants	...	20,442	23,475	11,670
	Total ...	75,323	95,566	90,077

The assisted immigrants consisted of 71,951 adults and 6,456 minors. Of the adults 58,107 were men and 13,844 women.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 12·79 per mille, in the Dindings 13·10: there were no deaths among the 256 labourers employed on estates in Penang.

During 1916, 913 decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with passage back to India.

* "Assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(i) the independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bonâ fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (ii) the Kangany labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kangany, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a month's notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

The rate of assessment to the Tamil Immigration Fund for the 1st and 2nd quarters 1916 was $1.50 per labourer per quarter and for the 3rd and 4th quarters $2. The income of the fund was $1,207,685 and its expenditure $1,210,144.

(III).—NETHERLANDS INDIAN.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,785. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance 1908 are in force: but approximately 755 local contracts for 300 days are in force in Province Wellesley.

CHINESE PROTECTORATE.

The censorship of Chinese newspapers continued to be carried on in the Protectorate. The War Tax Ordinance was an object of concern early in the year: but when its terms were better understood, the tax was loyally accepted by the Chinese. The shortage of small coins was particularly felt by the Chinese, and more perhaps by the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers and their clientèle than by any others. The issue of 10-cent notes was highly appreciated. For the Chinese community high rates of exchange with China and shipping difficulties made living expensive, owing, however, to the demand for labour, the poorer classes did not suffer. All charitable and patriotic funds have been most generously supported by the Chinese who initiated the Hallifax Relief Fund. The Chinese community has suffered two heavy losses in the death of Mr. TAN JIAK KIM, C. M. G., and in the retirement of Mr. WALTER PEACOCK, who acted for so long as Protector of Chinese and had so exceptional an understanding of and sympathy with the Chinese.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

Singapore	... ...	2797·83 m. m.
Labuan	... ...	4719·50 „
Penang	... ...	2534·15 „
Province Wellesley	...	2775·22 „
Malacca	... ...	2712·12 „
Dindings	... ...	2457·26 „

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 81·8°. The maximum recorded was 94·0° in Penang on April 13th and in Singapore 92·5 on October 27th. The minimum was 65° in Penang on November 8th.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 11,338,680, an average of 15·85 per inhabitant, as against 15·64 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 8,447,338, as compared with 7,984,747 in 1916. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 330,566 to 358,064 and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 729 to 775.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1917, was $939,356.43, an increase of 13 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1916. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $151.51. There was a profit on the year's working of $5,960.77. The estimated present value of the investments is $744,303.11.

The disarrangement of Mail services caused by the war resulted in the Singapore Post Office becoming the clearing depôt for mails exchanged between India and Australia and between China and Australia. A weekly homeward service *viâ* Suez was maintained but during the greater part of the year the outward service was fortnightly.

Money Order and Postal Order transactions amounted in value to $14,761,000, an increase of nearly $10,000,000. This was due principally to the fall in the Bank Rate with India, and the Post Office with a rate of Rs. 175=$100 took up most of the exchange business with India. The rate of issue on India was reduced to Rs. 165=$100 and other steps were taken to eliminate the speculator.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 28 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Durian Tunggal (Malacca) and Jerals and Kreh (Province Wellesley). Of these 20 are telegraph offices.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES.

Opium.—During the year 3,197 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory. The only change in the selling price of chandu was in Christmas Island, where the retail price was raised in October, from $4.50 to $5.50 per tahil. The chandu sales in the Colony (including 6,000 tahils sold for consumption in Christmas Island) amounted to 1,302,289·5 tahils realising $12,945,231.

The Governments of the Federated Malay States and of Johore, Kedah, Perlis and Brunei obtained their supplies of chandu from the Monopolies as in previous years. In addition, it was arranged to supply packed chandu to the Government of

Trengganu on the expiry of the farm lease there and the first shipment of chandu to Trengganu under this arrangement was made in February. Sales to the Federated Malay States amounted to tahils 1,499,868, whilst 828,460,9.9 tahils were sold to the other Governments mentioned (including Trengganu). In addition, 7,200 tahils were shipped to Bundi and 5,400 tahils to Dungun.

The Calcutta auction price of opium varied between $1,936 and $2,089 per chest at exchange Rupees 165 = $100.

15,131.8 tahils of opium and 4,446.4.9 tahils of chandu were seized during the year. The illicit chandu traffic appears to be mostly in the hands of Hailams, who import chandu into the Colony from Sarawak and occasionally re-ship to Australian Ports. Hokkiens and Khehs seem to be the principal offenders as regards opium, which is generally brought here from ports in India and destined for China.

Seizures of cocaine and morphia during the year amounted to 37,790 grains and 3,500 grains respectively.

As in previous years the seizures of bhang were considerable, amounting to 7,819 bundles in Singapore and to 597.6.2 tahils in Penang.

Liquors.--The revenue from liquors amounted to $2,434,940 as against $2,389,151 in 1916. The rates of duty, which had been raised in June of the preceding year, were on January 8th, 1917, further raised by 25 per cent with a view to increasing the funds available for war contributions.

Tobacco.—The duties chargeable in the Settlements of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, on the better qualities of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes were also increased by 47 per cent to 50 per cent on 8th January, 1917, with the same object. The total duty collected during the year was $1,185,249 as against $698,656 collected in the last 6½ months of 1916.

In Labuan the rates were as previously in force there, the duty collected being $3,853.63, compared with $4,385.86 in the previous year.

Prosecutions.—The total number of cases instituted by the Department during the year was 490 in Singapore, 522 in Penang, and 32 in Malacca.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $6,136,300, and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to $5,810,958. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure appear below.

REVENUE.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,202,551	3,626,243	3,696,544	3,884,353	4,375,493
Penang ...	1,321,766	1,399,639	1,404,150	1,429,251	1,537,937
Malacca ...	134,207	147,392	161,431	177,742	222,870
TOTAL ...	$4,658,524	5,173,274	5,262,125	5,491,346	6,136,300

EXPENDITURE.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,498,277	3,679,944	3,772,692	3,743,261	4,244,657
Penang ...	1,306,566	1,295,549	1,308,600	1,268,865	1,380,139
Malacca ...	135,405	145,795	131,958	160,655	186,162
TOTAL ...	$4,940,248	5,121,288	5,213,250	5,172,781	5,810,958

RURAL BOARDS.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
Singapore Island ...	148,761	171,431
Penang Island ...	59,932	91,563
Province Wellesley ...	319,930	235,255
Dindings	34,829	26,056
Malacca	592,778	530,323

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD.

The income and expenditure of the Board at Singapore (first as the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and latterly as the Singapore Harbour Board) for the seven years 1911–1917 have been as follows:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1911	5,740,965	4,074,669
1912	6,015,648	4,216,015
1913	6,091,296	4,070,912
1914	5,834,893	3,875,738
1915	5,432,425	3,421,271
1916	6,785,372	4,203,355
1917	7,931,597	4,665,596

The capital debt due to Government stood at the end of 1917 at $52,921,664 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,333,209 from the reserve account.

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1911.	*1912.*	*1913.*	*1914.*	*1915.*	*1916.*	*1917.*
Number of Vessels ...	2,528	2,693	2,708	2,544	2,364	2,329	2,400
Nett Tonnage	4,877,317	5,397,155	5,794,536	5,445,273	4,307,082	4,348,927	3,938,659
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	1,084,974	1,200,545	1,338,495	1,248,032	1,021,452	1,067,824	1,039,202
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	1,285,991	1,335,846	1,462,788	1,229,205	1,323,637	1,339,129	1,369,606

The tonnage occupying the Graving Docks during the years 1916 and 1917 based on the daily tonnage in dock was:—

	1916.	*1917.*
No. 1 Dock	265,522	239,102
No. 2 Dock	578,967	409,120
The Victoria Dock ...	472,979	445,499
The Albert Dock ...	791,398	786,100
The King's Dock ...	1,288,098	1,817,202

TANJONG PAGAR—NEW WORKS.

Messrs. THE TOPHAM, JONES & RAILTON, LTD., the Contractors for the reconstruction of the Wharves, satisfactorily completed their contract and the whole of the work has been handed over to the Board.

Godown accommodation at the Wharves is still congested owing to shortness of materials but three large Godowns will shortly be completed thereby easing the situation considerably.

PENANG HARBOUR BOARD.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock for the year 1917 was $727,343* and the expenditure $711,326*.

The following figures are taken from the Wharf tonnage returns:—

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Number of Vessels	610	732	596	728	661	532	
Nett Tonnage	1,208,503	1,532,361	1,108,319	871,524	810,675	687,377	
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	221,209	219,367	282,067	266,146	72,016	93,388	106,676
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	265,371	329,839	399,412	313,360	254,066	245,681	247,051

LAGOON WET DOCK AND MAIN WHARF RECONSTRUCTION.

TANJONG PAGAR.

The whole of the above works have now been satisfactorily completed, the final portion of the new Main Wharf having been handed over to the Singapore Harbour Board on the 24th May.

The total value of the permanent work executed by the Contractors, Messrs. Topham, Jones & Railton, Ltd., amounts to £1,182,277.14.0.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the Department was as follows:—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Labuan.	Total.
ESTABLISHMENTS.	c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
(1) Salaries ...	99,212.75	72,382.73	25,176.34	4,831.57	201,603.39
(2) Other Charges	23,848.91	19,951.96	13,692.48	1,174.23	58,667.58
ANNUALLY RECURRENT.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	154,369.04	262,600.56	185,404.91	2,361.29	604,735.80
(2) Buildings, etc.	144,775.87	92,356.86	39,017.69	4,037.28	280,187.70
SPECIAL SERVICES.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	10,553.19	58,938.06	319,418.75	...	388,910.00
(2) Buildings, etc.	128,048.65	52,359.39	47,060.59	8,950.23	236,418.86
Miscellaneous Services	31,486.65	22,670.85	3,937.10	380.60	58,475.20
Total ...	$592,295.06	581,260.41	633,707.86	21,735.20	1,828,998.53

* Subject to audit.

The important works completed by the Department during the year were as follows:—

In Singapore, the enlargement of anatomical and physiological rooms at the Medical School; four additional servants' quarters at the Nurses' quarters, General Hospital; six additional married Sikhs' quarters at Sepoy Lines Police Station; six married quarters at Geylang Police Station.

Further progress was made with the installation of a water-borne sewage system at the General and Maternity Hospitals, Criminal and Civil Prisons and Lunatic Asylum, and the Jurong Road extension was continued.

In Labuan progress was made with the construction of a new reservoir.

In Penang there were erected two reinforced concrete beacons; also quarters for the electrical wireman and assistant.

In Province Wellesley quarters for the European operator, Wireless Station, and for the Overseer of Works, Penaga District, were built.

The deviation of the road from the end of Penaga village was completed.

In Malacca the following works were carried out:—extension to Nurses' quarters, Durian Daun Hospital; Malacca River, dredging channel for reclamation; quarters for Surveyors at Alor Gajah, Jasin, Merlimau and Pengkalan Balak; rebuilding of the vernacular school at Bertam Ulu.

Progress was made with the reconstruction of the roads which was greatly needed.

In Penang the amount of special expenditure on remetalling and tarring surface roads was $13,000.

In Malacca the amount of special expenditure on metalling and remetalling, etc., was $261,672.13.

The metalled roads in the Colony are as follows:—

	Miles.
Singapore	93·44
Penang	63·43
Province Wellesley	166·25
Malacca	231·38
Labuan	4·50
Dindings	22·00
Total ...	581·00

The department also has charge of 50 miles of gravelled road in Malacca and 110 miles of natural road of which the greater part lies in Penang, the Dindings, and Province Wellesley.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The excess of revenue over expenditure, originally estimated at $1,103, is now calculated at $21,529.28: this is chiefly due to the fact that the Royalty on exports of Phosphate of Lime, amounting to $32,117.50, exceeded the estimate by over $17,000.

The total revenue amounted to $37,079.06.

Exports of Phosphate of Lime have increased by 100 per cent from 44,209 tons in 1916 to 89,889 tons, and tonnage entered and cleared at Flying Fish Cove increased from 59,295 to 112,210 tons. Australia and Japan once more consumed the entire stock of exports: but whereas in 1916 Australia took 85 per cent, in 1917 68 per cent went to Japan: similarly, with regard to the tonnage of freight ships, in 1916 86 per cent of the tonnage entered and cleared flew the British flag, in 1917 73 per cent sailed under Japanese colours.

Exports of rubber, though still of small significance, rose by 25 per cent: the value of the exports in 1917 was $2,404.

The population increased from 661 to 701.

The general health has been satisfactory, though the death-rate rose from 12·2 per mille in 1916 to 13·2 in 1917.

It is satisfactory to record that the condition of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company's labour force continues to be excellent.

There were no serious crimes.

The machinery required for the incline-haulage gear has been fixed in position, but no progress has been made with the Railway, which is still 3 miles from the future quarries at South Point.

The mean annual temperature was 80·5 F.—one degree cooler than in 1916.

REGISTRIES OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Last year was the second year during which the Companies Ordinance, 1915 was in force. Forty new companies were registered with a capital of $24,545,500; of these, 28 were private companies with a capital of $10,735,500.

At the end of the year 287 companies remained on the register of which 34 were in liquidation. Ten Life Assurance Companies are registered. The total subscribed capital of the 242 companies which carry on a business was $67,978,808.

Three hundred and eighty-six companies not registered in the Colony, have filed documents under the 1915 Ordinance, of these 318 are British. Apart from these, ten British companies have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of five foreign companies.

The total revenue of the department was $15,081.40.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

In Singapore the total imports of live stock were 436 horses, 28,526 cattle, 29,237 sheep, 8,522 goats, 160,060 swine, 217 dogs and 232 buffaloes as compared with 602 horses, 26,996 cattle, 31,364 sheep, 8,835 goats, 136,056 swine, 155 dogs and 516 buffaloes in 1916.

The total number of live stock exported from Singapore were 369 horses, 6,198 cattle, 8,500 sheep, 2,861 goats, 66,708 swine, 190 dogs and 86 buffaloes as compared with 337 horses, 6,271 cattle, 9,124 sheep, 3,082 goats, 39,993 swine, 147 dogs and 80 buffaloes in 1916.

The total revenue collected during 1917 amounted to $37,404.15 as compared with $32,704.70 in 1916.

The general health of animals in Singapore was good, although Foot-and-Mouth Disease of a mild type was introduced from Siamese ports during the early part of the year.

There were no cases of Rabies or Anthrax in Singapore.

LABUAN.

The revenue collected in Labuan amounted to $37,820.76, and $77,543.79 was expended. The total volume of trade was $2,632,269 and exports and imports show little variation from the previous year. 176,714 tons of merchant shipping entered and were cleared. A weekly service with Singapore and North Borneo was maintained. There was a general improvement in education and sanitation. The 10 square miles of land bought from the Labuan Coalfields Company, Limited, is being re-alienated in small holdings.

GENERAL.

Under the heading of trade it will be noticed that the trade of the Colony is described as on the whole satisfactory. Comparing it with previous years and with 1914 the year in which the war broke out, the aggregate gross trade for the year under review was £148.2 millions, against £127.7 millions in 1916 and £84.6 in 1914—an increase of £27.5 millions over 1916 and £63.6 millions over 1914. In face of these figures it is some-

what difficult to understand that this Colony, as an integral portion of the British Empire, has been engaged in the biggest war mankind has ever known or ever will know. In fact it may be at once stated that the Colony far from feeling the effects of a war that is devastating Europe—has actually benefited from the war.

Prosperity amongst those engaged in production and in ordinary trade is pronounced but has brought in its trail the consequences of such prosperity—high prices being paid without difficulty for labour and an ever increasing rise in the price of all commodities. To a country like Malaya, which is dependent more and more for its supplies of food for its population on outside sources and from overseas it is exceedingly questionable whether the prosperity, as evinced by the figures I have quoted, is a real one.

In my view the country has been over exploited in favour of the production of rubber with the result that the indigenous population having been withdrawn from the cultivation of its own foodstuffs, such as paddy, from the rearing of its cattle and pigs, has become, together with the immigrant population, practically dependent from outside for its actual support. To contend with such a state of affairs the year 1917 has been marked by an incessant watchfulness to ensure that the amount of food necessary for the needs of the population should be safeguarded. This has been a matter of anxiety and difficulty owing to the constantly increasing dimunition of shipping and, as an inevitable result, has led to an increasing rise all round in the prices of foodstuffs brought in from overseas. Constant have been the demands in the Press and from the employers of labour that Government should step in and regulate the prices of foodstuffs. If the people so anxious on this score would take into consideration what has been stated above and realise that the prices now demanded for foodstuffs are the natural outcome of a system that has led this country to be dependent upon outside rather than grow its own food they would understand that the prices must be dictated by those who supply from outside; to such prices must be added the greatly increased charges in freight over which the Colony has had no control; this again being to a certain extent due to the increased prices of coal and other stores; and realise that any arbitrary fixing of prices would probably lead to a diminution if not a cessation of supplies.

In view of the large increase in the requisitioning of British ships by the Admiralty Authorities for Imperial purposes in the early part of the year, and the fact that the Colony is almost completely dependent on sea-borne supplies for all the main articles of food, it was considered desirable to appoint a Committee to enquire and report as to the tonnage of shipping which was absolutely necessary for the vital requirements of the Colony.

This Committee rendered a valuable report and the Shipping Committee which is now in existence has practically guided its action by the information contained therein. The Food Control Regulations, 1917, were brought into force on the 31st May and a Committee of Food Control was appointed with Sub-Committees in Penang, Malacca and Labuan. In Singapore itself three Sub-Committees were again formed to deal respectively with staple European foods, staple native foods, and Shipping; the work of the Shipping Committee was handicapped to a certain extent in the unfortunate loss of the British steamer *Hong Wan* through bad weather in the Straits of Malacca and again in the sinking of the s. s. *Laertes* through collision with another steamer in December, 1917.

As regards increasing the local production of Food in the Colony, little could be done, but steps have been taken to improve the local supply of vegetables and food by inserting "Cultivation Clauses" in all leases of newly alienated lands. A Committee was appointed to enquire into the best method of increasing the production of rice and other foodstuffs. This work is still continuing. There is no question that the high profit accruing from the cultivation of rubber is the chief obstacle. The main work of the Committee, however, has lain in ascertaining the requirements of the Colony and in concert with the Shipping Sub-Committee and the requisitioning authorities arranging that ships were available to bring absolutely vital supplies to Malaya. The import of sufficient quantities of the following have been ensured:—

Rice from Rangoon, Siam and Saigon;
Wheat flour and Cold Storage from Australia;
Wheat flour from India; and
Chinese food stuffs from the neighbourhood of Swatow.

Steps have also been taken to determine that the necessary amount of fresh meat is available. Little has been done in regulating prices for the reasons already given in the first portion of these remarks. It was found possible, however, to deal with the price charged for tinned milk.

Owing to the increased cost of food and necessaries, steps were taken to relieve those Government officials on whom the cost fell most heavily.

An allowance of 15 per cent on their salaries from the 1st July was granted to officials drawing less than $25 per mensem and of 10 per cent to those drawing from $25 per mensem to £400 per annum. Ten per cent on family remittances to the United Kingdom also was granted up to half the amount of an officer's salary in the case of those drawing £400 or less, with effect from the 1st October. Arrangements also were made to give relief to those drawing small Widows' and Orphans' Pensions in the United Kingdom after enquiry in each case.

The intricate and involved question of Housing has occupied the very serious attention of Government. In September a Rent Assessment Board was appointed and later a Commission to enquire into the cause of the difficulties of Housing and to report on the proper steps to be taken to remedy them. The report of this Commission has not yet been received but the whole question is undoubtedly a very serious one, at least as it affects Singapore. In this connection the Government is indebted to the members of these Committees. They are composed of many prominent business men whose time is already largely taken up; they have done valuable work and the Government is very grateful to them.

Again, during the year under review, an energetic "Our Day" Campaign on behalf of the funds of the Red Cross was carried on with the willing and efficient assistance of many helpers; the result was most gratifying and all those who worked so hard may assuredly feel that they have been rewarded by the result. Nearly £113,000 was collected in the Straits Settlements. All communities both European and Asiatic gave their money and services with the greatest generosity and self-sacrifice.

The Income Tax, the introduction of which in 1916 was the cause of so much controversy, has more than justified its existence and a total sum of £400,000 was realised for the year under review. This result reflects high credit on the Treasurer, Mr. A. M. POUNTNEY, who, as Collector-General, has carried out a very difficult task with a minimum of friction as well as managing to dispense with the expensive machinery which was so freely prophesied as inevitable in its collection.

During the year the price of silver rose as high as 53 pence an ounce and the local silver coins were therefore worth exporting as bullion and were exported in spite of the strong measures which were taken to prevent both exportation and hoarding. The issue of subsidiary paper, therefore, became necessary. A glance at the financial statement, however, is sufficient to show that the Colony has never been more prosperous and that the issue of the notes was due to no other reason than the one stated above.

An urgent call for men for service at Home again existed in 1917 and was answered by many who volunteered; the Government provided 160 free passages to those proceeding to the United Kingdom on war service. Tribunals were also appointed before which any man who desired to do so could appear. If his services were considered necessary for the welfare of the Colony in its relation to the trade of the Empire he was given a certificate to that effect. If not he was told by the Tribunal according to their judgment that his services were not indispensable in the Colony, *i.e.* that his place was in the fighting line. The work of the Tribunal resulted in the release of a few men from their

employment who proceeded Home. At the time of writing, the war news is, if anything, graver than ever since the outbreak of the war and the Empire requires more and ever more men; that a considerable number can yet be found in the Colony without the absolute shutting down of important, to say nothing of essential, businesses, the writer has no doubt. The Colony, in spite of the war is very prosperous and no other portion of the British Empire has, I feel sure, felt so little its privations. It must be the duty of every British subject to do his utmost to render what services he can to the Empire thus showing his realisation of the benefits that he and his have received under the British Flag. There are numbers who cannot fight for their country but every one of us can and should do something even if only in setting example to others in self-forgetfulness by saving and thrift. Those of us who cannot fight can help in this way. By husbanding our health and our resources we shall have the more to give and in doing so take our humble share in preserving the Empire, indeed the whole world, from a brutal tyranny which knows no law but that of force.

F. S. JAMES,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, *3rd July*, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony, &c.	Year.
959	Cayman Islands	1916–1917
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Weihaiwei	"
966	Fiji	"
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	"
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
971	Ceylon	"
972	Hong Kong	"
973	Zanzibar	"
974	St. Helena	"
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	"
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	"
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 1028.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 991.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

March, 1920.

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A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No.862 [Cd. 7622–53].

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1918.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1918 amounted tc $23,262,015 exceeding the estimate by $8,299,165 whilst the expenditure was $15,966,145, $2,722,686 more than the estimate.

The revenue of the Colony in this the fifth year of war exceeded the record of 1917 by $3,589,911. From the revenue point of view each year of war has created a successive record, a very striking fact.

The actual figures for 1917 and 1918 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—REVENUE.

	1917.	*1918.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	1,995	1,692	...	303
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	15,425,019	18,902,861	3,477,842	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	754,914	668,292	...	86,622
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	834,975	906,811	71,836	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property	858,001	940,917	82,916	...
6. Interest	1,043,917	1,086,149	42,232	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	402,671	223,221	...	179,450
	$19,321,492	22,729,943	3,674,826	266,375
8. Land Sales... ...	350,612	532,072	181,460	...
TOTAL ...	$ 19,672,104	23,262,015	3,856,286	266,375
		Net Increase ...	$3,589,911	

The Revenue under liquors increased by $512,714 and tobacco by $477,100.

Stamp duties for 1918 were less than those for 1917 by $189,102. The major portion of this decrease was due to reduction in Estate duty which brought in $297,290 in 1918, against $408,208 in 1917.

The Revenue from Posts and Telegraphs shows an increase of $71,836. Interest on Bank Accounts shows an increase of $69,623, but on the other hand, interest on investments decreased by $34,020. Interest on loans produced $243,604 as compared with $239,878 in 1917.

Profits on Exchange were $21,542 less than in 1917 but the increase in the Profits on Money Order Rates due to the low rate of exchange with India amounted to $119,723 or about one-half the corresponding figure in 1917.

B.—Expenditure.

	1917.	*1918.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	18,542	37,083	18,541	...
2. Pensions	565,595	613,306	47,711	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	10,738	10,462	...	276
4. The Governor ...	78,112	79,196	1,084	...
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	166,001	204,570	38,569	...
6. Government Printing Office	86,670	105,647	18,977	...
7. Land and District Offices	244,655	228,423	...	16,232
8. Forests	32,446	34,764	2,318	...
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	75,809	74,799	...	1,010
10. Treasury	111,387	120,615	9,228	...
11. Audit	60,531	59,562	...	969
12. Marine	365,725	440,692	74,967	...
13. Legal	400,221	388,517	...	11,704
14. Police	912,130	973,457	61,327	...
15. Prisons	215,960	242,472	26,512	...
16. Medical	257,865	256,626	...	1,239
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	552,211	556,814	4,603	...
18. Veterinary	24,140	23,922	...	218
19. Education	313,181	344,793	31,612	...
20. Ecclesiastical ...	19,694	19,606	...	88
21. Transport	15,492	21,739	6,247	...
22. Military Expenditure ...	2,944,299	3,758,258	813,959	...
Carried forward ...	7,471,404	8,595,323	1,155,655	31,736

B.—EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

	1917.	*1918.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
Brought forward ...	7,471,404	8,595,323	1,155,655	31,736
23. Miscellaneous Services	2,057,774	3,132,101	1,074,327	...
24. Post Office	507,290	710,408	203,118	...
25. Government Monopolies	452,345	417,598	...	34,747
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum... ...	51,089	65,049	13,960	...
27. Public Works Department	321,484	328,865	7,381	...
28. Public Works, Recurrent	299,098	414,377	115,279	...
29. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	208,908	458,257	249,349	...
War Expenditure ...	(*a*)	1,844,167	1,844,167	...
TOTAL ...	$11,369,392	15,966,145	4,663,236	66,483
	Net Increase ...		$4,596,753	

The expenditure upon Personal Emoluments ($3,942,071) and Other Charges ($3,189,908) both show increases, the figures in 1917 being $3,811,816 and $1,843,859, respectively. The principal item in the increase in Other Charges was Interest on War Loan $588,967 which represented the Colony's share of interest for 1917 as well as 1918.

Military Expenditure shows an increase of $813,959 due to payment of arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the year 1917.

Miscellaneous Services.—The amount spent on Salaries of Acting Officers again showed a decrease of $11,769 owing to the small number of officers on leave.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the war the Colony's Expenditure in 1914 was $7,746,594; in 1915, $7,207,478; in 1916, $6,514,527; in 1917, $6,774,048 and in 1918, $8,687,204, the corresponding expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary being $926,077, $676,463, $318,788, $208,908 and $458,257.

Of this increase of nearly $2,000,000 over the 1917 Expenditure Miscellaneous Services accounted for over $1,000,000 the principal additions under this head being Interest on War Loan $590,000, Relief Contributions $171,000, Grant-in-aid to Rural Board, Malacca, $120,000 and amount written off in connection with the reduction of

(*a*) Paid out of Suspense and vote taken in 1918, $585,065.

the capital debt of the Penang Harbour Board $200,000, while of the balance the Post Office showed an additional cost of $200,000 and Public Works, Annually Recurrent and Extraordinary, $365,000.

Among excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were:—Interest $536,699, Premia on Grants $56,912, Stamp duties $298,113, Premia on Special Sales of Town lands $373,910, Postage Stamps $81,475 and Land Rents $103,632.

The principal savings on the Expenditure Estimates were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $198,707, Post Office $139,875 and Police $122,159. Overpayments recovered showed a sum of $3,029, not estimated for.

The following comparative statement shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past six years:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1913	...	12,397,747	10,468,618
1914	...	14,016,882	10,180,189
1915	...	14,131,691	10,196,560
1916	...	17,325,695	11,046,353
1917	...	19,672,104	11,369,392
1918	...	23,262,015	15,966,145

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1918, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		*Assets.*	
	$		$
Deposits	8,243,318	Indian Agency Account ...	1,347,412
		Investments	24,817,167
		Advances	1,212,718
		Advances, Singapore Harbour Works	4,429,315
Suspense (Currency Commissioners) ...	1,730,483	Loans:—	
		Municipalities ...	351,620
		Sultan of Trengganu ...	10,000
Drafts and Remittances ...	33,398	Kelantan Government	120,000
		Singapore Harbour Board	4,579,502
		Penang Harbour Board	378,932
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	42,459,498	Imprests	35,086
		Loan Account	6,364,399
		Cash in Transit ...	23,129
		Suspense	817,485
		Cash	7,979,932
TOTAL ...	$52,466,697	TOTAL ...	$52,466,697

The excess of the assets over the liabilities increased during the year by $7,295,870.

MILITARY AND WAR EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1918 on the Volunteers, Reserve Force and Civil Guard amounted to $159,890.

The amount paid in 1918 for Defence Contribution was $3,720,489, of which $1,255,769 represented arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue in 1917. The amount to be paid in 1919 for arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue for 1918 is $1,522,040.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1918, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	10,834,286
	66,383,246
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	3,388,205
Total ...	$69,771,451*

The charge on account of interest on this loan was $2,070,492 in 1918. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

Under the provisions of the War Loan Ordinance No. 17 of 1916 an amount of $42,063,700 in 6 per cent Bonds repayable on 15th November, 1919, and under the provisions of the War Loan Ordinance No. 6 of 1918 a sum of $20,665,800 in 5½ per cent Bonds redeemable on 20th July, 1928 had been raised by 31st December, 1918.

* Practically all the balance over and above the proceeds of loans already issued has been advanced by the Colony.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/3⅞ and 2/4 9/32.

CURRENCY.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the Currency Area at the end of the year consisted of $86,408,740.40 in currency notes and $7,303,107 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $164,168.

The most striking feature of the year from the currency point of view was the absence of requests to the Currency Commissioners to purchase Sterling remittances. Inflation of the note circulation due to purchase of these remittances commenced at the outbreak of war and in 1917 was particularly marked.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $52,345,075.63 consisting of £328,111 in gold held locally and $11,703,765.02 in silver partly in the Colony and partly held by the Mint Master, Bombay, for coinage purposes, and £4,413,375.4.9 in gold in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the note guarantee and depreciation funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year $33,817,883.61, the cost price of those investments being $41,175,619.77.

The decrease of price compared with original cost is due to the general depreciation of all securities.

The note guarantee fund at the end of the year was worth $87,893,442.55 (Coin portion $52,345,075.63, Investment portion $33,817,883.61 and on deposit with the Government pending investment $1,730,483.31), while the gold standard reserve fund at the same date was worth $5,021,499.61. The total of the funds controlled by the Commissioners was, therefore, $92,914,942.16, or $6,506,201.76 more than the total note circulation at the end of the year.

New subsidiary silver of 400 fine to the extent of $900,000 was received from the Bombay Mint during the year and was put into circulation as fast as possible to meet insistent demands for small change. The supply of small silver was, however, quite inadequate and it was found

necessary to increase the issue of notes of denominations less than $1. $623,994.40 worth of the 10-cent notes and $215,000 worth of 25-cent notes were in circulation at the end of 1918.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 2,726,037, against 3,228,127 in 1917. It is regrettable that a fall in the rate of destruction has to be reported. Sickness amongst the staff, however, militated against reaching the 1917 standard. Most of the notes destroyed during the year were $1 notes.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 3,351,870. During the year there were cancelled 2,229,530 notes making a total of 5,581,400 for destruction and leaving a balance at the end of the year of 2,855,363 notes awaiting destruction.

ENEMY PROPERTY AND ENEMY FIRMS.

The balance to the credit of the Custodian of Enemy Property at the end of the year was $12,369,111.97 of which $11,864,007.04 was invested.

Of the twenty liquidations under the Alien Enemies (Winding-up) Ordinance, 1914 (XXIX of 1914), fifteen had been completed by the end of the year 1918, and little remained to be done to complete the remainder.

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony in 1918 was not so satisfactory as that of the previous year, although it was an improvement on the years 1914, 1915 and 1916.

The following figures excluding Coin and Bullion show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling:—

Merchandise—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Merchandise. Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports Merchandise. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	43,856	38,032	...	...
1915 ...	49,803	46,495	5,947	+ 8,463
1916 ...	61,855	56,934	12,052	+10,439
1917 ...	73,987	72,307	12,132	+15,373
1918 ...	81,618	71,922	7,631	− 385

The value of the inter-port trade including treasure was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Imports Increase over the preceding year.	Exports. Increase over the preceding year.
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	3,146	3,002	...	...
1915 ...	4,220	4,249	1,074	1,247
1916 ...	6,412	6,488	2,192	2,239
1917 ...	8,137	8,720	1,725	2,232
1918 ...	*9,103	*9,501	966	781

The aggregate trade for the year 1918 was therefore £153·5 millions, against £146·3 millions in 1917 and £81·9 millions in 1914, an increase of £7·2 millions over 1917 and of £71·6 millions over 1914.

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	27,761	28,819	21,447	22,861
2. Raw Materials	33,941	37,826	43,420	40,441
3. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles	12,285	14,973	7,440	8,620
TOTAL ...	73,987	81,618	72,307	71,922

The figures, except for exports in "Raw Materials," exceeded those of the previous year, as prices were on the whole much higher than they were in 1917.

As regards "Raw Materials", the decrease in value was chiefly due to the fall in the price of rubber, but this was counterbalanced by the increase in prices of other articles.

Excluding Para Rubber the volume of Straits Produce shipped was less than in 1917.

Articles of Straits Produce except Para Rubber gave larger average prices in most cases.

* Excluding Coin and Bullion.

Tin.—The imports of tin and tin ore were in 1918, 85,000 and 1,059,000 pikuls, respectively, as against 107,000 and 1,240,000 pikuls, respectively, in 1917 as shown below:—

	1917.		1918.	
	Tin.	*Tin Ore.*	*Tin.*	*Tin Ore.*
	Pikuls.	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*
Malay States ...	99,000	835,000	78,000	776,000
Netherlands Indies	...	133,000	...	50,000
Australia ...	...	20,000	...	...
Siam ...	8,000	191,000	7,000	192,000
Other Countries ...	...	61,000	...	41,000
Total ...	107,000	1,240,000	85,000	1,059,000

The exports of tin in 1917 and 1918 were as follows:—

	1917.		1918.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
		$		$
United Kingdom	450,000	49,665,000	175,000	27,425,000
United States of America ...	392,000	43,338,000	578,000	89,944,000
Other Countries	234,000	24,818,000	172,000	26,249,000
	1,076,000	117,821,000	925,000	143,618,000

Para Rubber.—The imports of Para Rubber in 1917 and 1918 from the following countries were as follows:—

	1917.		1918.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
		$		$
Malay States ...	928,000	105,501,000	1,351,000	95,832,000
Netherlands Indies...	124,000	13,330,000	328,000	22,355,000
Other Countries	40,000	4,204,000	59,000	4,115,000
Total ...	1,092,000	123,035,000	1,738,000	122,302,000

The exports of Para Rubber in 1917 and 1918 to the following countries were as follows:—

	1917.		1918.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
United Kingdom	251,000	32,056,000	159,000	13,338,000
United States of America ...	1,162,000	148,536,000	1,334,000	113,971,000
Other Countries	210,000	28,056,000	348,000	27,250,000
Total ...	1,623,000	208,648,000	1,841,000	154,559,000

It will thus be seen that there was a decrease in quantity of tin exported in 1918; but on the other hand the value increased by over 25 million dollars.

As regards Para Rubber, both Imports and Exports showed large increases in quantity as compared with the previous year. Owing, however, to the sharp fall in the price of this article during the year the value of imports decreased by over 700,000 dollars and that of exports by over 54 million dollars.

IMPORTS.

In "Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics," increased values are seen under the sub-heads animals, rice, spirits, arecanuts, tapioca, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Under the heading "Raw Materials," enhanced values appear in tin, tin ore, wolfram ore, coal, gutta percha, petroleum and ground-nuts, while decreased import values are apparent in para rubber, raw hides and liquid fuel.

In the "Manufactured Class," cotton piece goods, yarns, gunnies, silk piece goods, iron nails, tramway and railway materials, photographic and cinematographic materials, cement, paper and paperware, chemicals, matches, soap and rubber tyres show increased values.

In quantities imported there was an increase under salt, tapioca, para rubber, petroleum, ground-nuts, benzine, cotton piece goods and cement.

Declines in quantity are most noticeable in fish, dry and salted, bran, padi, rice, wheat flour, milk, sago flour, pepper, tea, tin ore, tin, copra, gutta inferior, gum copal, gum damar, raw hides, liquid fuel, rattans and tin plates.

EXPORTS.

Exports of the following show increased values:—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Animals, fish dry and salted, rice, arecanuts, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

"Raw Materials"—

Tin, wolfram ore, ground-nuts, gutta percha and coconut oil.

"Manufactured Class"—

Cotton piece goods, sarongs, slendang and kain, rubber tyres, gunnies, chemicals, cement and matches, while decreases are apparent in—

"Foodstuffs, drink and narcotics"—

Pineapples, preserved, sago flour, pepper and tapioca.

"Raw Materials"—

Para rubber, copra, gum copal, gum damar, raw hides, phosphate of lime, rattans and liquid fuel.

"Manufactured Class"—

Motor cars, motor cycles and accessories, and hides, tanned.

The quantities of sugar, para rubber, coconut oil, cement and ground-nuts show an increase.

A decrease in volume is recorded of coffee, fish, dry and salted, preserved pineapples, bran, rice, salt, pepper, brandy, sago flour, arecanuts, tea, tobacco, phosphate of lime, tin, rattans, gutta inferior, raw hides, lubricating oil, petroleum, sarongs etc., gunnies, corrugated iron, iron nails, tin plates and tanned hides.

TRADE BY COUNTRIES.

The following statement shows the position of the Colony in the years 1917 and 1918 as a market for British, European, American, Japanese and other foreign goods.

(The value of the trade in merchandise with the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, United States of America,

Russia-in-Asia and Japan is shown in thousands of pounds sterling.)

		Imports. 1917.	Imports. 1918.	Exports. 1917.	Exports. 1918.
		£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		5,431	6,539	11,572	6,428
France	Continent of Europe.	272	158	1,770	2,524
Denmark	Continent of Europe.	23	9	363	35
Holland	Continent of Europe.	90	25	...	5
Italy	Continent of Europe.	261	140	838	985
Norway	Continent of Europe.	88	4	...	...
Sweden	Continent of Europe.	19	6	...	...
Spain	Continent of Europe.	22	45	75	9
United States of America		1,839	2,008	24,159	25,289
Russia-in-Asia		...	...	939	...
Japan		4,049	5,880	2,083	3,143

The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were cotton piece goods, apparel, soap and soda, sarongs, slendang and kain, silk piece goods, whisky, brandy and cigars and cigarettes.

The articles showing declines in values from the United Kingdom were cement, tobacco, hardware and ironware including cooking utensils, telegraph and telephone materials, biscuits and brassware.

From the United States of America increases in imports are seen in cigars and cigarettes, petroleum, paper and stationery, iron bar and nail rod, wire nails, lubricating oil, rubber tyres, hardware, ironware and cooking utensils and steel, and decreases in machinery, motor cars, tramway and railway materials, roofing and building materials and milk.

From Japan the following show advances in imports:—

Coal, matches, chemicals, beer and ale, cement, paper and stationery, cotton piece goods, apparel, etc., machinery, paints, hats and caps, hardware, ironware and cooking utensils, silk piece goods and rubber tyres, dried fish and wheat flour, while cabinet and woodenware, cycles and cycle parts show a decline.

Exports to the United Kingdom showed advances in such articles as gutta percha, gum copal, isinglass, wolfram ore, and coconut oil, but decreases took place in tin, gambier, sago, black and white pepper, tapioca, copra, para rubber, hides, preserved pineapples, illipi nuts, India rubber and coffee.

In our Exports

to France—tin, sago, black and white pepper, tapioca, para rubber, wolfram ore, and rattans,

to Italy—Coconut oil and para rubber,

to Denmark—black and white pepper and coffee

all advanced, declines being seen in copra, and illipi nuts to France, tin, sago, and black and white pepper to Italy, and tapioca and copra to Denmark.

Exports to the United States advanced in values of tin, black and white pepper and copra, but sago, tapioca, rattans, jelutong, gutta percha, para rubber and gum copal fell in values.

Exports to Japan showed increases in values of shells, raw cotton, copra, opium, para rubber, coconut oil, rattans, hides cutting, indigo, iron scrap, sugar, tapioca flour and sago flour, while declines are seen in coffee, Borneo rubber, goats' skins, cutch and tin.

There was a rise in the total value of exports to Australia and New Zealand, Siam and the Siamese States, Malay States, Netherlands Indies, Hongkong and China, North Borneo and Sarawak but British India and Burma showed a decrease.

BANKRUPTCY.

There were 49 bankruptcies, but of these 16 alone were trade bankruptcies, of which 14 were Chinese. A rubber dealer failed for $139,097 and an import and export firm for $80,870. The total estimated liabilities of the trade bankruptcies were $453,036.

No deeds of arrangement were registered.

AGRICULTURE.

During 1918 the insufficiency of shipping resulted in the accumulation of large stocks of produce in our ports; and under the influence of the congestion in the case of rubber, the estates were driven to sell without delivery. Low prices under such circumstances were inevitable and rubber realised locally on the average 40 per cent less than in 1917. At the same time, with the great increase in the price of rice, the cost of production was driven up and consequently profits were clipped at both ends.

The rubber industry passed through a crisis, and prices fell below the average cost of production.

In consequence of voluntary reduction of output upon well established estates in anticipation of the crisis and later enforced reduction upon less firmly established estates by reason of their inability to tap at a profit the total output of the Settlements seems to have been about 75 per cent of what was possible.

Fortunately the crisis lasted but a short time; and at the end of the year prices were again at a paying level.

The estates have been maintained in good condition and show great improvement compared with their state after the crisis of 1913. The trees are generally healthy.

Copra prices, calculated in cents, were a little better than in 1917, but the higher cost of production reduced the net profits. Copra is not being manufactured in Singapore Island and its production is upon a reduced scale in the other Settlements. The end of the year found large stocks held, and the London market at a figure which did not permit of sale there. Fortunately local milling was active, and absorbed an increased amount of copra. The oil supports a nascent local soap industry.

The plantations are well looked after.

Gambier persists only over very small areas. Lack of the fuel necessary for its treatment discourages its cultivation.

Tapioca production has increased in Malacca, with the use of the tapioca plant as a cover crop in young rubber. The amount of it in Penang, and in Province Wellesley is also larger than before 1917.

Swine rearing and fattening is in Malaya an industry largely dependent upon the refuse of such products as tapioca. Swine fattening, that is to say the importation of lean pigs and the feeding of them, seems to offer in Singapore and Penang profits of about 30 per cent: but so large is the local consumption of pork that Singapore has no surplus export, and the surplus in Penang has dwindled down from 20,000 head in 1914 to barely over 1,000. Penang has now no surplus of poultry to export. It seems that one cause of this is that the mills in Penang do their work more efficiently than formerly so that there is less waste available for pig or poultry feeding.

Vegetable production appears to have increased in Penang; but to have decreased slightly in Malacca. In Malacca also the cultivation of ginger has decreased slightly. This decrease seems to be due to the rubber estates demanding Chinese tappers, and may be looked on as a phase that may pass, if the estates are able to keep adequate forces of Tamil tappers.

The year was a good one for fruit everywhere. There were also good crops of nutmegs and cloves in Penang: but the Penang nutmeg industry has decayed, and the clove industry is suffering also. The clove, nutmeg and arecanut

gardens are nearly all interplanted with rubber which can hardly be expected to pay. The export of arecanuts from Penang has also decreased. Its price is slightly better than in 1917 but perhaps not sufficient to compensate for the greater cost of harvesting and drying.

Rice in the 1917—18 crop was excellent and the rice lands were very fully planted but the crop of the season 1918—19 is disappointing. In some places, such as the coastal lands of Malacca, and parts of Province Wellesley, it is excellent. In other parts it was planted too late and in the interior of Malacca there are some hundreds of acres without any crop at all, in consequence of the cultivators waiting for rain which did not come.

LAND.

The Revenue was thus distributed:—

——		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1917	204,768	10,602	107,066	306,686
	1918	226,575	8,958	394,954	630,487
Penang ...	1917	187,102	22,747	11,244	221,093
	1918	194,370	20,708	9,810	224,888
Malacca ...	1917	381,613	28,243	228,952	638,808
	1918	453,016	21,330	117,654	592,000
Labuan ...	1917	2,708	1,222	460	4,390
	1918	2,885	501	83	3,469
Total	1917	776,191	62,814	347,722	1,170,975
	1918	876,846	51,497	522,501	1,450,844

SINGAPORE.

The large increase in the amount realised by sale of Crown Land as shown above was mainly owing to the sale of certain town lots in the neighbourhood of Cecil Street and Robinson Road.

Quit-rents again showed a considerable increase, a large part of which is due to the inclusion for the first time in the general revenue of the rents on Sultan Ali Estate.

The rents of two important leases, one of the island of Sebarok to the Standard Oil Company and the other of land

at Beach Road to the Borneo Company, also contributed to the increase.

Temporary rents continued to increase owing to the continued demand for the occupation of Crown Land in the town and its vicinity, and the extension of vegetable cultivation by permit holders in the country districts. Rents were collected without much difficulty and no land reverted to Government for non-payment of rent. In spite of the difficulties of the rubber industry there was a marked increase in the number of rubber licences and an increase of nearly $5,000 in the revenue.

Owing to the provisions of the Rubber Lands (Restriction) Ordinance, 1917, which were made more stringent by the amending Ordinance I of 1918, there was no sale of country land of any importance.

In the towns there was an increased demand for land for business premises.

Seventy-nine Statutory Grants were issued of which 27 were grants issued on conversion of 99-year leases and 15 on the subdivision of existing titles.

Owing to pressure in the Survey Office no further applications for the conversion of 99-year leases were entertained. A sum of about $65,000 received on account of conversions approved in former years was placed on deposit and does not appear in the general revenue.

Claims arising out of Municipal Back-Lane Schemes gave considerable trouble and on two occasions were taken to court.

There were no compulsory acquisitions of any importance, but several purchases of land were made by the Government in the course of the year.

Rural Board Revenue shewed an increase over 1917 of over $8,000 which may be regarded as very satisfactory in view of the fact that in many plantations the number of trees in tapping was reduced on account of the low price of rubber.

PENANG.

—	Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
North-east District ...	46,676 76	4,638 32	Nil.	51,315 08

Land revenue was increased by $1,791.30. There were 11 applications for Crown Land but only one was approved. This was an application made by a land-owner for a foreshore accretion adjacent to his own holding. One application was definitely refused and action on the rest was suspended until the auction of Crown Land is again allowed and the other restrictions on alienation are removed.

The Survey Office staff were unable to keep pace with the number of applications for sub-divisional surveys and re-surveys and were consequently only able to deal with 9 out of 23 applications received. It is hoped that there will be an improvement in this direction during 1919.

Eight thousand five hundred and seventy-one deeds were presented for registration as against 9,345 in 1917. This decrease is probably due to the reduced activity in the land market owing to the uncertain state of the rubber position.

The last fruit season was an average one.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

The Revenue collected in 1918 was as follows:—

			$	c.
Land Revenue	...	...	80,166	21
Reimbursements	...	...	9,185	55
Land Sales	...	...	1,732	00

Land Rents in Province Wellesley increased by a little over $1,000 during the year 1918 as compared with 1917.

Only 27 acres 1 rood and 17 poles were alienated during the year, the premium collected amounting to $1,702. There is not much available Crown Land in Province Wellesley and alienation of what there is was restricted during war time.

The fruit season was above and the paddy harvest below the average.

MALACCA.

Receipts on account of rents on Grants and Leases and assessment under the Malacca Lands Ordinance amounted to $412,931 in 1918 as against $358,109 in 1917.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together

with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	813 0 24	1,772 0 38	1,442 0 39	2,034 3 10	599 0 03
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	494,406	254,231	40,220	61,182	237,980
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	137	62	63	87	79
Premia paid ...	$156,772	$90,119	$49,299	$76,113	$291,273

PENANG.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	6,841 0 02	2,819 0 13	1,576 2 39	636 1 10	472 0 19
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	9,960	117,311	5,840	9,013	12,228
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	77	179	161	288	151
Premia paid ...	$16,289	$19,610	$19,906	$8,022	$4,109

MALACCA.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted...	10,379 0 33	19,341 0 01	4,581 2 20	7,113 2 28	8,721 0 12
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	3,000	17,628	33,884	...	738
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	494	627 & 1 Mining Lease.	432 & 2 Mining Leases.	494	286
Premia paid ...	$85,506	$133,108	$82,975	$143,967	$172,622

LABUAN.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	...	...	667 2 28	185 2 12	...
,, Town Lots	...	...	2 26	0 2 13	0 4 10
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	...	...	93 (13 new Grants & 80 in exchange for old titles.)	62 (18 new Grants & 44 in exchange for old titles.)	39 (in exchange for old titles.)
Premia paid ...	...	...	$147	$460	$83

FORESTS.

The area of reserved forests has been increased to 106,013 acres, and now amounts to about 11 per cent of the lands in the Colony. The Forest Department expended $33,576 and collected $35,479 during the year under review, thus showing a surplus for the first time since 1904, and for the third time only in the history of the department. This result is due chiefly to the increased exploitation of timber from reserved forests, the revenue on which more than covered the reduction in revenue on rubber.

There were 43 breaches of the forest laws of which 26 were dealt with in court and 17 compounded. Of the former, 2 were acquitted, and the remainder punished by the infliction of fines amounting to $393.75 in addition to $782.56 paid to the department for damage done to the forest. One offender went to gaol. In the compounded cases compensation of $365.68 was realized.

The Malacca forests were placed during the year under the control of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Negri Sembilan, and the Forest Ranger in charge was transferred to Tampin. This is the first step in the amalgamation of the forest departments of the Colony and of the Federated Malay States, which will be completed as soon as officers become available.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

The number of deeds presented for registration in Singapore and Penang was 13,094 as compared with 13,287 in 1917, and the number of deeds finally registered, 12,863, as against 13,048 in 1917. Conveyances and Assignments accounted for 5,394, Mortgages for 3,800, and Reconveyances for 2,643. Revenue amounted to $40,148.95. The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1915 is not in force in the Settlement of Malacca.

RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

The principal purchases were: a kris adjad, from Trengganu, acquired through Mr. J. L. HUMPHREYS, a set of gold coins from the Kodur Treasure Trove, Nellore District, Madras Presidency and several silk sarongs, shot with gold, from Rhio and Lingga. Mr. J. A. LE DOUX presented a pair of stocks formerly used by the Gambier Farmers of Kota Tinggi, Johore, and Government handed over to the Museum two tomb stones, from Malacca, supposed to be those of Sultan MANSUR SHAH, of about the year 1475 A. D., recently described by Mr. R. O. WINSTEDT in Journal 78, Straits Branch, Royal Asiatic Society. The Director under-

took two collecting expeditions, to Gunong Angsi, Negri Sembilan, in April, and to Gali, near Raub, Pahang, in December, devoting himself on both occasions chiefly to entomology.

A collection of postage stamps was started, the following States presenting duplicate sets of recent issues: Federated Malay States, Trengganu, Kelantan, Kedah, Sarawak, Brunei and British North Borneo.

An attempt was also made to form a collection of portraits of distinguished Singapore residents, past and present. Help is gratefully acknowledged from Messrs. Donaldson and Burkinshaw, Messrs. Guthrie & Co., Messrs. Drew and Napier, the United Engineers, the Hon'ble Lieut.-Col. Sir ARTHUR ADAMS, the Hon'ble Capt. CHANCELLOR, the Hon'ble Dr. LIM BOON KENG, the Misses BROWN, Father COUVREUR, Mr. W. E. HOOPER and Mr. CHUA HONG KAY.

The collection of plans of old Singapore was much added to through Dr. G. E. BROOKE's help who had recovered them from the Record Office.

The whole of the Museum and Library was repainted and colour-washed, the ceiling in the Animal Gallery was renewed, the gateways and drives leading to Stamford Road were widened and adapted to the ever increasing motor traffic, and the boundary wall in Fort Canning Road was straightened and continued to the upper end of the compound.

The number of subscribers was the highest on record, viz., 555, against 482 in the previous year, and the receipts by subscription, etc., rose during the same period from $3,579.20 to $4,662.03. The number of books purchased was 562, at a cost of $2,212.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 13,064,270 as compared with 15,784,369 in 1917.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1917 and 1918.

NATIONALITY.	1917.					1918.					Increase in 1918 as compared with 1917.	Decrease in 1918 as compared with 1917.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	100,160	5,728	...	...	105,888	146,956	35,878	...	1,904	184,738	78,850	...
British ...	4,495,512	2,597,942	472,826	138,292	7,704,572	3,348,734	1,666,558	419,894	99,148	5,534,334	...	2,170,238
Chinese ...	326,210	58,392	...	...	384,602	327,755	147,294	...	...	475,049	90,447	...
Danish ...	115,612	34,810	...	...	150,422	88,622	18,050	...	...	106,672	...	43,750
Dutch ...	2,117,608	512,189	...	6,024	2,635,821	1,701,506	420,590	680	938	2,123,714	...	512,107
French ...	397,260	7,520	...	...	404,780	355,049	4,892	882	...	360,823	...	43,957
Greek ...	14,776	...	...	...	14,776	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,776
Italian ...	20,176	...	...	...	20,176	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,176
Japanese ...	2,261,925	634,180	287,168	90,888	3,274,161	2,768,883	574,394	52,072	73,810	3,469,159	194,998	...
Norwegian ...	607,703	78,527	...	...	686,230	308,923	72,246	...	...	381,169	...	305,061
Portuguese ...	2,290	2,290	...	...	4,580	9,160	2,290	...	...	11,450	6,870	...
Russian ...	45,548	15,074	...	26,960	87,582	26,210	6,744	...	...	32,954	...	54,628
Sarawak ...	103,835	188	...	26,760	130,783	93,139	...	...	46,384	139,523	8,740	...
Siamese ...	105,856	[illegible]	...	...	105,856	214,215	...	...	...	214,215	108,359	...
Spanish ...	44,760	[illegible]738	...	...	54,498	19,294	11,176	...	...	30,470	...	24,028
Swedish ...	14,616	[illegible]26	...	...	19,642	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,642
TOTALS ...	10,773,847	3,96[illegible],604	759,994	288,924	15,784,369	9,408,446	2,960,112	473,528	222,184	13,064,270	488,264	3,208,363
										Net decrease ...		2,720,099

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1914	...	...	24,859,917	tons.
1915	...	...	20,896,952	„
1916	...	...	19,528,671	„
1917	...	...	15,784,369	„
1918	...	...	13,064,270	„

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 50,840 in number and 2,338,771 in tons in 1918 as compared with 51,481 and 2,321,797, respectively, in 1917.

Six new steamers with a tonnage of 267 tons gross and 26 sailing vessels of 2,350 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1910, twenty-one new sailing vessels of 2,140 tons were licensed under section 425, and 855 vessels of 15,966 tons were registered under section 426.

LEGISLATION.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1918 are 29 in number, including two Supply Ordinances. Seventeen of these are amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The War Tax Ordinance, reproducing the expired War Tax Ordinance, 1917, and imposing a tax on incomes of $3,000 and more per annum for the purpose of providing a contribution to the Imperial Government towards the expenses incurred in the prosecution of the present war;

(ii) The War Loan Ordinance, authorizing the Governor to raise money by issuing bearer and registered bonds and to lend such money to His Majesty's Government;

(iii) The Military Service Ordinance, enabling the Governor to raise a force for active service beyond the limits of the Colony at any time during the war;

(iv) The War Funds Ordinance, which establishes some measure of control over the collection of money in the Colony for War Charities and legalizes, subject to certain conditions, lotteries held by the permission of the Governor for raising money for such charities.

(v) The Courts (Emergency Powers) Ordinance, which provides that any member of the Overseas Force

of the Straits Settlements called out for active service beyond the limits of the Colony—

(*a*) who is tenant of any premises under a tenancy from year to year or for any longer period, may apply to a District Court and get the tenancy determined conditionally or unconditionally, if the Court is of opinion that under the circumstances the tenancy should be determined;

(*b*) who is a party to a written contract made before the 15th July last, may apply to the Supreme Court or to a District Court and get the contract varied, suspended or cancelled if the Court is satisfied that he cannot carry out his part of the contract without suffering serious hardship.

(vi) The Singapore Railway Transfer Ordinance, which empowers the Federated Malay States Government to construct a causeway across the Johore Straits and to lay thereon railway lines for the purpose of linking up the Singapore railway with the Johore and the Federated Malay States railways.

(vii) The Agricultural Pests Ordinance, which gives power to control the introduction and spread of pests injurious to cultivation.

(viii) The Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Ordinance, restricting temporarily the persons who may engage in business connected with certain non-ferrous metals and metallic ores.

The principal amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Ordinance, which enables the Governor to declare a port to be an infected or suspected port when any disease classified as a "dangerous infectious disease" exists in an epidemic or sporadic state at such port;

(ii) The Increase of Rent (War Restriction) (Amendment) Ordinance, which imposes a fine on any landlord or sublandlord who from and after the thirty-first day of July, 1917,

(*a*) receives or recovers the increased rent of any dwelling-house where the rent has been increased between the thirty-first day of December, 1915, and the first day of August, 1917; or

(*b*) increases the rent of any dwelling-house or part of a dwelling-house

without an order of the Board.

(iii) The Volunteer (Amendment) Ordinance, which abolishes the system of capitation grants and provides that any volunteer who fails to attend the number of drills prescribed for any period of the year shall be liable to a fine.

(iv) The Registration of Aliens (Amendment) Ordinance, which provides—

(*a*) that only aliens over 14 years of age shall be registered;

(*b*) that a certificate of registration shall be issued to every registered alien by the Chief Police Officer and that such certificates must be produced to such officers and on such occasions as are therein mentioned;

(*c*) that no alien shall leave the Colony unless his passport or, where there is no passport, his certificate of registration has been endorsed by the Chief Police Officer.

(v) The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, which gives effect to an arrangement which has been made between the Colony and the Federated Malay States that the Judges of the Supreme Court of the Colony and the Judicial Commissioners of the Federated Malay States should *ipso facto* have jurisdiction throughout the Colony and the Federated Malay States.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the eight Government English Schools was $178,918.75, on the 45 Aided Schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Malay, Tamil and Chinese) $199,304.50 and on the 193 Government Vernacular Schools $154,380.98.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $21,489.47.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show an increase of 142 over the figures for 1917. The Normal Classes continued their work during the year, and 38 Normal Class Certificates were issued.

The Department has been (for several years) greatly handicapped by a shortage of European Masters.

Further progress has been made with the question of Higher Education. The Committee appointed to make recommendations for the due observance and commemo-

ration of the Centenary of Singapore suggested that the permanent memorial of the occasion should be educational, and a Special Committee was then appointed to draw up a Scheme for Education for the Colony with a view to laying the foundation on which in course of time a University might be established. This Committee was sitting at the end of the year.

On the recommendation of the Education Board the Government has approved of the principle of a policy of free compulsory English Education. Before this can be done, a Training College for Teachers will be required, and a number of new schools must be built. It is not intended to compel children already attending a Vernacular School to leave it and learn English. Rather the idea is to sweep into the net the numerous children of many nationalities who at present get no education.

A Conference of Principals of Schools and Officers of the Education Department (S. S. and F. M. S.) was held at Kuala Lumpur in August, under the chairmanship of the Director of Education.

A number of modern scientific books, a History, a Geography, a Hygiene text-book, a Teachers' Arithmetic, were introduced into the Malay Vernacular Schools. Those previously in use were unsuitable, both from their antiquated subject-matter and the poor quality of the translation into Malay. Great progress was made with basketry as a branch of Manual Training. Malays are apt at the work and in many cases interest in this manual work has been observed to develope a pupil's intelligence all round. A Lady Supervisor for Malay Girls' Schools was appointed but did not arrive East in 1918.

A New Scheme for Malay Assistant Inspectors of Schools was approved and good results are expected from having trained Malay supervision of the Vernacular Schools.

An improved Salary Scheme is attracting a superior type of Malay to take up teaching.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Court of Appeal sat at Singapore on the 10th June and 19th November disposing of 24 Appeals from the Supreme Court of which 16 were dismissed.

In Penang the same Court sat from the 19th to the 21st February and from the 13th to the 24th August dealing with 15 Appeals and 1 Criminal Appeal.

In Malacca there were three Civil Appeals. One was dismissed and two are pending.

In Singapore 23 Criminal Appeals from Magistrates' decisions were entered of which 17 were dismissed.

In Penang 44 were so entered and 24 were dismissed.

In Malacca there were six appeals against the decisions of the District and Police Courts. (Two were confirmed, three quashed and one is pending).

In Singapore 618 Civil Suits were instituted as against 470 in 1917 and 472 in 1916. In Penang and Malacca 414 and 120, respectively, were entered.

Sixty-five Bankruptcy petitions were filed in Singapore as against 67 in 1917 and 63 in 1916.

In Penang 23 petitions were filed as against 44 in 1917 and 37 in 1916. Five were presented in Malacca.

The fees received were as follows:—

		1916.		*1917.*		*1918.*	
		$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Singapore	...	25,654	70	25,298	95	24,422	90
Penang	...	15,811	40	16,044	40	15,707	05
Malacca	...	...		...		4,859	95

POLICE.

The total strength of the Force at the end of the year was 2,649 which was distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,169
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	1,037
Malacca	358
Labuan and Brunei	85
The authorized strength of the Force was	2,758

Out of an approved establishment of 99 Europeans there are 37 vacancies representing a shortage of 37·37 per cent. Recruits for the Malay and Indian Contingent came forward freely in all the Settlements but the men offering were for the most part of an inferior type.

The excessively high casualties, 525, due chiefly to dismissals and resignations make it extremely difficult to keep the Force up to strength.

There was a very considerable increase in the number of offences against discipline in all the Settlements, the total being 3,323 as against 2,193 in 1917, an increase of 1,130.

There was however a decrease in the number of cases of intoxication. There were 17 cases, which is 39 less than 1917 and 71 less than in 1916. The increase was chiefly in offences of a trivial character and was due to the fact that the punishments inflicted were ordinarily very light and were not sufficiently deterrent in their effect.

The health of the Force was on the whole fairly good but during the latter part of the year a number of the men suffered from influenza. Malaria, venereal diseases and injuries of various kinds accounted for most of the admissions to hospital. The admissions were 1,716 as against 1,193 in 1917, an increase of 523.

The Chap Ji Ki craze which gave so much trouble in Singapore, during 1916 and 1917 died out during 1918 on the cessation of the Gambling Farm in Johore but other forms of gambling increased in certain localities and gave the Department a great deal to do.

The cost of the Department was $919,246.16.

The returns of the more serious offences reported are:—

			1917.	*1918.*
Murder	...	...	31	32
Gang robbery	...	...	24	32
Robbery	...	...	135	129
House-breaking	...	...	379	405
Theft	...	...	2,132	2,370

The total number of cases in which arrests were effected with or without warrant in the Colony during the year was 19,087 compared with 16,409 in 1917. 162 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 121 in 1917.

Three hundred and seven persons, mostly habitual criminals, were banished during the year.

PRISONS.

Criminal Prisons.—At the beginning of the year there were 745 prisoners in the four Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Labuan), 3,692 were admitted and 3,638 discharged, etc., during the year and 799 remained at the end of the year.

There were only 34 prisoners of the "habitual" class in prison at the end of the year. They were either British subjects who are not liable to banishment, or men under sentence for unlawful return from banishment.

Prison offences showed an average of 1·1 per annum per convict as against 1·6 in the preceding year.

The number of "Middle-Grade" convicts—the men available for industrial labour—continued to decline (the figures being 134 in 1918, 150 in 1917, and 193 in 1916) with the result that the work done by the convicts for various Government departments is enough to keep them fully employed, and that orders from private firms and individuals which were at one time sought for have now to be generally refused. The "Upper-Grade" men (62 in number) are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-Grade" men at stone-breaking and the "Short Sentence" and "Revenue Grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue-duties.

During the year 310 persons were banished from the Colony, one from Brunei, one from British North Borneo and 399 banishees from the Federated Malay States passed through the Colony. It is to the purging of the Colony from this class of offender that the reduction in the number of convicts must be mainly ascribed.

There were ten executions (two in Singapore, six in Penang and two in Malacca) in pursuance of sentences of the Supreme Court.

Civil Prisons.—There were 121 men in the Civil Prisons of the Colony at the beginning of the year: 4,740 were admitted and 4,735 discharged during the year; and there remained 126 at its end.

Houses of Detention.—In these buildings, which are part of the Civil Prisons, there were 113 men at the beginning of the year and 49 at the close of the year: 490 were admitted and 554 discharged. Of this last number 18 found employment and 486 were repatriated.

General.—The health of the prisoners for the first quarter was not good. There was an outbreak of beri-beri which was traced to prisoners having been fed on rice steamed under pressure. After the cause of the outbreak had been discovered and matters rectified there were practically no fresh cases. For the remainder of the year the general health may be considered to have been satisfactory. The total expenditure of the department was $234,104.85, and its revenue $7,189.35 besides which articles to the value of $25,878 were supplied to Government departments.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 23,701 and 36,294, respectively. The figures for the preceding year were 24,826 and 29,950.

The estimated population of the Colony was 827,719. It was estimated at 809,869 in 1917, and ascertained in 1911 (the year of the Census) to be 711,951.

The birth-rate decreased from 30·65 to 28·64 per mille. Against this the death-rate has increased. The rate was 46·45 in 1911, 39·01 in 1912, 34·93 in 1913, 34·13 in 1914, 29·15 in 1915, 30·70 in 1916 and 36·98 in 1917, but 43·85 per mille in the year under review.

The principal causes of death were malaria (4,783 cases), infantile mortality (6,009), influenza (3,500), tuberculosis (2,536), beri-beri (1,961) and dysentery (1,362).

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony during the year caused 55 deaths from small-pox, 68 from cholera and 204 from plague. The corresponding figures in 1917 were 176, 9, and 44.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—Chinese.

Fifty-eight thousand four hundred and twenty-one immigrants arrived from China, a decrease of 62·4 per cent as compared with the figure for 1917 and a decrease of 78·3 per cent as compared with that for 1911 which year showed the highest number yet recorded.

As compared with the average for the previous ten years, 1908 to 1917, the number arriving in 1918 shows a decrease of 68·7 per cent.

Adult males formed 67·9 per cent and adult females 14·7 per cent of the immigrants.

Immigration from Hongkong owing to the outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis there was prohibited from April to October. Subsequently immigration subject to restrictions was permitted during the remainder of the year.

There is no indentured Chinese labour in the Colony.

(II).—Southern Indian.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 65,291, as compared with 90,077 in 1917.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 52,132, as against 57,583 in 1917.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*
Assisted immigrants *	54,881	72,091	78,407	55,583
Other immigrants ...	20,442	23,475	11,670	9,708
Total ...	75,323	95,566	90,077	65,291

The assisted immigrants consisted of 49,694 adults and 5,889 minors. Of the adults 38,013 were men and 11,681 women.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory in the first half of the year, but the epidemic of virulent influenza in the latter half made it one of the worst years on record, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 34·3 per mille and in the Dindings 52·5 per mille. Among the 239 labourers employed on estates in Penang, the death-rate was 38 per mille.

During 1918, 817 adult and 51 minor decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The rate of assessment to the Tamil Immigration Fund was $2 for the 4 quarters of the year 1918. The income of the fund was $1,696,582.85 and its expenditure $1,074,790.16.

(III).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,586. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908 are in force but approximately 537 local contracts for 300 days are in force in Province Wellesley.

CHINESE PROTECTORATE.

For the Chinese Community prices of foodstuffs and other articles imported from China ruled higher than in 1917 for reasons similar to those influencing prices in that year. The price of rice also rose considerably towards the end of

* "Assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(i) the independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bonâ fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (ii) the Kangany labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kangany, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a month's notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

the year with the result that the very poor were finding it difficult to make ends meet, notwithstanding the fact that wages had not fallen. The "Our Day" Fund was again very generously supported by the Chinese who also gave large contributions to the Canton Flood Relief Fund. The closing of the Johore Gambling Farm has resulted in the dying out of the craze for the "Chap Ji Ki" lottery in Singapore.

The immigration of Chinese from China into the Peninsula *viâ* Bangkok, which commenced during the year on the opening of the railway to Bangkok, has raised new problems for consideration.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1918.
Singapore	2490·50 m. m.
Labuan	3128·00 „
Penang	2229·50 „
Province Wellesley ...	1837·50 „
Malacca	1860·50 „
Dindings	4111·05 „

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 82·0. The maximum recorded was 95·0° in Penang on March 30th, and the same in Malacca on March 5th. The maximum in Singapore was 91·5° on several dates. The minimum was 67·0° in Singapore on January 25th.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 11,455,514, an average of 13·84 per inhabitant, as against 15·85 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 8,642,343, as compared with 8,447,338 in 1917. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 358,064 to 408,242 and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 775 to 846.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1918, was $1,128,170.50 an increase of 20 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1917. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $163.69. There was a profit on the year's working of $17,495.67. The estimated present value of the investments is $1,000,425.74.

The disarrangement of Mail services caused by the war resulted in the Singapore Post Office becoming the clearing depôt for mails exchanged between India and Australia and between China and Australia. A weekly homeward service *viâ* Suez was maintained but the outward service was irregular.

Money Order and Postal Order transactions amounted in value to $6,270,000, a decrease of nearly $8,500,000. The abnormal amount of business in 1917 was due principally to the fall in the Bank Rate with India, and the Post Office with a rate of Rs. 175 equal $100 took up most of the exchange business with India. The reduction of the rate to Rs. 165 equal $100 was followed by an immediate reduction in the amount of Money Orders issued on India.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 28 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Durian Tunggal (Malacca) and Jarak and Kreh (Province Wellesley). Of these 20 are telegraph offices.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES.

Opium.—During the year 3,711 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory. The retail price of chandu remained the same as at the close of the previous year, that is to say, $10.50 per tahil in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, $6.50 per tahil in Labuan and $5.50 per tahil in Christmas Island. The chandu sales in the Colony (including 4,200 tahils sold for consumption in Christmas Island) amounted to 1,575,060.5.6 tahils realising $15,706,741.60.

Sales to the Federated Malay States Government amounted to 1,779,600 tahils, whilst 870,594.9.3 tahils were sold to the Governments of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Trengganu, Kelantan and Brunei. In addition, 7,200 tahils were shipped to Bundi and 4,400 tahils to Dungun.

The Calcutta auction price of opium varied between $1,942 and $2,107 per chest at exchange Rs. 165 equal $100.

52,810.8 tahils of opium and 15,028.0.8 tahils of chandu were seized during the year. In the latter part of the year the illicit export of Government chandu to China was attempted on a considerable scale, owing, it is believed, to the state of exchange which rendered it more profitable to send remittances in the form of chandu. The illicit chandu traffic between Sarawak and Australia *viâ* Singapore is still in evidence, and is made all the more difficult to deal with by the fact that the Hailams interested have in some cases enlisted the assistance of Europeans.

Other seizures made during the year were as follows:—

Cocaine 35,157 grains, morphia 23,644 grains, tobacco 1,055 lbs., bhang 5,604 bundles in Singapore and 425.9 tahils in Penang and Malacca, and liquors 2,367 gallons. Several Singapore firms were successfully prosecuted by the Department under the Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1917, for applying false trade descriptions to certain liquors imported by them and labelled as "Brandy", "Port", etc., and large quantities of these liquors were confiscated.

Liquors.—The revenue from liquors amounted to $2,511,590.36 as against $2,434,940 in 1917. The collection of duty on liquors intended for consumption in Christmas Island was taken over by the Monopolies Head Office in Singapore from the month of August.

Tobacco.—The increased cost of raw materials due to the war made it necessary to revise the scale of Tobacco Duties formerly operative in the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca. According to this scale the rate of duty payable was dependent on values and its retention would have made nearly all the cheaper brands taxable at higher rates with consequent excessive increase in cost to poor consumers. A new scale was therefore introduced on the 14th October, by which specific rates of duty were fixed without reference to the value of the article.

The total revenue collected during the year was $1,434,519.60 as against $1,185,249 in 1917.

The revenue from tobacco in the Settlement of Labuan was $3,735.91, as against $3,853.63 in the preceding year.

Prosecutions.—The total number of cases instituted by the Department during the year was 326 in Singapore, 102 in Penang, and 32 in Malacca.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to ($6,807,004), and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to ($6,904,967). The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure appear below.

REVENUE.

	1914.	*1915.*	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,626,243	3,696,544	3,884,353	4,375,493	4,943,059
Penang ...	1,399,639	1,404,150	1,429,251	1,537,937	1,592,449
Malacca ...	147,392	161,431	177,742	222,870	271,496

EXPENDITURE.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,679,944	3,772,692	3,743,261	4,244,657	5,034,593
Penang ...	1,295,549	1,308,600	1,268,865	1,380,139	1,577,409
Malacca ...	145,795	131,958	160,655	186,162	292,965

RURAL BOARDS.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
Singapore Island ...	155,456	207,761
Penang Island ...	66,368	103,450
Province Wellesley ...	285,913	266,975
Dindings	33,883	31,058
Malacca	631,461	758,138

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD.

The income and expenditure of the Board at Singapore (first as the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and latterly as the Singapore Harbour Board) for the seven years 1912—1918 have been as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1912	6,015,648	4,216,015
1913	6,091,296	4,070,912
1914	5,834,893	3,875,738
1915	5,432,425	3,421,271
1916	6,785,372	4,203,355
1917	7,931,597	4,665,596
1918	*9,617,718	*5,388,312

* Approximate only and subject to audit.

The capital debt due to Government stood at the end of 1918 at $52,300,028* on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,437,158* from the reserve account.

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Number of Vessels ...	2,69	2,708	2,544	2,364	2,329	2,400	2,114
Nett Tonnage	5,397,155	5,794,536	5,445,273	4,307,082	4,348,927	3,938,659	3,330,791
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	1,200,545	1,338,495	1,248,032	1,021,452	1,067,824	1,039,202	732,231
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	1,335,846	1,462,788	1,229,205	1,323 637	1,339,129	1,369,606	1,213,730

The tonnage occupying the Graving Docks during the years 1917 and 1918 based on the daily tonnage in dock was:—

	1917.	1918.
No. 1 Dock	239,102	233,023
No. 2 Dock	409,120	216,211
The Victoria Dock ...	445,499	253,074
The Albert Dock ...	786,100	407,319
The King's Dock ...	1,817,202	736,214

PENANG HARBOUR BOARD.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock for the year 1918 were $883,180* and the expenditure $790,821.*

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Number of Vessels ...	610	732	596	728	661	532	513
Nett Tonnage	1,208,503	1,532,361	1,108,319	871,524	810,675	687,377	581,132
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	219,367	282,067	266,146	72,016	93,388	106,676	60,029
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	329,839	399,412	313,360	254,066	245,681	247,051	251,183

* Approximate only and subject to audit.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the Department was as follows:—

	Singapore.	*Penang.*	*Malacca.*	*Labuan.*	*Total.*
ESTABLISHMENTS.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
(1) Salaries ...	95,646.70	68,924.99	32,882.34	5,707.46	203,161.49
(2) Other Charges	18,983.66	16,726.71	18,066.60	537.42	54,314.39
ANNUALLY RECURRENT.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	160,953.94	263,904.48	227,171.33	3,305.59	655,335.34
(2) Buildings, etc.	224,716.34	97,859.08	69,557.76	3,805.65	395,938.83
SPECIAL SERVICES.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	14,609.26	102,359.43	535,448.09	1,683.38	654,100.16
(2) Buildings, etc.	186,305.87	68,575.56	223,246.06	10,569.04	488,696.53
Miscellaneous Services	32,424.34	23,066.10	19,330.31	1,880.90	76,701.65
Total ...	$733,640.11	641,416.35	1,125,702.49	27,489.44	2,528,248.39

The only important works completed by the department during the year were as follows:—

In Singapore, quarters for 14 married coolies for the Botanical Gardens' staff were constructed; the Dressers' quarters at the Female Lunatic Asylum, Pasir Panjang, were re-built; six quarters for Night Nurses at the General Hospital and quarters for one European Operator at the Wireless Station were erected. Groynes were constructed at the Old Fort, Tanjong Katong, and a Sub-Post Office was built at Seletar.

In Labuan, progress was made with the construction of a new reservoir.

In Penang, the operating theatre at the General Hospital was extended and improvements were made at the Post Office. Quarters of the Class III type were also erected.

In Malacca, a house was purchased at Riverside for the Government Monopolies Department and certain alterations and repairs were effected in it. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Central Police Station in order to provide 10 married quarters for constables, and the barracks at Chin Chin Police Station were reconstructed. A workshop for the Public Works Department was erected and also six coolie lines for the same department.

Progress was made with the following works:—in Singapore, with the erection of quarters for a Field Assistant,

Botanical Gardens, and of Inspector's quarters and additional barracks at Beach Road Police Station together with general repairs.

In Penang, the construction of the reinforced concrete beacon in the South channel was proceeded with.

In Malacca, progress was made with the erection of new District Offices at Alor Gajah and Jasin and also Clerks' quarters in Malacca.

In Singapore, the extension of the Jurong Road was continued.

In Province Wellesley the reconstruction of the road to Dusan Lada on the Muda River was begun during the year. Work on the new road at Jawi in the south of the Province was begun during the year.

In Malacca progress was made with the reconstruction of the roads.

Penang—amount of special expenditure spent on metalling was $23,950.96.

Malacca—amount of special expenditure spent on metalling and remetalling, etc., was $443,053.09.

The metalled roads in the Colony are as follows:—

	Miles.
Singapore	95·36
Penang and Dindings	85·43
Province Wellesley	166·25
Malacca	231·38
Labuan	4·50
Total ...	582·92

The department also has charge of 50 miles of gravelled road in Malacca and 110 miles of natural road of which the greater part lies in Penang, the Dindings and Province Wellesley.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The excess of revenue over expenditure, originally estimated at $27,183, is now calculated at $9,964.46. This is chiefly due to the fact that the royalty* on export of Phosphate of Lime, amounting to $19,000, shows a decrease on the estimates of $22,440.

* Royalty for 1917 was 35¾ cents per ton. Royalty at the same rate for 1918 would be about $19,000.

The total revenue amounted to $22,722.47.

Export of Phosphate of Lime decreased from 89,889 tons in 1917 to 53,370 tons, and tonnage entered and cleared at Flying Fish Cove decreased from 112,210 tons to 71,926 tons. Australia and Japan consumed the entire stock of export, Japan taking 55 per cent. In regard to the tonnage of freight ships 48 per cent flew the British flag and 52 per cent the Japanese.

The export of rubber decreased in value from $2,404 in 1917 to $1,124.75 in 1918.

The population decreased from 701 on January 1st to 514 on December 31st.

The general health has been satisfactory though the death-rate rose from 13·2 per mille in 1917 to 22·71 in 1918 owing to 7 deaths, in November and December of which the majority were due to influenza.

There was no serious crime.

One-and-a-half miles of track were laid during the year and on the railway line a further one-and-a-half miles with sidings at South Point to complete same.

The mean temperature was 80·9 F—·4 of one degree warmer than in 1917.

REGISTRIES OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Last year was the third year during which the Companies Ordinance, 1915 was in force. Thirty-five new companies were registered with a capital of $12,493,000; of these, 19 were private companies with a capital of $5,070,000.

At the end of the year 286 companies remained on the register of which 16 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 261 companies which carry on a business was $81,089,441.

Four hundred and three companies not registered in the Colony, have filed documents under the 1915 Ordinance; of these, 326 are British. Apart from these, 11 British companies have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Fifty-eight companies do Fire Insurance business.

The total revenue of the department was $14,734.10.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

In Singapore the total imports of live-stock were 389 horses, 31,879 cattle, 34,156 sheep, 4,421 goats, 144,014 swine,

308 dogs and 114 buffaloes as compared with 436 horses, 28,526 cattle, 29,237 sheep, 8,522 goats, 160,060 swine, 217 dogs and 232 buffaloes in 1917.

The total number of live-stock exported from Singapore was 248 horses, 4,942 cattle, 12,857 sheep, 2,748 goats, 64,764 swine, 184 dogs, and 15 buffaloes as compared with 369 horses, 6,198 cattle, 8,500 sheep, 2,861 goats, 66,708 swine, 190 dogs and 86 buffaloes in 1917.

The total revenue collected during 1918 amounted to $36,721.00 as compared with $37,404.15 in 1917.

The general health of animals in Singapore was good, no epidemic of contagious or infectious disease occurring, though there were several deaths during the last five months from diarrhœa which did not assume an epidemic form. In some characteristics it resembled Rinderpest, but as only about one per cent of the cattle arriving from Bangkok were effected its contagious properties were practically nil. Precautions were taken however by not exporting any Bangkok cattle and limiting the import to slaughter cattle only. It was impossible to prohibit the import of cattle from Bangkok as the food supply of Singapore would have suffered very greatly in consequence. Sufficient cattle for local consumption cannot be obtained from the other East Coast ports.

LABUAN.

The revenue collected in Labuan, amounted to $35,268.86, and $84,092 was expended. The total volume of trade was $2,763,561, and exports and imports show little variation from the previous year. 150,258 tons of merchant shipping entered and cleared. A weekly service with Singapore and Borneo was maintained. There was a general improvement in sanitation. The 10 square miles of land bought from the Labuan Coalfields Company, Limited, is being re-alienated in small holdings.

GENERAL.

During the past year the influences of the great War were more directly felt in the Colony than in previous years. Our prosperity was still great but having regard to the rise in values the figures of trade do not represent the equal of the 1917 prosperity. This would not appear to mean that there was more poverty. The President, Municipal Commissioners, Singapore, expresses the opinion that the general rise in prices was due in part to increased demand and that

the increase of wages among the poorer classes has led to more luxurious living. This opinion receives support from the Saving Bank returns which shows not only that the average balance per depositor rose from $153.56 in 1917 to $163.60 in 1918 but also that the number of depositors on the books on December 31st, 1918, was 6,892 as against 6,198 on December, 1917.

At the beginning of the year the world was waiting for the final German onslaught and the call for ships needed for the transport of American Troops and supplies largely reduced local shipping facilities. The tonnage of ships which entered and cleared the ports of the Colony was less than half that in 1913. In March, 1918, occurred the requisition of the Dutch Shipping in accordance with the right of Angary but all except four of these vessels were soon released.

We were compelled to mobilize our local shipping resources and to place them under Government control.

From the 1st May, 1918, all local British tonnage was requisitioned.

After the first German attack towards the end of March it was clear that our resources in men had also to be mobilized. There had from the beginning of the war been a steady stream of Volunteer recruits and it was believed that few only could be spared, but in the Empire's great need a thorough scrutiny of our resources was called for in order that no one who could possibly be sent should be prevented from going. The way had already been prepared by the Registration and Medical Examination Ordinance in December, 1917. There were some doubts raised as to the legality of conscripting men here for service in other parts of the world but these doubts were solved and in July the necessary machinery was embodied in the Military Service Ordinance. Tribunals got to work in August but the dramatic change in the fortunes of War rendered unnecessary the services of the recruits thus obtained.

In the middle of July the Middlesex Regiment was despatched to Vladivostock for service and from their departure until the arrival of a Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in the first week of August the necessary military duties were carried out by the Singapore Volunteer Corps.

In view of the demands of Mesopotamia for skilled labour our resources in the way of skilled artisans were regulated by Regulations under the Imperial Order in Council of October, 1896, requiring a licence from this office for the engagement of any skilled artisan.

The shipping scarcity, reductions in staffs and the American restrictions on the import of rubber naturally had an unfavourable effect on the trade. From May, the United States of America limited their importation of rubber to 100,000 tons yearly and in order to conserve their shipping resources gave preference to South America for their supplies. As their 1917 imports had amounted to 177,000 tons this was a severe blow to the local industry. Auction prices fell to 39 cents a pound. A Committee to enquire into the position was appointed on the 16th August and, on the 2nd September, this was turned into a Commission. The Report was published on the 2nd October and suggested that there should be a compulsory reduction of output and that Government should guarantee purchase at 80 cents a pound. The first part of the proposal would have been difficult to execute without an international convention. The latter proposal needed the closest scrutiny and forethought as it might have led to enormous Government liabilities and losses—losses which should have been an unfair burden on the general community. Fortunately the situation was relieved by the signing of the Armistice.

The Tin industry had during the first half of the year been very prosperous in view of the war demands. The price rose to $160 per picul in July. In that month buying was prohibited except under licence and the price then rose to $185. Subsequently a single buyer was authorised and by the time the Armistice was declared the price had fallen to $143.10 per picul. Towards the end of the year when the Imperial Government ceased to buy direct the Federated Malay States found it necessary to guarantee Government purchase at $118 per picul.

To add to the difficulties experienced in our two main industries the large class of Chinese merchants was hard hit by the unrest in China which led to calls upon them from their relatives there and by the unfavourable rate of exchange which largely increased the cost of remittances to China. The rise in the price of silver had in 1917 proved a source of anxiety to Government as it rendered the export of our silver coinage to countries where notes were not acceptable a profitable undertaking and in consequence it had been found necessary to suspend the issue of silver dollars. To meet the change in price by His Majesty's Order in Council of 18th May, 1918, a fineness of 600 was substituted for 900.

The health of the community was not good and there were epidemics of influenza and plague with the result that the death-rate is the highest on record since 1911.

The housing problem became more and more urgent throughout the year. In July the Housing Commission completed its labours by the publication of its Report, and the result of its recommendations are already visible in the building activities of the Municipality and a number of the most prominent firms with a view to supplying their employees with quarters. Government also is making provision for an increase in the number of quarters available for its servants.

The news of the signing of the Armistice reached Singapore on the evening of the 11th November and that night and several days thereafter witnessed manifestations of great public rejoicing.

It was however immediately apparent that our difficulties were very far from being at an end. The floods in Siam, the demands for rice from Japan and Java and famine in India with its consequent restriction on the export of Burma rice to non-Indian ports made it evident towards the end of the year that there would be a very serious shortage of rice as regards the needs of local consumption. There had been in existence since May, 1917, a Committee of Food Control, but in the end of 1918 it was found necessary to concentrate its activities and powers in the person of a Food Controller. Mr. F. S. JAMES, the Colonial Secretary, was appointed Food Controller on December 25th.

The prices both of food and other necessities rose steadily throughout the year, and in the last quarter Government decided to increase the special temporary allowance granted to its servants in 1917 by way of relief and also to extend the scope of its application. About the same time in response to the requests contained in numerous petitions a Commission was appointed to enquire into the question of the salaries of the Public Service.

It gives me great satisfaction to record that in spite of the difficulties experienced during the year by all classes and the difficulties that loomed threateningly ahead the claims of the Red Cross met with an even more generous response than in previous years. "Our Day" was fixed for the 14th December and the total collected in 1918 amounted to the sum of £142,256 as against approximately £117,000 in 1917.

I have to record with regret the death of Mr. J. C. SUGARS which occurred in the beginning of November. Mr. SUGARS was an Officer of Class III of the Federated Malay States Civil Service but was acting in Singapore. He had held posts in every part of the Peninsula and by the attraction of his personality had at every place where he was stationed won numerous friends.

His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Sir ARTHUR ADAMS were created Knight Commanders of the Order of the British Empire, and a number of local residents including several ladies were recipients of other honours for their services in various war activities.

We have ahead of us many difficult problems. We have lost or are losing some of the oldest members of our community and we shall lose the benefit of their experience to guide us. The staffs, Government and business alike, are much depleted and it will need many months to build them up again. The ordinary channels of circulation have been for years increasingly restricted with the result that the community is as it were in an anæmic condition.

Reconstruction is in the air, but in this Colony construction in two directions is imperative. A real active live Educational policy is called for and much is required to render the Medical and Sanitary position efficient and up-to-date. New hospitals properly constructed and well equipped are urgently required while there is room, I regret to say spacious room, for improvement in the Sanitary conditions of our principal towns. Take for instance Singapore—the Stegomyia mosquito abounds; in no town inhabited by Europeans in a West African Colony would such a state of affairs be tolerated. Here yellow-fever is not endemic but unless steps are taken quickly to rid the town of this scourge of the mosquito there is every possibility in the future of its introduction. Years ago the late Sir RUPERT BOYCE, said to the present writer—"In years to come, you will see that a port will not quarantine a ship coming from a yellow-fever port but the ship will refuse to call at a port where it is known that the Stegomyia mosquito is allowed to exist". Again in Singapore itself, growing and important town as it is, with one of the finest and busiest ports in the world, the lighting of the town is disgraceful and its tramway system archaic. It is true that these matters are now receiving attention, and one cannot too earnestly hope that that attention will be maintained without any slackening in execution.

There are many other problems in front but in view of the conditions and the strain of the past four years it is difficult to retain a normal sanity of outlook. The present

calls for great patience and restraint. It is useless to overtax the strength of the community in a premature attempt to deal conclusively with all the problems that press themselves on our attention. The arrival of new recruits will provide the additional energy for the tasks which lie before us but we must realise that high prices and economic difficulties are but the natural sequel to the Great War, that we cannot expect to rid ourselves of them for a few years but that as fortune has treated us as a community very kindly in the past it is all the more necessary to shoulder our future responsibilities with the greater readiness.

F. S. JAMES,
Colonial Secretary, S. S.

22nd August, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony, &c.	Year.
997	Basutoland..	1917–1918
998	Gold Coast ..	1917
999	Weihaiwei ..	1918
1000	Zanzibar ..	"
1001	Hong Kong .	"
1002	Somaliland..	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta.	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles ..	1918
1006	Fiji ..	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands..	1918
1010	St. Helena ..	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate ..	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland..	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland ..	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland ..	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	"
1025	Cyprus	"
1026	British Honduras ..	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands ..	1918–1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon..	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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No. 1048.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1028.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1920.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1919.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1919 amounted to $34,108,465 exceeding the estimate by $17,252,873, whilst the expenditure was $34,901,233, $19,111,502 more than the estimate.

The revenue of the Colony exceeded the record of 1918 by $10,846,450. It is important, however, to call attention to the fact that the revenue of 1919 was very materially increased by transfer entries in the 1919 accounts of sums collected in previous years.

These entries included:—

	$
Sale of Singapore Railway and Railway Stores	4,149,750
Profits on Indian Exchange ...	884,909
Excess interest received from other administrations on account of loan moneys lent to them ...	749,325

Allowing for these items and for a sum of $747,580 refunded by the Currency Commissioners, the genuine revenue for 1919 exceeded that of 1918 by more than four and a quarter million dollars, a highly satisfactory result.

The actual figures for 1918 and 1919 are shown in the following statements:—

A.—Revenue.

	1918.	*1919.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	1,692	1,506	...	186
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	18,902,861	22,302,119	3,399,258	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	668,292	736,701	68,409	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	906,811	1,094,083	187,272	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property	940,917	1,240,762	299,845	...
6. Interest	1,086,149	1,374,153	288,004	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	223,221	2,845,879	2,622,658	...
	$22,729,943	29,595,203	6,865,446	186
8. Land Sales... ...	532,072	4,513,262	3,981,190	...
TOTAL ...	$23,262,015	34,108,465	10,846,636	186
		Net Increase ...	$10,846,450	

The Revenue under liquors increased by $597,404 and tobacco by $109,437.

Stamp duties for 1919 increased by $916,956. Estate duty brought in $740,402 in 1919 against $297,290 in 1918.

The Revenue from Posts and Telegraphs shows an increase of $187,272. Interest on Bank Accounts shows an increase of $7,250 and interest on investments increased by $283,829. Interest on loans produced $236,712 as compared with $243,604 in 1918.

Profits on Exchange amounted to $892,741 principally due to the increased value of the Rupee, but profits on Money Order Rates due to the low rate of exchange with India amounted to $81,027 as compared with $119,723 in 1918.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1918.	*1919.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions	613,306	630,636	17,330	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	10,462	11,156	694	...
4. The Governor ...	79,196	82,919	3,723	...
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	204,570	202,150	...	2,420
6. Government Printing Office	105,647	99,043	...	6,604
7. Land and District Offices	228,423	248,549	20,126	...
8. Forests	34,764	33,498	...	1,266
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	74,799	84,232	9,433	...
10. Treasury	120,615	123,348	2,733	...
11. Audit	59,562	46,742	...	12,820
12. Marine	440,692	455,215	14,523	...
13. Legal	388,517	386,339	...	2,178
14. Police	973,457	1,122,669	149,212	...
15. Prisons	242,472	330,380	87,908	...
16. Medical	256,626	286,319	29,693	...
17. Hospitals and Dispensaries	556,814	784,922	228,108	...
18. Veterinary	23,922	29,932	6,010	
19. Education	344,793	385,478	40,685	...
20. Ecclesiastical ...	19,606	21,510	1,904	...
21. Transport	21,739	78,634	56,895	...
22. Military Expenditure ...	3,758,258	4,369,680	611,422	...
Carried forward ...	8,595,323	9,850,434	1,280,399	25,288

B.—EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

	1918.	*1919.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
Brought forward ...	8,595,323	9,850,434	1,280,399	25,288
23. Miscellaneous Services	3,132,101	20,590,584	17,458,483	...
24. Post Office	710,408	678,006	...	32,402
25. Government Monopolies	417,598	484,808	67,210	...
26. Botanical Gardens and Museum	65,049	80,445	15,396	...
27. Public Works Department	328,865	368,154	39,289	...
28. Public Works, Recurrent	414,377	488,493	74,116	...
29. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	458,257	892,571	434,314	...
War Expenditure ...	1,844,167 (*a*)	1,466,400	...	377,767
Agricultural Department	...	1,338	1,338	...
TOTAL ...	$15,966,145	34,901,233	19,370,545	435,457
	Net Increase	...	$18,935,088	

The expenditure upon Personal Emoluments ($4,685,159) and Other Charges ($22,286,362) both show increases, the figures in 1918 being $3,942,071 and $3,189,908, respectively. The major part of the increase in Other Charges was due to part of the cost of the Singapore Harbour Works ($15,063,463) being debited to Expenditure.

Military Expenditure shows an increase of $611,422 due to payment of arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the year 1918.

Miscellaneous Services.—The amount spent on Salaries of Acting Officers increased by $76,089 over 1918, the cessation of hostilities permitting of more officers going on leave.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the war the Colony's Expenditure in 1914 was $7,746,594; in 1915, $7,207,478; in 1916, $6,514,527; in 1917, $6,774,048; in 1918, $8,687,204; and in 1919, $29,111,433, the corresponding expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary being $926,077, $676,463, $318,788, $208,908, $458,257 and $892,571.

Of this increase of more than $20,000,000 over the 1918 Expenditure, Miscellaneous Services accounted for over $17,000,000. The principal additions under this head being part cost of Singapore Harbour Works $15,063,000, Compensation to Rice Dealers $2,625,000: while of the balance, Police showed an additional cost of $149,000, Prisons $87,000, Hospitals and Dispensaries $228,000, Military Expenditure $611,000 and Public Works Annually Recurrent and Extraordinary, $508,000.

(*a*) In addition to this a sum of $910,202 is still under suspense to be voted in 1920.

Among excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were:—

Interest $476,643, Premia on Grants $164,479, Stamp duties $1,165,070, Premia on Special Sales of Town Lands $133,133, Postage Stamps $194,785, Land Rents $310,661 and Miscellaneous Receipts $2,811,743.

The principal savings on the Expenditure Estimates were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $651,941 and Post Office $142,186. Overpayments recovered showed a sum of $150,753 not estimated for.

The following comparative statement shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past six years:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1914 ...	14,016,882	10,180,189
1915 ...	14,131,691	10,196,560
1916 ...	17,325,695	11,046,353
1917 ...	19,672,104	11,369,392
1918 ...	23,262,015	15,966,145
1919 ...	34,108,465	34,901,233

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1919, were as follows:—

Liabilities.	$	*Assets.*	$
Deposits	9,989,822	Indian Agency Account ...	3,616,302
		Foodstuff Agency Account	1,776,777
		Investments	18,215,251
		Advances	17,040,786
Suspense	(a) 4,022,676	Loans:—	
		Municipalities ...	312,980
		Sultan of Trengganu ...	10,000
Drafts and Remittances ...	919,976	Kelantan Government	120,000
Federated Malay States and Johore Foodstuff Account ...	6,730,838	Singapore Harbour Board	4,112,260
		Penang Harbour Board	529,867
		Ho Hong Steamship Co.	400,000
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	41,666,730	Imprests	43,893
		Cash in Transit ...	11,658
		Suspense (War Expenditure)	910,202
		Cash	16,230,066
TOTAL ...	$63,330,042	TOTAL ...	$63,330,042

The excess of the assets over the liabilities decreased during the year by $792,768.

(a) Includes Currency Commissioners $1,424,395.

MILITARY AND WAR EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1919 on the Volunteers, Reserve Force and Civil Guard amounted to $157,704.

The amount paid in 1919 for Defence Contribution was $4,323,400, of which $1,522,040 represented arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue in 1918. The amount to be paid in 1920 for arrears of Defence Contribution in respect of the actual revenue for 1919 is $2,524,927.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1919, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon service in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	320,137
	55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	3,388,205
Total ...	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was $2,086,388 in 1919. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

Of the 6 per cent War Loan Bonds to the extent of $42,063,700 issued under the authority of Ordinance No. 17 of 1916, $36,671,900 were converted into 5½ per cent Bonds redeemable on 15th November, 1929. The balance of the 6 per cent Bonds were redeemed in cash.

The 1918 5½ per cent War Loan was closed during the year the total subscriptions amounting to $28,655,700. These bonds are redeemable on the 20th July, 1928.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/3$\frac{31}{32}$ and 2/4$\frac{5}{16}$.

CURRENCY.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the Currency of the Colony in circulation in the Currency Area at the end of the year consisted of $174,631,973.70 in currency notes and $6,424,247 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $156,273.

The most striking feature of the year from the currency point of view was the phenomenal demand for currency in the second half of the year. To meet this demand the Currency Commissioners had to purchase sterling remittances amounting to £10,190,000 with the remarkable result that the note circulation was within six months more than doubled. At the end of 1919 the note circulation was more than four times the pre-war figure.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $120,845,547.79 consisting of £328,288 in gold held locally and $8,581,963.77 in silver partly in the Colony and partly held by the Mint Master, Bombay, for coinage purposes, and £12,769,130.2.8. in gold in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the note guarantee and depreciation funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year $53,786,788.91, the cost price of those investments being $62,782,748.51.

The decrease in value compared with original cost is due to the general depreciation of all securities.

The note guarantee fund at the end of the year was worth $176,056,731.88 (Coin portion $120,845,547.79, Investment portion $53,786,788.91 and on deposit with the Government pending investment $1,424,395.18), while the gold standard reserve fund at the same date was worth $5,799,448.28. The total of the funds controlled by the Commissioners was, therefore, $181,856,180.16, or $7,224,206.46 more than the total note circulation at the end of the year.

New subsidiary silver of 400 fine to the extent of $1,950,000 was received from the Bombay Mint during the year and was put into circulation as fast as possible to meet insistent demands for small change. The supply of small

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silver was, however, quite inadequate and it was found necessary to increase the issue of notes of denominations less than $1. $773,606.70 worth of the 10-cent notes and $50,800 worth of 25-cent notes were in circulation at the end of 1919.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 3,199,912, against 2,726,037 in 1918. It is satisfactory to be able to report that the three million mark was again passed last year as was the case in 1917. One dollar notes accounted for 2,524,238 of the total number destroyed.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 2,855,363. During the year there were cancelled 4,048,927 notes making a total of 6,904,290 for destruction and leaving a balance at the end of the year of 3,704,378 notes awaiting destruction.

ENEMY PROPERTY.

The balance to the credit of the Custodian of Enemy Property at the end of the year was $13,355,910,97 of which $13,212,160.25 was invested.

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony in 1919 was highly satisfactory, being a great improvement on the year 1918 and the four previous years.

The following figures excluding Coin and Bullion show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling:—

Merchandise—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Merchandise. Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports Merchandise. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	43,856	38,032	...	...
1915 ...	49,803	46,495	5,947	+ 8,463
1916 ...	61,855	56,934	12,052	+10,439
1917 ...	73,987	72,307	12,132	+15,373
1918 ...	81,618	71,922	7,631	— 385
1919 ...	96,664	99,318	15,046	+27,396

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The value of the inter-port trade including treasure was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Imports. Increase over the preceding year.	Exports. Increase over the preceding year.
	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	3,146	3,002	...	...
1915 ...	4,220	4,249	1,074	1,247
1916 ...	6,412	6,488	2,192	2,239
1917 ...	8,137	8,720	1,725	2,232
1918 ...	*9,183	*9,584	1,046	864
1919 ...	†13,164	†13,235	3,981	3,651

The aggregate trade for the year 1919 was therefore £195·9 millions, against £153·5 millions in 1918 and £81·9 millions in 1914, an increase of £42·4 millions over 1918 and of £114 millions over 1914.

Bullion and Specie.—The figures for Bullion and Specie in thousands of pounds sterling for the last six months of the year were:—

Imports.	Exports.
£	£
6,552	2,738

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1918.	1919.	1918.	1919.
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	28,819	34,901	22,861	26,659
2. Raw Materials	37,826	44,767	40,441	60,112
3. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles	14,973	16,996	8,620	12,547
TOTAL ...	81,618	96,664	71,922	99,318

The figures in all classes exceeded those of the previous year, as prices were on the whole much higher than they were in 1918.

Excluding Gambier the volume of Straits Produce shipped was more than in 1918.

* Excluding Coin and Bullion. † Coin and Bullion included for second half of 1919 only.

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Articles of Straits Produce except Tin and Borneo Rubber gave larger average prices.

Tin.—The imports of tin and tin ore were in 1919, 179,000 and 1,038,000 pikuls, respectively, as against 85,000 and 1,059,000 pikuls, respectively, in 1918 as shown below:—

	1918.		*1919.*	
	Tin.	*Tin Ore.*	*Tin.*	*Tin Ore.*
	Pikuls.	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*
Malay States ...	78,000	776,000	133,000	686,000
Netherlands Indies	...	50,000	38,000	113,000
Siam ...	7,000	192,000	6,000	207,000
Other Countries ...	...	41,000	2,000	32,000
Total ...	85,000	1,059,000	179,000	1,038,000

The exports of tin in 1918 and 1919 were as follows:—

	1918.		*1919.*	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
		$		$
United Kingdom	175,000	27,425,000	324,000	41,347,000
United States of America ...	578,000	89,944,000	454,000	59,928,000
Other Countries	172,000	26,249,000	219,000	27,445,000
Total ...	925,000	143,618,000	997,000	128,720,000

Para Rubber.—The imports of Para Rubber in 1918 and 1919 from the following countries were as follows:—

	1918.		*1919.*	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
		$		$
Malay States ...	1,351,000	95,832,000	1,412,000	132,093,000
Netherlands Indies...	328,000	22,355,000	456,000	37,089,000
Other Countries	59,000	4,115,000	79,000	6,623,000
Total ...	1,738,000	122,302,000	1,947,000	175,805,000

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The exports of Para Rubber in 1918 and 1919 to the following countries were as follows:—

	1918.		1919.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
United Kingdom	159,000	13,338,000	406,000	44,088,000
United States of America ...	1,334,000	113,971,000	2,310,000	230,511,000
Other Countries	348,000	27,250,000	254,000	24,227,000
Total ...	1,841,000	154,559,000	2,970,000	298,826,000

It will thus be seen that there was a small increase in quantity of tin exported in 1919; but on the other hand the value decreased by over 14 million dollars.

As regards Para Rubber, both Imports and Exports showed large increases in quantity and value as compared with the previous year. The value of imports increased by over 53 million dollars and that of exports by over 144 million dollars.

Imports.

In "Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics," increased values are seen under the sub-heads animals, coffee, rice, fish, dry and salted, beans and peas, bran, wheat flour, milk, sago flour, black pepper, white pepper and sugar.

Under the heading "Raw Materials," enhanced values appear in tin, copra, gutta inferior, para rubber, illipi nuts, petroleum and kachang oil, while decreased import values are apparent in tin ore, wolfram ore, coal and ground nuts.

In the "Manufactured Class," sarongs, slendangs and kains, gunnies, silk piece goods, machinery, ironware, motor cars, motor cycles and accessories, tin plates and woodenware show increased values, but cotton piece goods, chemicals and soap fell in values.

In quantities imported there was an increase under coffee, fish, dry and salted, beans and peas, bran, wheat flour, arrack and samsoo, milk, sago flour, tin, copra, para rubber, illipi nuts, lubricating oil, petroleum and steel.

Declines in quantity are most noticeable in rice, salt, sugar, ground nuts and cotton piece goods.

EXPORTS.

Exports of the following show increased values:—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Coffee, fish, dry and salted, preserved pineapples, beans and peas, bran, wheat flour, cigars and cigarettes, milk, sago flour, black and white pepper and tapioca.

"Raw Materials"—

Copra, gutta inferior, illipi nuts, gutta percha and para rubber.

"Manufactured Class"—

Cotton piece goods, sarongs, slendangs and kains, gunnies and yarns, while decreases are apparent in—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Rice and Persian opium.

"Raw Materials"—

Tin, wolfram ore and ground nuts.

"Manufactured Class"—

Chemicals and cement.

The quantities of coffee, fish, dry and salted, preserved pineapples, beans and peas, bran, wheat flour, arrack and samsoo, milk, sago flour, tapioca, copra, para rubber, illipi nuts and cotton piece goods show an increase.

A decrease in volume is recorded of rice, prepared chandu, sugar and ground nuts.

TRADE BY COUNTRIES.

The following statement shows the position of the Colony in the years 1918 and 1919 as a market for British, European, American, Japanese and other foreign goods.

(The value of the trade in merchandise with the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, United States of America, and Japan is shown in thousands of pounds sterling.)

		Imports.		*Exports.*	
		1918.	*1919.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
		£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		6,539	6,385	6,428	15,846
Belgium	Continent of Europe.	...	9	...	414
Denmark	Continent of Europe.	9	9	35	1,083
France	Continent of Europe.	158	267	2,524	3,229
Holland	Continent of Europe.	25	135	5	206
Italy	Continent of Europe.	140	139	985	797
Norway	Continent of Europe.	4	5	...	8
Sweden	Continent of Europe.	6	6	...	25
Spain	Continent of Europe.	45	19	9	35
United States of America		2,008	3,441	25,289	35,271
Japan		5,880	4,165	3,143	2,963

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The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were hardware and ironware including cooking utensils, yarns, steel, paper and stationery, linseed oil, canvas, paints, machinery including electrical goods, biscuits, tin plates and cotton handkerchiefs, sarongs, slendang and kain.

The articles showing declines in values from the United Kingdom were cotton piece goods, cigars and cigarettes, whisky, malt liquors, India rubber goods including tyres and brandy.

From the United States of America increases in imports are seen in machinery, wire nails, tinned provisions including fruits, milk, drugs and medicine, petroleum, playing cards, rubber tyres, paper and stationery, beer and ale, paints, tools and implements, lubricating oil, motor cars and accessories, tramway and railway materials, tin plates and apparel and decreases in cigars and cigarettes, corrugated iron, woodenware and iron bar.

From Japan the following show advances in imports:—

Tin plates, India rubber goods, silk piece goods, milk, canvas and cabinet and woodenware, while coal, matches, chemicals, paper and stationery, paints, hats and caps, cotton piece goods, fish, dry and salted, apparel, beer and ale and cement show a decline.

Exports to the United Kingdom showed advances in such articles as gutta percha, gum copal, tin, sago, black and white pepper, tapioca, copra, para rubber, hides, preserved pineapples, illipi nuts, rattans, shells and coffee, but decreases took place in gambier, wolfram ore, coconut oil and isinglass.

In our Exports

to France—sago, black and white pepper, gambier, copra, para rubber, hides, gum copal, shells, illipi nuts, coconut oil and coffee,

to Italy—Sago, black and white pepper and copra,

to Denmark—black and white pepper, copra and coconut oil,

all advanced, declines being seen in tin, tapioca and wolfram ore to France, tin, para rubber and coconut oil to Italy, and coffee to Denmark.

The principal exports to Belgium were sago, copra, illipi nuts and coconut oil, and to Holland copra, tin and sago, whilst copra was also the principal article exported to Spain and Sweden.

Exports to the United States advanced in values of tapioca, jelutong, gutta percha, para rubber, hides and gum copal, but tin, copra, rattans, black and white pepper fell in values.

Exports to Japan showed increases in values of raw cotton, phosphate of lime, para rubber, tin, rattans, hides cutting and gunnies, while declines are seen in shells, copra, opium, goats' skins, sugar, tapioca flour and sago flour.

There was a rise in the total value of exports to Siam and the Siamese States, Malay States, French Indo-China, Hongkong and China, North Borneo and Sarawak, British India and Burma, but Australia and New Zealand and Netherland Indies showed decreases.

BANKRUPTCY.

There were only 11 trade bankruptcies, 7 in Singapore, 2 in Malacca and 2 in Penang, with total estimated liabilities of $195,108.

No deeds of arrangement were registered.

AGRICULTURE.

During 1919 the shipping difficulties of the previous year, which had resulted in the accumulation of considerable stocks of rubber, and the consequent low price obtainable, were in part remedied and the outlook became far more promising. It was no longer found necessary to restrict output, prices continued to rise, and in the last quarter of the year there was a very marked improvement though the cost of production has continued higher. The condition of estates has been good and no serious outbreaks of disease have been recorded.

Copra prices were considerably higher than those of the previous year and continued steadily to increase. The stocks that had accumulated by the end of 1918 owing to the low prices then obtaining which did not permit of export, were practically all disposed of.

The plantations have been well looked after and the only serious pest reported was the Caterpillar pest *Brachartona Catoxantha*, which occurred on coconut trees in one locality in Province Wellesley. It was controlled by natural enemies and eventually disappeared. Canker continues to be restricted to small areas only.

Tapioca continues to be grown as a cover crop in young rubber. This and various food crops have been cultivated in large areas on estates during the year and the area actually under such foodstuffs has been considerably greater than that actually required under the Ordinance to promote their cultivation.

Vegetable production is confined mostly to the Chinese, though a certain amount was undertaken during the year by means of Municipal and Public Works labourers.

The first main fruit crop was a failure in many parts, but the second crop was somewhat better though even at that time there appears to have been very little fruit in Malacca. Prices have increased considerably and indicate a great scarcity of fruit.

Rice.—There has been a considerable increase in the area under cultivation in all parts of the Colony and the high prices obtainable have given considerable acreages to padi growing. The 1919-1920 crop appears generally to be very promising. Considerable areas have been planted up with hill padi and ragi, though there has been a certain amount of failure, due mainly to unsuitability of land and previous inexperience of padi growing. Pests have also done damage in some parts—much of which could be prevented if cultivators would keep their land under close observation and treat such pests in the early stages.

This year saw a change in the administration of the Department. It was decided that supervision by the Director of Gardens, Straits Settlements, was no longer suitable for the growing needs of the Colony while these duties interfered with the Director of Garden's proper activities. Arrangements were accordingly made to amalgamate this Department with that of the Federated Malay States and the Director of Agriculture is now in charge for both the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. At the same time a greatly increased local staff has been authorised though it had not been found possible at the end of the year to fill many of the appointments.

LAND.

The Revenue was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1918	226,575	8,958	394,954	630,487
	1919	256,449	12,109	152,944	421,502
Penang ...	1918	194,370	20,708	9,810	224,888
	1919	195,632	19,498	9,106	224,236
Malacca ...	1918	453,016	21,330	117,654	592,000
	1919	499,958	25,284	196,657	721,899
Labuan ...	1918	2,885	501	83	3,469
	1919	2,692	524	36	3,252
Total...	1918	876,846	51,497	522,501	1,450,844
	1919	954,731	57,415	358,743	1,370,889

SINGAPORE.

There was very little alienation of land and quit rents remained practically stationary. There was a considerable increase in temporary rents. Rents were collected without much difficulty, there was no quit rent in arrear and no land reverted to Government or was auctioned for non-payment of rent.

The attractions of rubber dealing apparently increased as there was an increase of about 50 per cent in the revenue from rubber dealers' licences.

The Rubber Lands Restriction Ordinance remained in force until the end of August, and there was no sale of country land of any importance. In February 27,809 square feet of land with frontage on Cecil Street forming part of the old Telok Ayer Reclamation was disposed of by auction and realised a little over $129,000 and in November three building allotments fronting Tras Street fetched an average price of $3.63 per square foot.

The decision to widen Robinson Road to 70 feet and the fact that the Chamber of Commerce did not come to a decision as to the most suitable site for an Exchange Building in this street prevented the sale of any other portions of the old reclamation. Tenders were however invited for 30-year leases of a portion of the new reclamation and

the best tender that of the Federated Malay States Government was accepted for an area of about 7 acres.

Eighty-three Statutory Grants were issued of which two were grants issued on the conversion of 99-year leases and twenty-one on the subdivision of existing titles. Owing to pressure of work in the Survey Office no further applications for the conversion of 99-year leases were entertained.

Municipal Back-lane Schemes gave no trouble during the year but the acquisition of the lands required for a Chinese Cemetery was responsible for two Court cases. In one the Collector's offer was upheld, in the other when an offer of $300 an acre was made on a claim for $1,000 an acre the Court awarded $325.

In litigation arising out of the construction of the embankment between the East Reclamation, Tanjong Pagar, and Telok Ayer Reclamation the Government had a substantial measure of success and before the end of the year a settlement of this old controversy had been arrived at. In the latter part of the year acquisition work was extremely difficult and a number of Government cases were outstanding at the end of December.

In accordance with the recommendations of a Committee on open spaces the land known as Dickinson Hill was acquired at a cost of $92,000, and an area of 96,489 square feet adjoining Cantonment Road was purchased for $57,893.40 to round off a park provided by the Singapore Harbour Board while terms have been settled for the purchase of about 9½ acres of land near Jalan Besar for a public park and a recreation ground for Victoria Bridge School. At the beginning of the year the Government purchased at auction the property known as Mount Rosie for $65,000. and an area of about 16 acres of land fronting Scotts Road and Bukit Timah Road was secured privately for $71,826.50 which was subsequently extended by a number of smaller purchases on behalf of the Federated Malay States Railways. Another important purchase was that of about 50 acres of land at Thomson Road for $77,000.

In the second half of the year the land market was highly speculative and the number and magnitude of the transactions were considerably in excess of those of the land boom of 1902-1903. Towards the end of the year the market had steadied but even higher prices were paid for land and buildings in favoured localities.

PENANG.

—	Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
North-east District ...	46,244 50	3,914 00	2,457 50	52,616 00

Land revenue decreased by $432.26 owing to the reduction of rent on Messrs. KENNEDY & Co.'s lease and a lower rent for stone and red earth quarries. There were ten applications for Crown Land. Two applications were granted, three refused and five were under consideration at the end of the year.

The Survey Office Staff were unable to keep pace with the number of applications for subdivisional surveys and re-surveys.

Action on thirty of the seventy-eight applications was completed during the year.

Thirteen thousand six hundred and seventy deeds were presented for registration as against eight thousand five hundred and seventy-one in 1918. The increase in the number of deeds is due to several transactions in the land market during a local land boom.

The last fruit season was a poor one.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

The Revenue collected in 1919 was as follows:—

	$ c.
Land Revenue	80,385 91
Reimbursements	7,232 19
Land Sales	1,530 25

Land Rents in Province Wellesley remained practically the same in 1919 as in 1918.

Only 18 acres and 16 poles were alienated during the year and the premium collected amounting to $1,414.

The padi harvest was poor owing to the long drought and influenza.

MALACCA.

Receipts on account of rents on Grants and Leases and assessment under the Malacca Lands Ordinance amounted to $453,251 in 1919 as against $412,931 in 1918.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,772 0 38	1,442 0 39	2,034 3 10	599 0 03	392 3 25
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	254,231	40,226	61,182	237,980	204,130
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	62	63	87	79	83
Premia paid ...	$90,119	$19,299	$76,113	$291,273	$348,235

PENANG.

	1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,819 0 13	1,576 2 39	636 1 10	472 0 19	16 1 32
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	117,311	5,810	9,015	12,228	Nil
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	179	161	288	151	1
Premia paid ...	$19,610	$19,906	$8,022	$4,109	$2,457.50

MALACCA.

	1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted...	19,341 0 01	4,581 2 20	7,113 2 28	8,721 0 12	4,214 0 08
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	17,628	33,884	...	738	20,190
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	637 & 1 Mining Lease.	432 & 2 Mining Leases.	494	286	219
Premia paid ...	$133,108	$82,975	$143,267	$172,622	$77,207

LABUAN.

	1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	...	667 2 28	185 2 12	...	...
,, Town Lots	...	0 2 26	0 2 13	0 4 10	17 1 17
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	... (13 new Grants & 80 in exchange for old titles.)	93 (18 new Grants & 44 in exchange for old titles.)	62	39 (in exchange for old titles.)	73
Premia paid ...	... $147	$460		$83	$36

FORESTS.

No change was made in the area of reserved forests, which remains at 106,013 acres, equivalent to about 11 per cent of the lands in the Colony. An addition of about 1,260 acres was proposed, and will shortly be gazetted.

Revenue and expenditure were $65,754 and $34,064, compared with $35,479 and $33,576 respectively in 1918, and the surplus of $31,690 exceeds by $29,787 the largest surplus recorded since 1904. This result is due to the high prices paid for mangrove coupes in Singapore, to the premia paid in Malacca on account of timber standing on newly alienated land, and to the increased exploitation of timber from the reserves in Penang and the Dindings. As very little Crown Land is left in Malacca, such a large surplus must not be expected in the future.

The total out-turn of timber was 9,055 tons and of fuel 32,526 tons. The other principal revenue-producing items are rubber, granite, canes, and tan-barks.

It is estimated that over 2,000,000 mangrove seedlings were planted out in Penang and the Dindings. The results are reported to be good and the expenditure was confined almost entirely to the purchase of the seedlings, most of the planting work being done free of cost either by the subordinate staff or by the holders of permits to take timber and fuel from the reserves.

There were 42 breaches of the forest laws, of which 18 were dealt with in Court and 24 compounded. Of the former, 3 were acquitted and the remainder punished by the infliction of fines amounting to $68 in addition to $43 paid to the department for damage to the forest. In the compounded cases compensation of $369.60 was demanded, of which $21 still remain to be paid.

No further progress was made with the amalgamation of the forest departments of the Colony and of the Federated Malay States owing partly to the want of officers and partly to the fact that sanction has not yet been accorded by the Secretary of State to the Conservator's scheme of reorganization.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

The number of deeds presented for registration in Singapore was 6,561 as compared with 4,523 in 1918, and the number of deeds finally registered, 5,915, as against 4,377 in 1918. Conveyances and Assignments accounted for 3,367, Mortgages for 1,506, and Reconveyances for 1,157. Revenue amounted to $21,650.20. The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1915, is not in force in the Settlement of Malacca.

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RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

The purchases during the year have been few and comparatively unimportant, as little was brought in that was not already represented in the Collections. One cause may be that native collectors of curios have found it more difficult to travel in view of passport regulations and increased passage rates. Among the more interesting donations was a Dyak woman's corsage of brass wire and rattan presented by His Excellency Sir ARTHUR YOUNG, G.C.M.G., and Lady EVELYN. A large bronze medal awarded to the Raffles Museum and Gardens at the Melbourne Exhibition 1875 and lost for many years was found at Bedoh, Singapore, by Mr. JANTAN BUSU who returned it to the Museum. Miss BROWN presented a collection of Coins and Medals, the Hon'ble W. G. MAXWELL, C.M.G., a gold coin from Rhio and Mr. LEE WARNER some silver coins from Southern Arabia. A silver medal struck to Commemorate the investiture of the Prince of Wales at Carnarvon was presented by Her Majesty the Queen and an Iron Cross (Second Class) by Lieut. A. S. HARRISON, R.F.A.

Probably the most interesting exhibit acquired during the year was a fragment of the large inscribed stone that stood at the mouth of the Singapore river. Many attempts have been made to decipher the writing which is believed to be Pali. This fragment is the property of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and is placed on indefinite loan in this Museum.

Dr. A. ANNESLEY WOODS presented two sets of old leg irons from Seremban, one weighing 8 and the other 17 lbs.

The collection of Postage Stamps made great progress during the year, the Government having presented the sample stamps received during many years from other countries within the Postal Union. Many interesting portraits were added to the collection of photographs started in 1918. The roof of the old Museum building was completely renewed, and Marseilles tiles substituted for slates.

The number of books purchased were 546 at a cost of $2,867. The number of subscribers to the Library increased to 589 as against 555 in 1918 and the receipts by subscriptions, etc., rose from $4,462 to $4,641.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 18,885,183 as compared with 13,064,270 in 1918.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1918 and 1919.

NATIONALITY.	1918.					1919.					Increase in 1919 as compared with 1918.	Decrease in 1919 as compared with 1918.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	146,956	35,878	...	1,904	184,738	327,758	42,574	...	7,776	378,108	193,370	...
Belgian ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,768	6,810	...	...	9,578	9,578	...
British ...	3,348,734	1,666,558	419,894	99,148	5,534,334	6,516,855	2,954,575	467,588	142,102	10,081,120	4,546,786	...
Chinese ...	327,755	147,294	...	...	475,049	84,975	12,198	...	...	97,173	...	377,876
Danish ...	88,622	18,050	...	...	106,672	196,874	62,936	...	...	259,810	153,138	...
Dutch ...	1,701,506	420,590	680	938	2,123,714	2,007,405	339,962	1,008	624	2,348,999	225,285	...
French ...	355,049	4,892	882	...	360,823	581,307	16,162	7,374	...	604,843	244,020	...
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	...	11,872	...	...	...	11,872	11,872	...
Italian ...	...	...	...	...	...	47,854	...	..	...	47,854	47,854	...
Inter-allied ...	...	...	...	...	...	178,374	...	...	...	178,374	178,374	...
Japanese ...	2,768,883	574,394	52,072	73,810	3,469,159	3,439,005	517,635	88,430	57,730	4,102,800	633,641	...
Norwegian ...	308,923	72,246	...	...	381,169	165,112	20,156	...	...	183,268	...	197,901
Portuguese ...	9,160	2,290	...	...	11,450	16,286	...	...	...	16,286	4,836	...
Russian ...	26,210	6,744	...	...	32,954	88,742	4,170	..	.	92,912	59,958	
Sarawak ...	93,139	...	...	46,384	139,523	104,614	...	...	14,650	119,264	...	20,259
Siamese ...	214,215	...	...	...	214,215	230,872	21,682	...	...	252,554	38,339	...
Spanish ...	19,294	11,176	...	...	30,470	48,626	3,742	...	...	52,368	21,898	...
Swedish ...	...	...	...	...	...	41,476	6,524	...	...	48,000	48,000	...
TOTALS ...	9,408,446	2,960,112	473,528	222,184	13,064,270	14,088,775	4,009,126	564,400	222,882	18,885,183	6,416,949	596,036
										Net Increase ...		5,820,913

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1915	...	...	20,896,952 tons.
1916	...	...	19,528,671 ,,
1917	...	...	15,784,369 ,,
1918	...	...	13,064,270 ,,
1919	...	...	18,885,183 ,,

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 63,770 in number and 2,566,091 in tons in 1919 as compared with 50,840 and 2,338,771, respectively, in 1918.

Twelve new steamers with a tonnage of 2,580 tons gross and 37 sailing vessels of 3,026 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1910, sixteen new sailing vessels of 1,364 tons were licensed under section 425, and 713 vessels of 10,575 tons were registered under section 426.

LEGISLATION.

1. The Ordinances passed during the year 1919 were 42 in number, including two Supply Ordinances. Twenty-five of these are amending Ordinances.

2. The most important of the Ordinances which are not amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The War Tax Ordinance, (No.3) reproducing the expired War Tax Ordinance, 1918, and imposing a tax on incomes of $3,000 and more per annum for the purpose of providing a contribution to the Imperial Government towards the expenses incurred in the prosecution of the present war.

(ii) The Change of Names Ordinance, (No. 5) which prohibits any person, who is not a natural born British Subject, from changing his surname after the 4th day of August, 1914, except with the permission of the Governor in Council.

(iii) The Trade Marks Prohibition Ordinance, (No. 8) prohibiting the representation on trade marks of the Royal Arms, the National flags, or the flags of any of the British Dominions, or any colourable imitation of such arms or flags, unless such representation is authorised by Royal Warrant or by Order of the Governor in Council or is on a trade mark which is registered in the Register of Trade Marks kept under the Trade Marks Act, 1905.

(iv) The War Loan (Conversion Loan) Ordinance, (No. 10) which provides for the issue of bonds payable to bearer in exchange for the bonds issued under the authority of the War Loan Ordinance, 1916.

(v) The Termination of the War (Definition) Ordinance, (No. 13) which provides that the date of the termination of the war for purposes of the Emergency legislation operative in the Colony shall be the date which is fixed by His Majesty by Order in Council under the determination of the Present War (Definition) Act, 1918.

(vi) The Indemnity Ordinance, (No. 17) which indemnifies all persons in respect of any acts done by them in good faith while martial law was in force in the Settlement of Singapore.

(vii) The Food Production Ordinance, (No. 19) designed to compel and encourage the production of local foodstuffs in order to supplement the anticipated shortage of rice.

(viii) The Former Enemy Aliens Admission Ordinance, (No. 28) which provides that no former enemy alien may enter or remain in the Colony without a permit signed by the Colonial Secretary. This Ordinance remains in force for a period of three years.

3. The principal amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Sale of Food and Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance, (No. 2) which empowers

(*a*) The Governor in Council to make regulations

(1) prohibiting the importation of specified articles which are either dangerous or unsuitable as articles of food or medicine;

(2) requiring the poisonous ingredients of patent or proprietary medicines to be disclosed at or prior to the sale of such medicines; and

(*b*) empowering any officer within the meaning of the principal Ordinance to take samples of milk in the course of delivery from the vendor to the purchaser and of any other article of food at the place of delivery upon the request, or with the consent of, the purchaser.

(ii) The Increase of Rent (War Restriction) (Amendment) Ordinance, (No. 4) which explains that a house let as a dwelling-house does not include a house let chiefly for purposes of business.

(iii) The Board of Education (Amendment) Ordinance, (No. 7) which increases the Education rate from 1 per cent to 2 per cent of the annual value of all property rateable under the Municipal Ordinance, 1913. This increase is required to pay increased grants-in-aid to Non-Government Schools and to contribute towards the upkeep of the proposed Free Elementary English Schools.

(iv) The Civil Procedure (Amendment) Code Ordinance, (No. 15) enabling Writs of Summons issued in the Colony to be served in the State of Johore and service of such Writs in that State to be proved in the manner in which service of such Writs in the Federated Malay States is proved.

(v) The Straits Settlements Ports (Amendment) Ordinance, (No. 16) which permits the establishment by the Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards of a Superannuation Fund, which will be distinct from the Joint Provident Fund to be established by the two Boards. The Superannuation Fund is for the benefit of subordinate officers and servants who are in receipt of salaries less than a sum to be fixed by the Regulations. The Joint Provident Fund is for the benefit of the officers and servants who are in receipt of salaries exceeding that sum.

(vi) The Currency Note (Amendment) Ordinance, (No. 21) which empowers the Treasurer to destroy forged or counterfeit notes on presentation at the Treasury and gives him discretion to grant or refuse compensation to the holder thereof. The previous practice was to stamp the words "Forged" or "Counterfeit" on forged or counterfeit currency notes.

(vii) The Naturalisation (Amendment) Ordinance, (No. 24) which gives the Governor in Council power to revoke local certificates of naturalisation similar to the power given by the Imperial Act to any of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State to revoke certificates of Imperial Naturalisation.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the eight Government English schools was $194,811.36, on the 45 aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Malay, Tamil and Chinese) $234,535.48 and on the 193 Government vernacular schools $174,475.06.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $21,569.53.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show an increase of 8 over the figures for 1917. The Normal Classes continued their work during the year, and 27 Normal Class Certificates were issued.

The Department was still very shorthanded. One master retired, while on furlough, on account of ill-health. No new masters had arrived before the end of the year.

The Committee appointed to make recommendations as to what permanent form of educational memorial should mark the Centenary of Singapore sent in its report in due course. The proposal is to found an institution for higher education to be known as Raffles College, and to reorganise the work and curriculum of the schools. The Government of the Straits Settlements has promised a donation of $1,000,000 towards building the College, and has undertaken to contribute $50,000 annually towards its maintenance. Generous help has been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Johore, and handsome subscriptions have been received from merchants and others.

To ensure the success of the College it is necessary, as recommended by the Committee, to raise the present level of the schools. For this, Training for Teachers is required, and a sufficient and competent European staff.

The present schools are crowded and steps are being taken to provide new schools.

Approval has been given for two new appointments:—(1) a Chief Inspector of English Schools, who will supervise the work of all Secondary Classes in the Colony and the Federated Malay States and (2) an Inspectress of Schools, who will be in charge of the Elementary work of the Girls' schools.

Progress was made with the preparation of the new series of modern Malay text-books for the Malay Vernacular schools. An advanced Teachers' Arithmetic, four new Readers and a Guide to Malay Letter-Writing were printed during the year; and a Physical Geography and a Malay Dictionary for Malays were nearly completed for the press.

Further progress was made with Basketry, and it is now taught by many Trained Teachers in the Malay village schools.

A Lady Supervisor for Malay Girls' Schools arrived towards the end of the year.

The building of a Central Training College for the Malay Teachers of the Colony and the Federated Malay States was commenced in Perak. As soon as it is erected and staffed, elementary botany and agriculture will be taught in all Malay village schools.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Court of Appeal sat at Singapore on the 10th June and 25th November disposing of 32 Appeals from the Supreme Court of which 27 were dismissed.

In Penang the same Court sat from the 25th February to the 4th March and from the 12th to the 26th August dealing with 16 Appeals and 2 Criminal Appeals.

In Singapore 47 Criminal Appeals from Magistrates' decisions were entered of which 24 were dismissed.

In Penang 44 were so entered and 32 were dismissed.

In Malacca there were 6 appeals against the decisions of the District and Police Courts. Four were dismissed.

In Singapore 639 Civil Suits were instituted as against 618 in 1918 and 470 in 1917. In Penang and Malacca 479 and 139, respectively, were entered.

Sixty-eight Bankruptcy petitions were filed in Singapore as against 65 in 1918 and 67 in 1917.

In Penang 17 petitions were filed as against 23 in 1918 and 44 in 1917. Two were presented in Malacca.

The fees received were as follows:—

		1917.		*1918.*		*1919.*	
		$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Singapore	...	25,298	95	42,422	90	31,857	60
Penang	...	16,044	40	15,707	05	16,825	50
Malacca	...	4,154	05	4,859	95	5,006	40

POLICE.

The total strength of the Force at the end of the year was 2,727 which was distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,269
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	1,026
Malacca	347
Labuan and Brunei	85
The authorized strength of the Force was	2,893

The European ranks depleted by the war were made up to strength in the latter part of the year. Recruits for the Malay and Indian Contingent came forward fairly freely in all the Settlements but the men offering were for the most part of a poor type. Recruiting for the Sikh Contingent has for the moment practically come to a standstill.

The excessively high casualties, 412, due chiefly to dismissals and resignations make it extremely difficult to keep the Force up to strength, and affects its efficiency.

There was a slight increase in the number of minor offences against discipline in Singapore and Labuan and a reduction in Penang and Malacca, the total being 3,466 as against 3,160 in 1918; the more serious offences show a reduction. There was however an increase in the number of cases of intoxication. There were 35 cases, which is 18 more than 1918.

The health of the Force was not so good as during 1918, and in Penang there was a serious out-break of Malaria amongst the Sikhs quartered in the fort. Malaria, venereal diseases and injuries of various kinds accounted for most of the admissions to hospital. The admissions were 2,382 as against 1,716 in 1918, an increase of 666.

Gambling was fairly active in Singapore and in Penang, but the Prevention of Gambling Department is being strengthened to deal with the nuisance.

The cost of the Department was $1,018,793.84.

The returns of the more serious offences reported are:—

			1918.	*1919.*
Murder	...	...	31	31
Gang robbery	...	...	32	31
Robbery	...	...	129	131
House-breaking	...	...	405	423
Theft	...	...	2,370	2,325

The total number of cases in which arrests were effected with or without warrant in the Colony during the year was 17,735, compared with 19,087 in 1918. 171 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 162 in 1918.

Three hundred and fourteen persons, mostly habitual criminals, were banished during the year.

PRISONS.

Criminal Prisons.—At the beginning of the year there were 799 prisoners in the four Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Labuan); 4,235 were admitted and 4,158 discharged during the year; and 876 remained at the end of the year.

There were only 30 prisoners of the "habitual" class in prison at the end of the year.

Prison offences showed an average of 1 per annum per convict as against 1·1 in the preceding year.

The number of "Middle-Grade" convicts—the men available for industrial labour was 143 in 1919, 134 in 1918, and 150 in 1917. The "Upper-Grade" men (56 in number) are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-Grade" men at stone-breaking and the "Short Sentence" and "Revenue Grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue-duties.

There were seven executions (five in Singapore, one in Penang and one in Malacca) in pursuance of sentences of the Supreme Court.

Civil Prisons.—There were 126 occupants of the Civil Prisons of the Colony at the beginning of the year: 5,585 were admitted and 5,555 discharged during the year; and there remained 156 at its end.

Houses of Detention.—In these buildings, which are part of the Civil Prisons, there were 49 vagrants at the beginning of the year and 56 at the close of the year: 595 were admitted and 588 discharged. Of this last number 43 found employment and 488 were repatriated.

General.—The health of the Prison has been satisfactory. The sanitary condition of the Prison has been further improved by the extension of the flush sewerage system to the Hospital and Civil Prison. There were no cases of beri-beri and enteric fever. A few mild cases of influenza were admitted to Hospital. Five cases of scurvy were treated. The history given by these men was that they had not eaten their daily ration of vegetables for some time because the kind of vegetable supplied did not appeal to their taste. An extra ration of more varied vegetables was supplied to all prisoners and no fresh cases occurred. Dysentery accounted for 28 admissions with 9 deaths, against 47 in 1918 and 74 in 1917. There were 582 admissions to Hospital and the average daily number of sick was 30, against 707 and 38 in 1918. No Europeans and Eurasians were admitted to Hospital. Eleven Long Sentence, 7 Short Sentence, 3 Revenue Grade, 1 Civil Prisoner and 8 Vagrants died—making 30 deaths out of a total Prison population of 7,661, giving a death-rate of 3 per thousand. The eight vagrants who died were all in very bad health when admitted and their deaths occurred soon after their admission to the House of Detention.

The total expenditure of the department was $295,837.64, and its revenue $6,186.09 besides which articles to the value of $2,784.32 were supplied to Government departments.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 25,638 and 27,957, respectively. The figures for the preceding year were 23,701 and 36,294.

The estimated population of the Colony was 846,083. It was estimated at 827,719 in 1918, and ascertained in 1911 (the year of the Census) to be 711,951.

The birth-rate increased from 28·64 to 30·30 per mille. Against this the death-rate has decreased. The rate was 46·45 in 1911, 39·01 in 1912, 34·93 in 1913, 34·13 in 1914, 29·15 in 1915, 30·70 in 1916, 36·98 in 1917, 43·85 in 1918 and 33·04 per mille in the year under review.

The principal causes of death were malaria (4,623 cases), infantile mortality (5,848), influenza (176), tuberculosis (1,778), beri-beri (1,430), dysentery (1,171) and pneumonia (1,415). (It is probable many of the deaths were due primarily to Influenza).

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony during the year caused 165 deaths from small-pox, 65 from cholera and 16 from plague. The corresponding figures in 1918 were 55, 68 and 204. Cerebro-Spinal Fever accounted for 18 deaths.

At Malacca an interesting "Wang Kang" ceremony took place in the autumn. A miniature boat (Wang Kang) was built and housed in a temporary temple at Banda Hilir until the appointed day in December, when it was dragged to the foot of St. John's Hill and burnt. This ceremony arose out of the influenza epidemic of 1918, and the underlying idea is propitiation of a deity who has become evilly disposed from neglect. It is thirty years since a similar ceremony was held in Malacca.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—Chinese.

Seventy thousand nine hundred and twelve immigrants arrived from China, an increase of 21·4 per cent as compared with the figure for 1918, and a decrease of 73·6 per cent as compared with that for 1911 which showed the highest number yet recorded.

As compared with the average for the previous ten years, 1909 to 1918, the number arriving in 1919 shows a decrease of 60 per cent.

Adult males formed 62·4 per cent and adult females 19·5 per cent of the immigrants.

Unfavourable exchange rates with China and reports as to the high cost of living in the Straits due to the high price of rice and other foodstuffs used by the Chinese discouraged immigration during the year; other adverse influences were the institution of regular steamship communication between China and the Netherlands Indies and the continuation of immigration *viâ* Bangkok free from inconvenient restrictions.

There is no indentured labour in the Colony.

(II).—SOUTHERN INDIAN.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 101,433, as compared with 65,291 in 1918.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 46,767, as against 52,132 in 1918.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1916.	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
Assisted immigrants *	72,091	78,407	55,583	88,021
Other immigrants ...	23,475	11,670	9,708	13,412
Total ...	95,566	90,077	65,291	101,433

The assisted immigrants consisted of 78,910 adults and 9,111 minors. Of the adults 62,006 were men and 16,904 women.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 15·92 per mille and in the Dindings 8·34 per mille. Among the 286 labourers employed on estates in Penang, the death-rate was 3·59 per mille.

During 1919, 751 adult and 147 minor decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The rate of assessment to the Tamil Immigration Fund was $2 for the 4 quarters of the year 1919. The income of the fund was $1,698,084.77 and its expenditure $1,597,387.65.

(III).—NETHERLANDS INDIAN.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,439. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force but approximately 477 local contracts for 300 days are in force in Province Wellesley.

* "Assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(i) the independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bonâ fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (ii) the Kangany labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kangany, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a months' notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

CHINESE PROTECTORATE.

Generally speaking the Chinese Community has had a very prosperous year, although the lower and middle classes are feeling acutely the rise in the cost of living and the high rate of exchange with China.

In connection with the anti-Japanese boycott riots occurred in Singapore and Penang in June; in Penang the situation was rendered more serious owing to dissatisfaction regarding the high price of rice.

A new society calling itself the Patriotic League gave a certain amount of trouble during the year.

An anarchical society called the Chan She (Truth Society) which is affiliated to the Communist San She (New Society) of Canton is also at work in the Colony.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1919.
Singapore	2458·50 m. m.
Labuan	2761·05 ,,
Penang	2365·00 ,,
Province Wellesley ...	1919·75 ,,
Malacca	2310·00 ,,
Dindings	1507·50 ,,

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 82·5. The maximum recorded was 95·0° in Penang on March 8th, 11th and 12th and 8th April, and 94·0 in Malacca on March 17th and 19th. The maximum in Singapore was 93·5 on 19th June, 1919. The minimum was 71·5 on 25th February, 1919 and 18th December, 1919 in Singapore.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 13,182,061, an average of 15·58 per inhabitant, as against 13·84 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 9,355,950, as compared with 8,642,343 in 1918. The number of messages transmitted over the Government telegraph lines increased from 408,242 to 497,843 and the number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges from 846 to 891.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1919, was $1,488,266.68, an increase of 24 per cent as compared with

the amount on December 31st, 1918. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $184.60. There was a profit on the year's working of $28,390.20. The estimated present value of the investments is $1,569,680.28.

Money Order and Postal Order transactions amounted in value to $5,796,000, a decrease of $474,000.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 28 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Durian Tunggal (Malacca) and Jarak and Kreh (Province Wellesley). Of these 20 are telegraph offices.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES.

Opium.—During the year 4,044 chests of opium (Indian and Persian) were cooked at the Factory. On 28th October, the retail price of chandu was raised from $10.50 to $12.50 per tahil in Singapore, Penang and Malacca and from $6.50 to $8.50 per tahil in Labuan. The sale price in Christmas Island at the close of the year was still $5.50 per tahil. The chandu sales in the Colony (including 6,600 tahils sold for consumption in Christmas Island) amounted to 1,700,732-5 tahils realising $17,511,229.

In addition to the raising of the price other steps were taken to ensure a gradual reduction in the consumption of opium in the Colony.

Sales to the Federated Malay States Government amounted to 1,776,600 tahils, whilst 950,504-9-2 tahils were sold to the Governments of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Trengganu, Kelantan and Brunei. In addition, shipments totalling 16,882-6-8 tahils were made to Bundi, Dungun, and Kretay Plantations in Trengganu.

The Calcutta auction price of opium rose from Rs. 3,829 per chest in January to Rs. 5,212 per chest in December.

Seizures made during the year included the following:—

Opium 15,219-6 tahils, chandu 8,419-0-6 tahils, Cocaine 109 grains, morphia 35,003 grains, tobacco 6,735 lbs., bhang 6,302 bundles in Singapore and 1,876-8-2 tahils in Penang and Malacca, and liquors 392-5 gallons.

Liquors.—The revenue from liquors amounted to $3,125,262.28 as against $2,511,590.36 in 1918.

This year for the first time the system of vesting the privilege of producing and selling Toddy in a single Toddy-farmer for each Settlement was departed from and licences were distributed on the basis of tenders submitted in respect of individual toddy shops. This method affords better control over the licensed Toddy retailers, more especially as

the regulations were amended in a manner designed to ensure the purity and cleanliness of the toddy supplied and to provide for all toddy which had become stale being thrown away. The results were also very satisfactory financially, the revenue from Toddy rising from $175,620 in 1918 to $275,532.78 this year.

The scale of Liquors Import Duties was amended by the addition on 19th December of two new sections fixing the duty on arrack at $20 per gallon and that on certain other liquors at $12 per gallon or $12 per proof gallon according to alcoholic strength. These amendments were introduced with the object of protecting the trade (which is mainly in the hands of allied countries) in such liquors as whisky, brandy, and rum, against unfair competition from imitations based on patent still spirit, the bulk of which is at present imported from Java.

In addition there was introduced a new proviso designed to prevent the loss of revenue which under the provisions of the old tariff was liable to be entailed by the breaking down of over-proof liquors imported in bulk.

Tobacco.—The total tobacco revenue collected in Singapore, Penang and Malacca during the year was $1,550,135.86 as against $1,434,519.60 in 1918.

The revenue from tobacco in the Settlement of Labuan was $3,894.16 as against $3,735.91 in the preceding year.

Prosecutions.—The total number of cases instituted by the Department during the year was 442 in Singapore, 110 in Penang, and 38 in Malacca.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to ($7,654,117), and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to ($8,133,228). The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure appear below.

REVENUE.

	1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,696,544	3,884,353	4,375,493	4,943,059	5,640,304
Penang ...	1,404,150	1,429,251	1,537,937	1,592,449	1,716,350
Malacca ...	161,431	177,742	222,870	271,496	297,463

EXPENDITURE.

	1915.	*1916.*	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,772,692	3,743,261	4,244,657	5,034,593	5,904,808
Penang ...	1,308,600	1,268,865	1,380,139	1,577,409	1,870,282
Malacca ...	131,958	160,655	186,162	292,965	358,138

RURAL BOARDS.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
Singapore Island	...	*144,838	237,314
Penang Island	...	66,878	112,871
Province Wellesley	...	296,321	327,672
Dindings ...	...	34,160	41,369
Malacca ...	...	566,601	735,473

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD.

The income and expenditure of the Board at Singapore (first as the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and latterly as the Singapore Harbour Board) for the seven-and-half years 1912—30th June, 1919 have been as follows:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1912	... ...	6,015,648	4,216,015
1913	... ...	6,091,296	4,070,912
1914	... ...	5,834,893	3,875,738
1915	... ...	5,432,425	3,421,271
1916	... ...	6,785,372	4,203,355
1917	... ...	7,931,597	4,665,596
1918	... ...	9,617,718	5,444,410
1919 (half-year to 30th June only)†	...	5,529,415	3,208,130

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1919 at $52,100,660 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,505,938 from the reserve account.

* Exclusive of Education Rate but inclusive of dog tax collected by Police and bank interest.

† The preparation of interim Half-yearly Accounts to 31st December having now been discontinued in favour of Yearly Accounts to 30th June, yearly figures to December as heretofore can no longer be given.

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	Half-year to 30th June. 1919.
Number of Vessels ...	2,708	2,544	2,364	2,329	2,400	2,114	1,234
Nett Tonnage	5,794,536	5,445,273	4,307,082	4,348,927	3,938,659	3,330,791	2,245,899
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	1,338,495	1,248,032	1,021,452	1,067,824	1,039,202	732,231	409,800
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	1,462,788	1,229,205	1,323,637	1,339,129	1,369,606	1,213,730	657,707

The tonnage occupying the Graving Docks during the years 1917 and 1918 and the half-year ended 30th June, 1919 based on the daily tonnage in dock was:—

	1917.	1918.	Half-year to 30th June. 1919.
No. 1 Dock	239,102	233,023	165,996
No. 2 Dock	409,120	216,211	249,528
The Victoria Dock ...	445,499	253,074	379,958
The Albert Dock ...	786,100	407,319	338,659
The King's Dock ...	1,817,202	736,214	324,461

THE PENANG HARBOUR BOARD.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock for the year 1919 were $996,372* and the expenditure $815,092.*

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Number of Vessels ...	732	596	728	661	532	513	554
Nett Tonnage	1,532,361	1,108,319	871,524	810,675	687,377	581,132	760,100
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	282,067	266,146	72,016	93,388	106,676	60,029	39,356
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	399,412	313,360	254,066	245,681	247,051	251,183	242,544

* Approximate only, and subject to audit.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the Department was as follows:—

	Singapore.	*Penang.*	*Malacca.*	*Labuan.*	*Total.*
ESTABLISHMENTS.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
(1) Salaries ...	113,847.42	64,574.99	33,155.41	4,972.00	216,549.82
(2) Other Charges	21,687.45	15,663.01	12,899.00	675.54	50,925.00
ANNUALLY RECURRENT.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	159,709.33	282,312.24	207,946.05	3,464.29	653,431.91
(2) Buildings, etc.	253,427.55	126,359.32	78,675.23	4,133.91	462,596.01
SPECIAL SERVICES.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	82,797.25	160,797.92	515,672.78	270.11	759,538.06
(2) Buildings, etc.	486,663.77	163,290.19	211,551.72	3,698.24	865,203.92
Miscellaneous Services	59,330.02	31,955.86	3,806.23	1,895.86	96,987.97
Total ...	$1,177,462.79	844,953.53	1,063,706.42	19,109.95	3,105,232.69

The important works completed by the Department during the year were as follows:—

In Singapore—Erection of Inspectors' Quarters and additional barracks at the Beach Road Police Station; extension of the water sewage system at the Central Police Station and to the Maternity Hospital and Lunatic Asylum; quarters for the Guardian at Government House; construction of barracks at Rochore Police Station; construction of barracks at the Quarantine Station, St. John's Island; quarters for an Assistant Superintendent of Police Pearls Hill; quarters for Government Officers, five at Tanglin and two on Goodwood Hill; the extension of Victoria Bridge School and the construction of a bungalow for subordinate officers at Tanjong Rhu.

In Penang—One Class II house for Government officers; a beacon at the Southern Entrance to Penang Harbour; extensions to the Quarantine and leper camps on Pulau Jerejak; in the Dindings a Hospital Ward and a Police Station at Segari.

In Province Wellesley—A Post Office and Telephone Exchange were built at Bukit Mertajam and improvements and additions were made to the Police Station at Nibong Tebal.

In Malacca—District Offices at Alor Gajah and Jasin; a second class ward at the Durian Daun Hospital; re-erection of the Police Station at Chin-Chin; re-construction of Police barrack at Batang Malaka; re-construction of Vernacular School buildings at Sungei Rambei and Bukit Tedong and the construction of irrigation dams at Malaka Pindah and Tampin.

Progress was made with the following works:—

In Singapore—Additional accommodation at the Lunatic Asylum; renewing verandah floors of thirteen wards at the Quarantine Station, St. John's Island; erection of peons' quarters, Mackenzie Road.

In Penang—Anti-Malarial drainage scheme at Lumut.

In Malacca—Police Station and barracks at Kuala Sungei Bharu; four quarters for subordinate officers at Malacca; four clerks' quarters at Alor Gajah; four clerks' quarters at Jasin; four clerks' quarters at Malacca; quarters and kitchens for Marine Department Lascars, Malacca, and the erection of coolie lines.

Under the Heading "Roads";

In Singapore—Progress was made with the Jurong Road extension; six-and-a-half miles of road were converted from laterite to granite and seven miles of roads were re-metalled and ten miles tar painted.

In Province Wellesley—A commencement was made with the construction of a bridge over the Muda River at Dusan Lada; two miles of new road connecting with Southern Kedah were completed and metalled.

In Malacca—Sixteen miles of road were re-constructed and nearly a mile of road deviation carried out at Kajang.

The metalled roads in the Colony are as follows:—

	Miles.
Singapore	96·26
Penang and Dindings	85·93
Province Wellesley	166·00
Malacca	231·38
Labuan	4·50
Total ...	584·07

The Department has also charge of 49·60 miles of gravelled roads in Malacca and 92·94 miles of natural roads of which the greater part lies in Penang, the Dindings and Province Wellesley.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The excess of revenue over expenditure, originally estimated at $15,578, is now calculated at $13,364. This is chiefly due to the fact that the royalty* on export of Phosphate of Lime, amounting to $24,500, shows a decrease on the estimates of $3,500.

The total revenue amounted to $26,154.80.

* Royalty for 1918 was 35¾ cents per ton. Royalty at the same rate for 1919 would be about $24,500.

Export of Phosphate of Lime increased from 53,370 tons in 1917 to 68,621 tons, and tonnage entered and cleared at Flying Fish Cove increased from 71,926 tons to 81,197 tons. Australia and Japan consumed the entire stock of export. Japan taking 71 per cent. In regard to the tonnage of freight ships 39 per cent flew the British flag and 61 per cent the Japanese.

The population increased from 514 on January 1st to 617 on December 31st.

The general health has been satisfactory. The death-rate fell from 22·71 per mille in 1918 to 12·9 in 1919.

There was no serious crime.

One-and-a-quarter miles of track were laid during the year on the railway line with sidings to South Point.

The mean temperature was 81·2 F—·3 of one degree warmer than in 1918.

On the 10th December there was a riot amongst the labour force of the Phosphate Co., an attempt was made to burn the manager's bungalow. Order was however quickly restored and police reinforcements were sent at once from Singapore to ensure future peace.

REGISTRIES OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Last year was the fourth year during which the Companies Ordinance, 1915, was in force. Forty-eight new companies were registered with a capital of $40,780,000; of these, 28 were private companies with a capital of $8,170,000.

At the end of the year 305 companies remained on the register of which 12 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 295 companies which carry on a business was $99,201,802.

Four hundred and fourteen companies not registered in the Colony, have filed documents under the 1915 Ordinance; of these, 325 are British. Apart from these, 13 companies of which 12 are British have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of five foreign companies. Fifty-six companies do Fire Insurance business.

The total revenue of the department was $21,639.63.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

In Singapore the total imports of live-stock were 774 horses, 31,721 cattle, 27,122 sheep, 6,111 goats, 130,911 swine, 227 dogs and 821 buffaloes as compared with 389 horses, 31,879 cattle, 34,156 sheep, 4,421 goats, 144,014 swine, 308 dogs and 114 buffaloes in 1918.

The total number of live-stock exported from Singapore was 541 horses, 4,551 cattle, 6,317 sheep, 2,387 goats, 65,784 swine, 216 dogs and 201 buffaloes as compared with 248 horses, 4,942 cattle, 12,857 sheep, 2,748 goats, 64,764 swine, 184 dogs and 15 buffaloes in 1918.

The total Revenue collected during 1919 amounted to $35,242.85 as compared with $36,721.00 in 1918.

The general health of animals in Singapore was good, no epidemic of contagious or infectious disease occurring. No case of glanders or rabies occurred in 1919 in Singapore.

FOOD CONTROL.

At the commencement of the year I was in charge of this Department.

The failure of rice crops in India, the partial failure of the local crop and the prospects of a largely increased demand on Siam by European countries in addition to the increased demand by Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies consequent on the above-mentioned failure of the crops, rendered it imperative to make prompt provision for the future.

The position was further aggravated by heavy speculations in the Siam Rice Market.

It was deemed advisable to make a special purchase of rice with a view to having a reserve to draw on towards the close of the year. Some 60,000 tons were therefore purchased in Siam.

Meanwhile India found herself compelled further to restrict exports, and the normal allowance for Malaya from Burma was reduced by over 42 per cent: the price was however controlled in Burma.

In Siam, on the other hand, owing to increased demand and heavy speculation, the price soared to such an alarming figure that the position in Malaya began to cause grave anxiety.

In order to avoid competitive buying by the two parties, this Government and the Netherlands East Indies came to an agreement in May, 1919, to purchase jointly through one agent: in June Ceylon agreed to do the same, though only a few weeks prior to Siam issuing the order prohibiting export.

At my request a conference of leading residents in Malaya was held in Singapore on May 15th, 1919, at which His Excellency the Governor presided. It was decided that Government should take over the entire control of rice as soon as possible.

On May 26th, 1919, I handed over the charge of the Department to Mr. PEEL, of the Federated Malay States Civil Service.

A Control Scheme was brought into force on July 1st: the stocks of importers and wholesale dealers were taken over and no rice or padi was allowed to be imported into the country except by the Controller. The entire movements of rice, as far as the hands of the retailers, were thenceforth entirely controlled.

These measures naturally entailed a large increase of staff.

It was decided to sell all white and parboiled rice at one flat rate: the Food Controller calculated that the figure at which it could be sold to the consumer without loss was $1 a gantang, but representations were made that this price constituted a grave hardship and the Government therefore decided to grant a subsidy to bring the price at the main distributing centres down to 75 cents.

This decision entailed of course considerable expenditure.

Compensation had to be paid to holders of stocks of Siam and Saigon rice which, after the 1st July, 1919, could only be sold at the reduced rates.

Against this, however, the Government made a profit on Rangoon rice which up to the end of the year was still imported at a figure below the controlled price.

The amount payable by way of compensation to dealers holding stocks amounted approximately to $6,900,000.

The sale of the 60,000 tons of Siam rice purchased earlier in the year at a comparatively favourable figure involved the Government in no loss. The sale of subsequent purchases of Siam rice on Government account on the basis of 75 cents per gantang entailed a considerable loss, but against this must be set a profit made on sales of Rangoon rice.

The Food Control Department decided in September to sell Government stocks in the main distributing centres direct to retailers for local consumption, and to wholesale dealers for distribution to the other districts. This procedure eliminated the whole of the Importers' profits and a considerable proportion of the Wholesalers' profits: it involved a considerable increase of work and staff, but resulted in a saving to Government of about $1,000,000.

It is anticipated that the final net loss to this Government up to the end of the year, as a result of the decision to assist the people by selling rice at less than cost price, will

be about $6,000,000. This loss will be shared by the Colony, the Federated Malay States and the State of Johore in the proportions of 3, 4 and 1.

It may be added that the amount would have been considerably less, had it not been for the rise in the exchange value of the rupee, which resulted in this Government having to pay nearly $1,000,000 more in respect of purchases made subsequent to the fixing of the rupee at 2/-.

In July, 1919, Siam issued an order prohibiting export of rice as from the 12th July except for contracts made prior to the 12th June: no appreciable supplies could therefore be looked for beyond the balance of the allotment from India and possibly some from Saigon where however the price was almost prohibitive.

Fortunately the stocks in the country were heavy and it was anticipated that with care and economy and the help of other foodstuffs such as wheat, wheat flour, and maize meal, the country would succeed in carrying on successfully until the next harvest—about the end of the year. The Control Department itself imported and also assisted private dealers in importing supplies of these foodstuffs: it circularised estates with a view to inducing their labourers to substitute a proportion of such foodstuffs for part of their rice rations and gave much assistance in supplying recipes for cooking. The result was very gratifying: the ration allowance for estates, etc., was gradually reduced with little or no hardship, and the labourers on the whole took kindly to other food to supplement the reduced supply of rice.

A Food Production department was constituted to encourage the planting of foodstuffs such as ragi and hill padi.

As a result, thousands of acres in the Peninsula were planted up with these foodstuffs, thus assisting the food position.

Towards the end of October, the Food Controller went to Bangkok with a view to making arrangements for supplies for 1920.

While he was there the news came in that the crops in many parts were an absolute failure and that there would be no rice available for export.

The Food Controller subsequently visited Saigon where the crops were reported to be considerably above the average, and there was every prospect of considerable supplies being obtainable. A large amount was actually purchased for delivery January to April.

India was approached with a view to ascertaining her policy for 1920, and was asked to allot a total of 180,000 tons

for the first six months of the year. She apparently found it difficult to come to a decision and no assurance had been received at the close of the year as to what allotment she was prepared to give.

This delay was a source of great anxiety to the Food Controller and was a contributory factor to the hoarding which took place in December. There were sufficient stocks in the country to last until new supplies were available, but the diminution of such stocks and the uncertainty of the future led to hoarding for a few weeks: this made the position temporarily somewhat difficult, but at the close of the year sufficient purchases had been made by the Controller to render the position perfectly safe for some months to come.

Food Control has been necessary to cope with a temporary situation, but it promises to bring permanent benefits to the country; the people are learning that it is possible to eat, enjoy and thrive on other foodstuffs than rice or the particular form of rice to which they have been accustomed.

The prices of foodstuffs in general rose, especially towards the end of the year. The prices of milk and flour were carefully watched and controlled, but it was not considered desirable to interfere to any great extent with other prices.

World's prices generally increased, while the high rates of exchange made the local position as to price considerably worse.

THE SHIPPING COMMITTEE.

The operations of the Shipping Committee virtually ceased in the first quarter of the year.

Some seven Meetings were held, but the ships under Liner Requisition were with one exception released at the end of February at the order of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the clearing up of the accounts and the settlement of certain points in dispute were left to the Chairman and Secretary.

The s.s. *Will O' the Wisp* was retained as the Owners were indebted to Government for some $102,000.00 in respect of repairs of this vessel and the *Hock Lee*, and a sum paid by Government on their account.

The s.s. *Ranee* continued to be run by the Straits Steamship Company on account of the Admiralty, pending the decision as regards its final disposal.

The Eastern Shipping Company whose fleet had been placed on Liner Requisition on the usual rates challenged the legality of Government's action and further demurred

to the rate offered. They commenced an action against the Government, but the matter was not settled at the close of the year.

Meanwhile the sums due to the Company on the working of the vessels were retained by Government.

LABUAN.

The revenue collected in Labuan amounted to $38,308.19, and $81,927.14 was expended. The total volume of trade was 3,748,930, and exports and imports show little variation from the previous year. 141,686 tons of merchant shipping entered and cleared. A weekly service with Singapore and Borneo was maintained. There was a general improvement in sanitation. The 10 square miles of land bought from the Labuan Coalfields Company, Limited, is being re-alienated in small holdings. A Company styled "The Labuan Exploration Company" has been formed in London with the object of prospecting minerals in Labuan, and the geological survey will commence early in January, 1920.

PASSAGE CONTROL.

Passage Control Regulations were introduced by the Governor on the 18th of March, 1919, under the powers conferred upon him by the Imperial Order in Council of the 26th of October, 1896, and public opinion welcomed the arrangement.

By these Regulations the Government allocated all passenger accommodation by British ships travelling to Europe. At the time when they were introduced no steamers were available, but in view of the cancellation of sailings of the *Nore* and *Novara* arrangements were made with the Admiralty for the transport *Marama* to be sent to Singapore to help in relieving the situation. She left the Straits Settlements on the 10th April, 1919, carrying 593 passengers to whom accommodation had been allotted by the Passage Controller. The accommodation provided has been the subject of much criticism. Doubtless the haste with which she had to be prepared for taking passengers Home did not allow the arrangements to be as complete as might have been possible in more favourable circumstances, but the discomforts experienced on her appear to have been unavoidable under the prevailing circumstances, and the large proportion of women and children overdue for leave certainly aggravated the situation.

The vessel was inspected by two Board of Trade Surveyors on her arrival in London and a full report on her accommodation and sanitary arrangements was published in the local papers.

After the departure of the *Marama* the Passage Controller dealt with 1,189 applications for passages. Nine hundred and ninety passages were allocated on 21 British ships up to the date when Passage Control was taken off again—the 4th October, 1919.

Since that date, though the shipping situation is not yet normal, there has not appeared to be any necessity for the re-introduction of control.

GENERAL.

The year was memorable. It was the Anniversary of the founding of Singapore by SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES, and in February great local celebrations marked the event. Much consideration was given to the most suitable method of commemoration and it was finally decided to establish a College which should bear the name of the Founder. Generous subscriptions from all sides have already assured success to the scheme and plans are being prepared for the construction of a building which shall be a centre of useful learning for the Peninsula whose great seaport it will adorn.

The provision of passages to Europe for those members of the European Community who were long overdue for leave or who had already broken down under the strain of prolonged residence in the tropics presented much difficulty, but the general shipping position was easier than it had been. At the time of writing it is satisfactory to note that the total tonnage of shipping entering and leaving the port of Singapore is considerably greater than the totals for 1917 and 1918, and shews signs of returning to the high figures of previous years.

In the year under review the question of ensuring an adequate food supply became acute. The shortage of rice has been dealt with elsewhere in this report. Complications were introduced by questions of currency and rates of exchange. The value of money, which is the same thing as the general level of prices regarded inversely, had sunk. The price of bullion had risen. Note issues had enormously increased. A great portion of the world was in a condition hardly distinguishable from anarchy. Faith of all kinds had been shaken and, most of all, faith in promises to pay.

Paper money was at a discount, and in many places, where the deliberate Bolshevik policy of ruining Government credit by a reckless inflation of the paper currency had obtained, it had become valueless. Silver and Gold and articles convenient for hoarding and barter were in extreme demand. A combination of causes had raised the price of silver bullion to hitherto undreamed-of heights. No power and no law can ultimately keep in circulation coinage whose bullion contents are worth more in exchange than the coin itself. It has been suggested that the Government of the Straits Settlements would be wise to alter the rate of exchange fixed at 2/4*d* to the dollar, but after consideration of all issues it is the declared policy of Government to adhere to the present fixed rate. The fact that our former favourable exchange position in regard to India and China has now been reversed makes the question of obtaining labour one of great difficulty. The bulk of our labour is non-indigenous and the exchange position in its relation to the diminished power of remittance home has been acutely felt. The temporary expedient has been tried by employers of labour of granting exchange allowances while the level of wages is adjusting itself to the altered conditions. Despite a great deal of increased commercial prosperity generally there is no doubt that the small wage-earning classes experienced considerable hardship, although there was probably little actual want of food.

The Housing question is still with us, and its attendant difficulties have not decreased. The inactivity of the building trade during the War still makes its effect felt. Remedies are of slow operation but the work of the Rent Board has been of great value. Plans have been settled for the erection of a large tenement building at Cross Street but the work is delayed by shortage of labour and material.

On the 19th June, Chinese Riots occurred in Singapore. They were not serious and quiet was quickly restored. They were ostensibly anti-Japanese and fomented by a few ringleaders who were responsible for the Japanese boycott and for inflammatory articles in the Chinese press on the Shantung settlement.

Similar disturbances in the Northern Settlement took somewhat longer to settle and traces of their influence are still felt in both Settlements. It would be strange indeed if the mingled influences of high prices, food shortage, anti-Japanese propaganda and Labour agitation, backed wherever they can obtain an entry by Bolshevik agents, had not produced unrest. Cheap food and all that it denotes generally

means a contented people. While all goes well the Government is a visionary figure in the background. "Whate'er is best administered is best" is the subconscious belief of each contented citizen. But the inflated prices and general derangement of economic balance brought about by the War have necessitated increasing Government intervention in affairs which normally lie outside its sphere, and thereby it has become associated in the popular mind with certain most unpopular phases of the prevailing unsettled conditions. It is the policy of the Straits Settlements Government to bring Food Control to an end at the earliest possible moment. As has been well said by a European authority: "It must never be overlooked that control of price and distribution cannot stop with a few prime commodities, but once started its repercussions drive into a succeeding chain of commodities; and that on the downward road of price control there can be no stoppage until all commodities have been placed under restriction". A consummation devoutly to be avoided.

Numbers of Asiatic labourers were employed on the various war fronts and many on return have passed through Singapore while others have remained here. They have come—many of them—with their old outlook on life changed. New wine has been put into old bottles and the consequence has been a breaking with tradition and all the customary restraints of inherited belief. In order to control certain vernacular papers whose inflammatory articles are often too indefinite to come within the sphere of the Seditious Publications Ordinance of 1915, it was found necessary to introduce new legislation.

The Public Services Salaries Commission, the Clerical Service Commission and the Committee on the Subordinate Services all completed their work. An attempt has been made to make the rates of emolument more suited to the changed value of money. The difficulty of Government has been to find a firm basis in the quicksand of changing values and rising prices, in other words, to avoid on the one hand the Scylla of a panic-stricken increase of wages which would re-act adversely on the unofficial community, and on the other the Charybdis of undue parsimony. It cannot be denied that a fair attempt has been made to face the difficulties.

The year has seen great changes in personnel. At the end of August, Sir ARTHUR YOUNG relinquished the reins of Government after remaining at his post for the whole period of the War. He carried with him into retirement the respect and loyalty of all those with whom he had come into contact. Mr. F. S. JAMES, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary,

succeeded Sir ARTHUR YOUNG as Officer Administering the Government and remained in charge until the arrival of Sir LAURENCE NUNNS GUILLEMARD, K.C.B., who was appointed Governor and High Commissioner on the 27th October, but did not arrive in Singapore until the following year. Mr. H. MARRIOTT acted as Colonial Secretary from August until the end of the year.

Another change was the departure on leave of the Attorney-General Mr. (now Sir AUBREY) GOODMAN, prior to promotion to the position of Chief Judicial Commissioner, Federated Malay States, and in November his successor Sir WILLIAM MURISON arrived.

In November, the First Battalion South Staffordshires arrived to take over garrison duties, relieving the Middlesex Regiment.

The deaths of two members of the Civil Service are recorded with regret. Mr. G. H. M. ROBERTSON, who had volunteered for military service early in the War and had been stationed in East Africa during its greater part, was attacked by influenza in the epidemic of 1919 and died in a few days.

Mr. J. W. GOLDTHORP died in Kuala Lumpur after a brief illness. The services of two valuable officers were thus lost at a time when they could least be spared.

Big plans of development are before us, but our motto, I am afraid, must be *festina lente* while an adequate staff and organisation is being built up to deal with them.

The twelve months ending December 31st, 1919, were as disturbed a year as has occurred in the history of the Colony. The Great War terminated with the capitulation of Germany in November, 1918, and Peace with Germany was celebrated officially on the 19th July, 1919.

It has been said that "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than War"; it is certain that she bears in her train problems as difficult and of no less importance to the future of the World. Many months elapsed before the effects of War were felt in this distant Colony but the economic consequences of Peace are already more than apparent. Already the swell and movement in our midst indicates how deeply the industrial waters of Europe have been stirred. The waves of unrest have but lapped our shores but it behoves the whole community ruthlessly to set its house in order against a day when the very foundations may be

tested. In the past the Straits Settlements and its hinterland have provided a Happy Hunting-Ground for all races, and it has been the pride of the Administration to secure to each man his own and to turn the industry of its settlers to the advantage of the community. Errors no doubt have been made, but the path of great achievements is marked by mistakes, and in this year of the Raffles Centenary it is well that we should borrow the spirit of the Founder of Singapore and through the clouds of to-day look with hopes as high and purpose as undaunted to an even greater future.

F. S. JAMES,
Colonial Secretary, S. S.

12th June, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony, &c.	Year.
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	"
1025	Cyprus	"
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	"
1030	Nigeria	"
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	"
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	"
1044	Bermuda	
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	"
1047	Fiji	1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.

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REPORT FOR 1920.

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HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

The Straits Settlements, comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

SITUATION AND AREA.

Singapore.

Singapore is an island of which the greatest length is about 27 miles by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles, situated at the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula, from which it is separated by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width. There are a number of small islands adjacent to it which form part of the Settlement, which now comprises also Christmas Island, and the Cocos Islands.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

Penang.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles, situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula in 5° north latitude, and at the northern extremity or entrance to the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, including 10 miles of territory to the south of the Krian river (*vide infra*), the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

Malacca.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of

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territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town, called Malacca, is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

The Dindings.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang, in 4° 15′ north latitude, and 100° 35′ east longitude. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a fine harbour with deep anchorage, and arrangements have been made for coasting steamers to call regularly.

Cocos-Keeling Islands.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903 they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ to 12° 45′ south, longitude 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which was formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

The total area of the Colony with these dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907. An account of Labuan will be found below.

MALACCA.

History.

Malacca, said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore, and known as an important independent State from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was taken by the English, who held it till 1818. It was then restored to Holland, but was again transferred to British rule as a consequence of the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

When Malacca was captured by the Portuguese in 1511, it was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the East, but as the Portuguese pushed their operations further to the east, in the archipelago and neighbouring countries, the trade of Malacca gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the establishment of Penang in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources. The trade of the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra passed to Penang, which also carried on a large traffic with China, Siam, Borneo, the Celebes, and other places in the archipelago not under Dutch control; but no sooner was Singapore established than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to Singapore, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first unimportant, that trade has assumed enormous proportions, owing to the development of the rich tin areas and rubber-bearing lands of the Malay Peninsula.

PENANG.

Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, was the first British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula, having been ceded to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in 1786, with the proviso that the sum of 6,000 dollars should be paid annually to the Raja of Kedah so long as the British occupied the island. In 1800, in consequence of the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was acquired from the Raja, the annual payment being in return increased to $10,000. This has been subsequently enlarged from time to time, until it now extends from the Muda River to 10 miles south of the Krian River, a distance of 45 miles, containing in all 280 square miles. This province is in a high state of cultivation, the chief articles cultivated being padi, coconuts, and rubber. In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one government, Penang still remaining the seat of government. In 1836 the seat of government was transferred to Singapore.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded by Perak in 1826, with a view to the suppression of piracy, but no use was made of the cession at the time. In 1874 the cession of these islands was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose into prominence in the fourteenth century. Its greatness came to a sudden end in 1377, when it was sacked and destroyed by the Javanese, and thenceforth the island was scarcely inhabited until Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES took possession of it in 1819, by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823 it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

Climate.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore for 1918 was 82·0° F.; in Penang 82·6° F.; in Province Wellesley, 82·7° F.; and in Malacca, 80·0° F. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures

were between 86·8° and 74·3° F. There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being pretty evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1908 to 1917, it is found in Singapore that there is an annual average of 177 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period being 103·76 inches. In 1917 the mean rainfall in Singapore was 111·88 inches; in Penang 105·27 inches; in Province Wellesley 84·88 inches; in Malacca 109·83 inches; and in the Dindings 102·26 inches. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, viz., S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is nothing unusual to have south-east, south or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

Population.

At the census taken in April, 1901 and 1911, the population of the Settlements was ascertained to be as follows:—

	1901.	*1911.*
Singapore ...	228,555	311,985
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings ...	258,207	278,003
Malacca	95,487	124,081
Total ...	572,249	714,069

The following Banks have establishments in the Colony:—the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China; the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; the Mercantile Bank of India Limited; the Netherlands Trading Society; the International Banking Corporation; the Banque de l'Indo-Chine; the Netherlands India Commercial Bank; the Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company; Bank of Taiwan; Chinese Commercial Bank; Communication Bank; the Yokohama Specie Bank; the Ho Hong Bank; the Oversea Chinese Bank, and the China and Southern Bank.

LABUAN.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo, in 5° 16′ North latitude, and 115° 15′ East longitude. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles, or three days' steam.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned, and for practical purposes the history of the island begins with its cession to Great Britain in 1846 by the Sultan of Brunei. It was then uninhabited. The reason for the cession, given in the treaty, by which the island was handed over to Great Britain, was that it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei", and the consideration given by Great Britain was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station under the control of a naval officer, and the formal establishment of a Crown Colony was deferred until 1848. From that date until the end of 1889, Labuan was governed as a separate Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty, for the next twenty years. In 1889, the financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of the Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. This arrangement was terminated at the end of 1905, when Sir J. ANDERSON, Governor of the Straits Settlements, was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, Labuan was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, the island was constituted a separate Settlement.

Labuan has a fine port (Victoria Harbour), perfectly safe, and easy of access. Vessels drawing 23 feet can go alongside the outside jetty (not at present in use), and vessels drawing 15 feet alongside the coaling jetties.

It is a market for much of the produce of the neighbouring coasts of Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, indiarubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and beche-de-mer, which are forwarded by the Labuan traders to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared, and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation. There are sago factories in the island, where the raw material received from the coast is converted into sago flour, which is exported to Singapore.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank in Labuan, but no other bank. The currency is Straits dollars and Straits subsidiary coins. Straits notes are also available in Labuan.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extention, Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

Population.

Census of 1881, 5,995, of whom 47 were Europeans.

Census of 1891, 5,853, of whom 28 were Europeans.

Census of 1901, 8,411, of whom 51 were Europeans.

Census of 1911, 6,546, of whom 34 were Europeans.

LANDS.

SINGAPORE.

Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown, either by lease or grant. The terms of the leases vary. A great portion of the land on which the town stands is held on building-leases for 99 years. The terms of the leases in the country are, for the most part, 99 and 999 years. A grant in a Statutory form is now the only Crown title issued. This is prescribed by Ordinance II of 1886.

The "permits", formerly issued in anticipation of survey, have all been called in and grants substituted for them. Certain Crown Reserves are held under annual licences. The quit-rent reserved in leases for lands in the country issued before October 15th, 1883, is 30 cents an acre; that on leases

issued subsequent to that date varies according to advantages of soil and situation, but is in no case less than 40 cents an acre. In all leases issued since October 15th, 1883, a condition is inserted under which the rent is re-adjustable every thirty years. Since the passing of the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1886, the only instrument of title is a Statutory Grant in perpetuity subject to a minimum quit-rent of ·50 cents an acre readjustable every thirty years.

By Ordinance I of 1901, special powers are given to the Government with regard to leases of foreshore for periods not exceeding 100 years.

Penang.

Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held of the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Singapore eighteen and in Penang twenty different kinds of title are in the hands of the public. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Statutory Grants as in Singapore, and Statutory Grants are also being substituted for Permits and Expired Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance I of 1901.

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.

The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance I of 1901, for alienation of foreshore.

Land is now obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure, and with premium and a moderate quit-rent if held under Statutory Grant.

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber, tapioca and gambier leases and of mukim assessment under customary tenure.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1920.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir LAURENCE NUNNS GUILLEMARD, K.C.B., arrived in the Colony and assumed duty as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on the 3rd of February, 1920, Mr. F. S. JAMES, C.M.G., administering the Government from the beginning of the year until his arrival.

Mr. H. MARRIOTT acted as Colonial Secretary from the 1st January to the 3rd of February, when Mr. JAMES resumed that office. Sir J. W. MURISON acted as Colonial Secretary from the 13th of June, 1920, when Mr. JAMES went to the Federated Malay States to act as Chief Secretary, until the end of the year.

Sir J. A. S. BUCKNILL, Chief Justice of the Straits Settlements, left the Colony to take up an Indian appointment as Judge of the High Court, Patna, and Sir AUBREY GOODMAN was appointed in his place. His death early in 1921 is recorded with regret as a great loss to the public service.

The Commission on Profiteering under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Mr. W. F. NUTT, O.B.E., completed its labours in the latter half of the year and presented an extremely valuable report.

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed in November to consider "whether any and what changes are advisable in the Constitution of the Legislative Council" of the Colony.

M. CLEMENCEAU visited the Colony in October en route to Java.

The Compulsory Service Ordinance has not been put into force.

The year 1920 was not eventful in any peculiarly local sense, but it will long be remembered for its bright beginning and its gloomy end. Singapore, as the meeting place of the Eastern commerce of all nations, is naturally very sensitive to world conditions of trade. The brisk demand of the opening months and the slowness of delivery of goods caused prices to mount to unprecedented heights and tempted traders to indulge in heavy overtrading. A financial and industrial crisis in Japan and the general restriction of credit by banks in all parts of the world acted

and reacted on the falling price of rubber and tin. When the large quantities of goods ordered in the early weeks of the year began to arrive many traders were unable to take them up. Weak holders were forced to sell and prices declined from the abnormal levels of a few months earlier. Money and credit became scarcer and scarcer from June to December and anxiety increased. No money was available for any new local industries. There was also a conspicuous decline in American and Japanese competition and a number of these firms closed down. Rubber reached its highest point at $1.15 per lb. in February and had fallen to 30 cents per lb. in December.

Tin rose to $212 per picul on the 18th February and fell as low as $90 on the 1st December.

The year 1919 had been one of reconstruction. The world was busy setting its house in order and the aim of all countries was to return as speedily as possible to normal pre-war conditions. Social and economic life had been everywhere unravelled and in many places broken by war restrictions and war conditions. At the outset of 1920 hopes ran as high as prices. No hope seemed too extravagant and no price too high. An era of unexampled prosperity appeared to have set in. The golden years had returned. Throughout the British Empire manufacturers found the world at their feet, and the Straits Settlements, standing at the gates of the Far East with a hinterland producing a large portion of two important raw materials—tin and rubber—seemed destined for no mean share of the general prosperity. Local produce was in great demand and any article imported could be sold immediately at a handsome profit. British manufacturers at home could not keep pace with the demand and large orders for iron and steel goods and motor-cars were placed with American and Japanese firms. Demand seemed inexhaustible. But in June the tide began to turn. General depression followed upon financial stringency and deepened to stagnation at the close of the year. Unstable political conditions in Europe still kept closed some of the chief markets, and enormously increased costs of production together with largely diminished purchasing powers slowly but surely emphasised the necessary virtue of economy. Fantastic as the visions of February, 1920, may now appear, the disillusionment of October was none the less profound. The contrast is tropical in its intensity. Six months of unrestrained optimism were followed by six of growing and intense depression, but the sombre colouring of the second is no truer indication than the unnatural brilliance of the first.

The problem is simple but world-wide. The will to create a new Heaven and a new Earth can only take effect through a medium of hard times and hard work. It is easy to point the moral and it were idle to adorn the tale with local illustration.

The part of this Colony is perforce that of a deeply interested spectator. The raw materials of the country, the tin and rubber and copra, await the certainty of industrial recovery in Europe and it is for us to conserve our resources in confident expectation and to be ready to rise on the flood-tide of a world revival.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The total revenue amounted to $26,747.81, not counting Opium and Liquor revenue and Income Tax which are collected in Singapore.

Export of Phosphate of Lime increased slightly from 68,621 tons in 1919 to 69,575 tons, and tonnage entered and cleared at Flying Fish Cove increased from 81,197 tons in 1919 to 90,150 tons.

Australia and Japan consumed the entire stock of export, Japan taking only 57 per cent as against 71 per cent in 1919.

In regard to the tonnage of freight ships 37 per cent flew the British Flag and 63 per cent the Japanese.

The population increased from 617 on 1st January to 698 on 31st December.

There was no serious crime.

In January a special Commissioner visited the Island to enquire into and report on the riot and attempted arson of December, 1919, and to deal with the charges arising out of the same, and the police reinforcements from Singapore were returned early in 1920.

LABUAN.

The revenue collected in Labuan amounted to $46,326.15, and $104,861.25 was expended. The total volume of trade was $4,872,540, and exports and imports show little variation from the previous year. 134,872 tons of merchant shipping entered and cleared. A weekly service with Singapore and Borneo was maintained. A Company styled "The Labuan Exploration Company" has been formed in London with the object of prospecting minerals in Labuan, and a geological survey has been completed.

THE SHIPPING COMMITTEE.

The Food Controller as Chairman of the Shipping Committee dealt with such matters as arose.

The s.s. *Ranee* continued to be run by the Straits Steamship Company, Limited, on behalf of the Government, the Government in turn accounting to the Imperial Government on certain terms as regards hire. The vessel latterly was run at a loss and was laid up on October 18th.

The s.s. *Will o' the Wisp* was still retained by the Government and run on its behalf by the Straits Steamship Company, Limited. This vessel also was laid up in December, 1920. The settlement with the owners is not yet completed.

BANKRUPTCY.

There were 25 trade bankruptcies, 15 in Singapore, 2 in Malacca and 8 in Penang, with total estimated liabilities of $3,369,964 (Penang $50,730 only and Malacca $7,004 only). One Singapore rubber failure accounts for $2,581,054 and two other Singapore bankruptcies for $387,537.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

In the towns acute housing shortage and the general high cost of living everywhere pressed hard on all classes of the population.

BUILDINGS.

Progress was made with the plans for new Post Office buildings and a new General Hospital in Singapore.

INCOME TAX.

The amount of tax assessed for the year under the Income Tax Ordinance, 1920, was about $6,150,000 and the amount collected about $6,000,000.

This shows an advance of over $1,000,000 upon the 1919 results of the War Tax Ordinance, 1919, which was for all practical purposes identical in scope with the Income Tax Ordinance, 1920.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1920 amounted to $42,469,620 exceeding the estimate by $24,011,033, whilst the expenditure was $39,260,318, being $18,614,483 more than the estimate.

The revenue figure creates a new record, exceeding the 1919 figure by $8,361,155, and when it is remembered that the figure for 1919 included a transfer entry of $4,149,750 arising out of the sale of the Singapore Railway and Railway Stores in 1913, the actual increase in 1920, as compared with 1919, may be put at over 12½ million dollars.

The actual figures for 1919 and 1920 are as follows:—

A.—REVENUE.

	1919.	*1920.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	1,506	1,610	104	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	22,302,119	34,211,116	11,908,997	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	736,701	880,844	144,143	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,094,083	1,241,071	146,988	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property	1,240,762	1,232,813	...	7,949
6. Interest	1,374,153	975,196	...	398,957
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	2,845,879	1,812,970	...	1,032,909
	$29,595,203	40,355,620	12,200,232	1,439,815
8. Land Sales... ...	4,513,262	2,114,000	...	2,399,262
TOTAL ...	$34,108,465	42,469,620	12,200,232	3,839,077
		Net Increase ...	$8,361,155	

The main increases include $4,951,192 under Income Tax Collections, a new Item of Revenue, $295,146 under liquors and $118,193 under tobacco.

Stamp duties increased by $225,805, but Estate duty fell from $740,402 in 1919 to $719,605 in 1920.

The revenue from Posts and Telegraphs shows an increase of $146,988.

Interest on Bank accounts shows an increase of $16,177, on loans an increase of $53,698 and on opium purchase money outstanding $40,875 making a total increase of $110,750. On the other hand interest on investments fell from $885,663 in 1919 to $376,707 in 1920, being a fall of $508,956. There were other decreases of $751 making a total decrease of $509,707 or a net decrease over all interest items of $398,957. The loss of interest on investments was mainly due to the necessity of applying the Colony's funds in financing Food Control, all fixed deposits with Banks had to be realised.

Profits on exchange amounted to $1,424,531; this was due to the high value of the rupee in the early part of the year. Profits on money order rates amounted to $9,330 only as compared with $81,027 in 1919.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

	1919.	*1920.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions	630,636	679,920	49,284	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	11,156	14,483	3,327	...
4. The Governor ...	82,919	171,445	88,526	...
5. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillor and Residents ...	202,150	371,123	168,973	...
6. Government Printing Office	99,043	278,666	179,623	...
7. Land and District Offices	248,549	344,605	96,056	...
8. Forests	33,498	34,628	1,130	...
9. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	84,232	109,819	25,587	...
10. Treasury	123,348	211,719	88,371	...
11. Audit	46,742	75,243	28,501	...
12. Director of External Audit	...	4,912	4,912	...
13. Marine	455,215	612,715	157,500	...
14. Legal	386,339	486,977	100,638	...
15. Police	1,122,669	1,408,922	286,253	...
16. Prisons	330,380	464,383	134,003	...
17. Medical	286,319	465,380	179,061	...
18. Hospitals and Dispensaries	784,922	1,085,784	300,862	...
19. Veterinary	29,932	49,475	19,543	...
20. Education	385,478	562,086	176,608	...
21. Ecclesiastical ...	21,510	23,340	1,830	...
22. Transport	78,634	211,162	132,528	...
23. Military Expenditure ...	4,369,680	3,171,065	...	1,198,615
24. Miscellaneous Services ...	20,590,584	23,501,948	2,911,364	...
25. Post Office	678,006	881,517	203,511	...
26. Government Monopolies	484,808	590,825	106,017	...
27. Agricultural Department	1,338	8,550	7,212	...
28. Botanical Gardens ...	63,871	73,911	10,040	...
29. Raffles Museum and Library	16,574	35,946	19,372	...
30. Public Works Department	368,154	354,808	...	13,346
31. Survey Department ...	...	187,066	187,066	...
32. Public Works, Recurrent	488,493	576,148	87,655	...
33. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	892,571	1,465,890	573,319	...
War Expenditure ...	1,466,400	708,774	...	757,626
TOTAL ...	$34,901,233	39,260,318	6,328,672	1,969,587
	Net Increase	...	$4,359,085	

The expenditure on Personal Emoluments was $8,796,587 as compared with $4,685,159 in 1919. This advance was due to revisions of the salaries of Government Servants, and to the fact that arrears of 1919 salaries arising out of those revisions were paid in 1920.

Military expenditure shows a decrease of $1,198,615. This is due to the fact that no arrears of Defence Contribution for 1919 were paid.

The amount expended on salaries of acting officers amounted to $208,873.73 as compared with $126,083.78 in 1919. This increase may be attributed partly to the improved facilities for granting officers leave, and partly to revisions of salary.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the war, the following table will show the Colony's expenditure for the last seven years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

	Total Expenditure.	*Public Works Extraordinary.*
	$	$
1914 ...	7,746,594	926,077
1915 ...	7,207,478	676,463
1916 ...	6,514,527	318,788
1917 ...	6,774,048	208,908
1918 ...	8,687,204	458,257
1919 ...	29,111,433	892,571
1920 ...	35,452,052	1,465,890

Of the large figure of expenditure for 1920, which represents an increase of nearly 27 millions over 1918 and of 6 millions over 1919, Miscellaneous Services accounted for $23,501,948 which is an increase of roughly $20,000,000 on the 1918 figure. This may be almost entirely explained by the following items, which may be classed as abnormal expenditure:—

	$ c.
Loss on Rice	9,460,200.42
Food Control Administration Expenses ...	220,356.04
Contribution to Imperial War Funds ...	7,186,222.28
Immediate and Temporary Allowances ...	2,633,567.38
Total ...	$19,500,346.12

other large, and in some respects exceptional, items of ex penditure are:—

		$ c.
Johore Causeway	...	215,599.64
Purchase of Land	...	1,093,804.00
Public Works Extraordinary		1,465,890.00

The expenditure of the various Government departments has increased in every case but the Public Works Department, the most noticeable increases being Police $286,253, Hospitals and Dispensaries $300,862, Post Office $203,511, Government Printing Office $179,623, Medical $179,061, Education $176,608, Colonial Secretary $168,973, Marine $157,500.

MILITARY AND WAR EXPENDITURE.

The figure of $708,744 entered as war expenditure does not represent expenditure actually incurred in 1920, but expenditure incurred between the 1st July, 1918 and the 31st December, 1919, which had been charged to suspense account, and which was eventually adjusted by a vote taken in 1920.

The expenditure on Volunteers, Reserve Force and Civil Guard, in 1920 amounted to $72,821.91 and several small items of expenditure arising out of the war totalled $27,132.48. This expenditure has all been included under the heading "Miscellaneous Services".

Defence Contribution for 1920 was included in the sum of £1,000,000 paid to the Imperial Government in that year.

Among excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were:—

Interest $257,275, Premia on Grants $236,676, Stamp duties $1,284,875, Premia on Special Sales of Town Lands $1,753,373, Postage Stamps $202,671, Land Rents $112,680 and Miscellaneous Receipts $1,745,700.

The principal savings on the Expenditure Estimates were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $1,387,849, Post Office $139,162 and Military Expenditure $107,073. Overpayments recovered showed a sum of $111,637 not estimated for.

The following comparative statement shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past seven years:—

		Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
		$	$
1914	...	14,016,882	10,180,189
1915	...	14,131,691	10,196,560
1916	...	17,325,695	11,046,353
1917	...	19,672,104	11,369,392
1918	...	23,262,015	15,966,145
1919	...	34,108,465	34,901,233
1920	...	42,469,620	39,260,318

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1920, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		*Assets.*	
	$		$
Deposits	16,052,071	Indian Agency Account ...	817,103
		Foodstuff Agency Account	3,375,857
		Investments	10,251,117
		Advances	3,013,702
Suspense (Currency Commissioners) ...	5,140,644		
		Loans:—	
Drafts and Remittances ...	487,090	Municipalities ...	3,396,645
		Kelantan Government	120,000
Federated Malay States and Johore Foodstuff Account ...	17,133,903	Singapore Harbour Board	3,637,124
Cash in transit ...	14,574	Penang Harbour Board	587,518
		Ho Hong Steamship Co.	300,000
Excess of Assets over * Liabilities ...	44,876,032	Imprests	54,131
		Suspense (*a*)	44,335,543
		Cash	13,815,574
TOTAL ...	$83,704,314	TOTAL ...	$83,704,314

The excess of the assets over the liabilities increased during the year by $3,209,302.

* The Cash in Treasuries and Banks amounted to $18,008,534. The readily realisable investments were worth at market prices of 31st December, 1920, $9,221,785,—a total of $27,230,319 giving, after provision of $21,192,715 to meet deposits and suspense account, an available cash balance of $6,037,604.

(*a*) Includes Suspense Account Foodstuffs $44,151,402.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1920, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon service in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
Total ...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ...	3,388,205
Total ...	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was $2,082,358 in 1920. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at $28,655,700 and under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at $36,671,900.

The Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan was floated on the 20th January, 1920 and closed on the 31st August, 1920. Subscriptions amounted to $15,074,300. The bonds are bearer bonds at 5 per cent per annum redeemable at par on the 1st September, 1934.

EXCHANGE.

The demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged during the year between 2/4 $\frac{1}{32}$ and 2/3$\frac{23}{32}$.

CURRENCY.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the Currency of the Colony in circulation in the Currency Area at the end of the year consisted of $101,587,186.80 in currency notes and $6,483,003 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $153,209.

At the beginning of the year 1920, the Currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $174,631,973.70. The demand for Currency which had maintained throughout the 2nd half of 1919 continued, with little abatement, until the 4th March, 1920, and the record value of notes in Circulation was reached on that day, when it stood at $183,212,221.80.

It is curious that within 11 days exchange so varied that the reverse process started and the Currency Commissioners were called upon to sell Sterling. With a very occasional swing back of the pendulum, this process continued until the end of the year, and the Currency Commissioners sold altogether Sterling to the amount of £11,515,000. The value of notes in circulation was reduced to $101,587,186.80 by the end of the year 1920, but even this figure is more than double the pre-war figure of $43,834,548.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $54,229,332.32 consisting of £328,251 in gold held locally and $8,523,208.33 in silver partly in the Colony and partly held by the Mint Master, Bombay, for coinage purposes, and £5,004,130-2-8 in gold in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Note Guarantee and Depreciation Funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year, $43,731,892.30, the cost price of those investments being $57,631,185.36.

The decrease in value compared with original cost is due to the general depreciation of all securities.

The Note Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $100,504,679.82 (Coin portion $54,229,332.32, Investment portion $43,731,892.30 and on deposit with the Government pending investment $2,543,455.20), while the Gold Standard Reserve Fund at the same date was worth $11,462,529.31. The total of the funds controlled by the Commissioners was, therefore, $111,967,209.13, or $10,380,022.33 more than the total note circulation at the end of the year.

New subsidiary coin of 400 fine to the extent of $621,000 was received from the Bombay Mint during the year, thus completing the number ordered. This was put into circulation without delay, but the supply of silver was still insufficient and it was found necessary to increase the issue of ten-cent notes. The new issue of ten-cent notes was obtained from England, and, as was to be expected, proved to be a vast improvement on the locally printed notes. The new notes were gladly accepted by the public. Notes in circulation of a face value less than $1 stood at the end of 1920 as follows:—

	$	c.
10-cent notes printed in United Kingdom	1,565,000	00
10-cent notes printed locally ...	1,760,934	80
25-cent notes printed locally ...	38,900	00

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 4,118,343 against 3,199,912 in 1919, an increase of nearly one million. This is most satisfactory but the notes presented for cancellation were still in excess of the number destroyed.

Ten-cent notes accounted for 2,000,000 of the number destroyed.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 3,704,378, and further 5,612,546 were presented during the year, making a total of 9,316,924 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 4,118,343 as stated in the preceding paragraph, and the balance remaining for destruction at the end of the year was consequently 5,198,581.

ENEMY PROPERTY.

The balance to the credit of the Custodian of Enemy Property at the end of the year was $13,385,245.53 of which $13,205,176.38 was invested. In addition $210,076 was specially invested for the separate accounts of certain Enemies and does not appear in either of the above figures.

FOOD CONTROL.

The position at the beginning of the year was such as to cause grave anxiety, owing to the low stocks of rice in the country. Owing to a disastrous drought in Siam, the export of rice from that country, which normally has an exportable surplus of 1,000,000 tons and supplies this country with about two-thirds of its requirements, was absolutely prohibited throughout the year 1920. The export of rice

from Burma was strictly controlled by the Government of India, and the price for export had been raised to Rs. 300 per ton, which was more than double the price at which Burma rice was obtainable in 1919. No assurance at that time could be obtained from the Government of India as to the quantity of rice that would be allotted to Malaya for the year 1920. Saigon therefore was the only available free market in which rice could be bought. Although the crops in Saigon were good, the unusual competition created by conditions in Siam and Burma forced up prices in Saigon to abnormal heights, difficulties being further increased by the very adverse rate of exchange.

Contracts were entered into between November, 1919, and April, 1920, for the purchase of 130,000 tons from Saigon, money being laid down there for that purpose. From November, 1919 to February, 1920, arrangements for purchase and shipping in Saigon were made by H. B. M. Consul, but later Mr. KNOX WILSON, of Messrs. Adamson, Gilfillan & Co., proceeded to Saigon and acted as Agent for the Government. Mr. KNOX WILSON remained from 1st March until 4th June, when he proceeded to Rangoon to act in a similar capacity regarding Government purchases of Burma rice.

The average price paid for the Saigon rice was 9.30 piastres per picul, which at the rate of exchange at which the money was laid down came to $434.48 per ton, which with charges finally came to $466.45 per ton or $1.66 a gantang.

Burma Exports.—All rice bought from Burma had to be purchased through the Rice Commissioner at Rangoon at a fixed price of Rs. 300 per ton f.o.b.* The quantity allotted to Malaya was a matter for the Government of India to decide.

In January, 1920, the Straits Settlements Government was notified that 60,000 tons would be allotted to Malaya for 1st quarter of the year. In February, a further allotment of 36,000 for the whole year was made. Later in February, the year's allotment was increased to 114,000 tons, and in April the total was increased to 240,000 tons, subject to the whole quantity being purchased before the end of June.

An effort was made to obtain a reduction of price without success. Owing to the condition of purchase mentioned above, rupees were laid down in Rangoon at a time when exchange was adverse to this Government. The rice to be obtained from Burma was both white and parboiled, and to supplement the parboiled stocks, the Central Milling Agency, Penang,

* $1.06 per gantang f.o.b.

were allowed to bring in 250,000 bags of padi from Saigon to be locally milled into parboiled rice, which Government undertook to purchase from them at 95 cents per gantang.

The brands of rice known as "puttoo" and "cargo broken"—both used for animal and poultry food—were obtained from Burma and not included in the 240,000 tons allotted to Malaya. Both kinds were imported on behalf of approved parties in Singapore and Penang, the price of "cargo broken" alone being controlled.

Applications have been made from time to time for permission to import parcels of rice of special qualities for private consumption, but it has been found necessary to refuse all such requests in order to avoid (*a*) inequality of treatment of consumers and (*b*) fraudulent practices, such as sifting, etc. In addition to the purchases of rice mentioned above, a contract for the purchase of 5,000 tons of white rice from Saigon was made in September, 1920, for delivery in February and March, 1921.

Towards the end of the year, the crop prospects in the rice-growing countries of Burma, Siam and Indo-China became very good, and as a first step towards Decontrol, purchases were made of 20,000 tons of white rice from Siam, 15,000 tons of white rice from Rangoon and 5,000 tons parboiled rice from Rangoon, all for delivery early in 1921.

The object of these purchases, which were made at about 50 cents per gantang c.i.f., was to arrange with the trade that they should take over all Government balances as on February, 1921, at an average price of old and new stocks and gradually resume the distribution and supply and generally to restore their trade. The Government policy was publicly explained to rice dealers in Singapore, Penang and Kuala Lumpur during December, 1920. A detailed account of the steps taken will more properly fall into next year's report.

Local Crops.—As little interference as possible has been exercised in respect of crops grown for the owner's consumption. Rice milled from local padi has been held at the disposal of the Food Controller and padi from certain districts could only be sold to certain mills. The price of padi is not fixed, but there is a Government guarantee of a minimum price of 13 cents a gantang for 5 years from May, 1919. Detailed arrangements for giving effect to this guarantee if and when it becomes necessary to do so have been submitted to Government by the Director of Food Production.

The mills were required to keep a record of the prices they paid for padi and the resultant rice for the season was taken over at a price of 80 cents per gantang.

Distribution of rice.—Rice on arrival in Penang was taken over by the Rice Distributing Agency, stored in godowns, white rice being issued to Wholesalers for distribution to the Federated Malay States and direct to Retailers for local consumption. Later, the Wholesalers' trade was cut out, rice being imported direct to Port Swettenham from Rangoon or shipped direct to Teluk Anson from Penang.

Parboiled rice was sent to estates direct, special arrangements being made with the Federated Malay States Railways for distribution by rail.

Rice on arrival in Singapore was stored in godowns, acquired from time to time, and thence issued to Wholesalers who supplied Wholesalers outside Singapore. Formerly, there were in Singapore some 1,300 or 1,400 Retailers, but the number was cut down to about 300. To supply the community formerly served by the numerous Retail shops, a series of Depôts were organised by a voluntary Committee of Chinese gentlemen known as The Rice Distribution Board and these Depôts were of invaluable service to the community and existed until February 15th, 1921. Special thanks are due to the members of the Board for their public-spirited action, as their labours were freely given and for the general good of the people.

Household rationing, although adopted in certain portions of the Federated Malay States, was not adopted in the Colony.

Stocks.—The stock held by Government and in sight at the end of the year amounted to 74,000 tons, the estimated monthly consumption during 1920 being about 27,000 tons.

Prices.—The average price of rice delivered in 1920 and bought during 1920 for delivery 1921 (excluding 40,000 tons bought in December, 1920, for delivery January, 1921, to restore the trade) is estimated to be $1.29¼ per gantang (1 gantang = 6 catties, 1 catty = 1⅓ lbs.).

The Controlled Retail price of rice to consumers in Singapore and Penang was on January 1st, 1920, 75 cents per gantang. On 22nd January it was raised to $1 per gantang. On the 18th May it was again raised to $1.26 per gantang. On the 13th September, the price was reduced to $1 per gantang, at which price it remained until the end of the year. It was decided in view of the serious industrial position prevailing in the Peninsula to make a further reduction to 80 cents per gantang as from January 3rd, 1921. The reduction to this latter figure took effect from January 10th (Note.—A further reduction to 70 cents per gantang took place as from February 1st, rendered possible owing

to Government having bought 40,000 tons round about 50 cents per gantang as stated above). It is estimated that the loss to the three Governments of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Johore on 1st January, 1920, stood at about $7,000,000. This was entirely accounted for by compensation to dealers for heavy stocks held in July, 1919.

A further loss of about $12,500,000 was incurred between 1st January and 18th May. This loss was increased by about $2,000,000 between the 18th May and the 13th September.

Had the remaining Government stocks, other than the 40,000 tons bought round about 50 cents per gantang been sold at $1 per gantang, it is estimated that the total loss to the three Governments concerned would amount to $39,000,000 when all Government stocks were exhausted. The effect of selling at 80 cents per gantang is estimated further to increase the loss to the three Governments by $3,700,000, making a total estimated loss of $42,700,000, of which the Colony bears $\frac{3}{8}$, *i.e.*, $16,012,500. Against this loss is to be set off the profit that will accrue on the sale of 5,000 tons parboiled purchased in the neighbourhood of 40 cents per gantang, and sold at considerably higher controlled rates, a purchase made with the object of enabling Government stocks of White and Parboiled rice to be finished simultaneously.

Other foodstuffs.—The price of Australian wheat flour was controlled until April, when control prices were removed, as it was found that flour from other sources could successfully compete with Australian flour. Export is still controlled, but export in limited quantities is allowed.

When the rice position in the early part of the year was precarious, 1,000 tons of Mealie from British East Africa and 1,000 tons from South Africa were obtained. There was a good demand at first, but this slackened as rice supplies became ensured and the balance had to be sold for what it would fetch.

The bulk of the milk imported is by one Company—the Nestles Company—and the price of their products has been controlled, and only limited export allowed. Other brands introduced by other firms are dearer than Nestles and cannot compete, and the price of such brands has not been controlled.

The price of Nestles Milkmaid Sweetened Condensed—the most largely used variety—was raised from $22 per case in December, 1919, to $24.65 per case in August.

It has not been possible to make any reduction in other foodstuffs, in view of an all-round increase in the world's prices and the rise in exchange, but steps are being taken

which it is hoped will have an appreciable and favourable effect in reducing price of local market commodities.

Mr. HOSE succeeded Mr. W. PEEL as Food Controller on 15th March, 1920, and was in turn succeeded by Mr. F. M. BADDELEY on October 1st, 1920.

IMMIGRATION.

(I).—CHINESE.

One hundred and twenty-six thousand and seventy-seven immigrants arrived from China, an increase of 77·7 per cent as compared with the figure for 1919 and a decrease of 53·2 per cent as compared with that for 1911 which showed the highest number yet recorded.

As compared with the average for the previous ten years, 1910 to 1919, the number arriving in 1920 shows a decrease of 25·3 per cent.

Adult males formed 66·5 per cent and adult females 17·7 per cent of the immigrants.

Despite unfavourable exchange rates which however improved during the year and the undoubted high cost of living in the Straits, immigration increased considerably as compared with 1919. This increase was helped by a gradual fall in the passage rates both from Amoy and Swatow and Hongkong to Singapore.

(II).—SOUTHERN INDIAN.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 95,220 as compared with 101,433 in 1919.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 55,481 as against 46,767 in 1919.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1917.	*1918.*	*1919.*	*1920.*
Assisted immigrants*	78,407	55,583	88,021	78,855
Other immigrants ...	11,670	9,708	13,412	16,365
Total ...	90,077	65,291	101,433	95,220

* "Assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(i) the independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bonâ fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (ii) the Kangany labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kangany, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a month's notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

The assisted immigrant consisted of 70,514 adults and 8,341 minors. Of the adults 56,296 were men and 14,218 women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 15·92 per mille and in the Dindings 12·16 per mille. Among the 403 labourers employed on estates in Penang the death-rate was 4·96 per mille.

During 1920, 1,331 adult and 275 minor, decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The rate of assessment to the Tamil Immigration Fund was fixed at $2.50 for the first quarter and $6 for the three remaining quarters of the year 1920. The rate for the last quarter was subsequently reduced to $3.

The Income of the Fund was $5,872,283.48 and its expenditure $4,701,087.03.

(III).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,545. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force but approximately 511 local contracts for 300 days are in force in Province Wellesley.

CHINESE PROTECTORATE.

The Chinese Community has suffered severely from the slump as have other communities. Wages have fallen and at the end of the year there were signs of unemployment, notably in Malacca.

Political societies gave no real trouble.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 25,623 and 28,710, respectively.

The estimated population of the Colony was 864,858—the ascertained population in the last census year 1911 was 711,951. The crude birth-rate was 29·63 per 1,000 against 30·30 in 1919: the percentage of males born was 52, females 48.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 194·86 per thousand births against 212·42 in 1919.

The number of deaths from infantile convulsions, 3,557 (all under 2 years of age), shows the urgent necessity for training further native midwives: many of these deaths are due to tetanus of the new born, and are preventible by ordinary cleanliness.

There were 1,189 still-births, mostly due to syphilis. The death-rate, 33·20 per thousand, is a slight increase on the rate of 33·04 in 1919. The lowest death-rates in the last 10 years were 29·15 in 1915 and 30·70 in 1916: the decrease in mortality in those years was largely due to a wartime measure, and the repatriation of thousands of decrepit Chinese to their native land. The highest death-rates in the past 10 years were 46·46 per thousand in 1911, a very malarial year, and 43·85 in 1918 when the influenza epidemic struck the country.

The deaths from Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia (largely influenzal) this year are 4 times the number in 1915, while 362 deaths are directly registered as due to Influenza.

The Tamil is the most delicate, and the Chinese the hardiest of our Asiatic population. The Tamil suffers most severely from influenza and pneumonia, the Chinese least, while the Malay occupies an intermediate position. Deaths from these diseases are most numerous between 25 and 40 years of age, the most productive period of life.

Beri-beri accounted for only 1,025 deaths against 1,430 in 1919, and 1,958 in 1918. This marked decrease is coincident with the use of parboiled or undermilled rice, supplemented by other articles of diet, instead of the highly polished Siam rice.

Now that the latter is again freely obtainable the Beri-beri death-rate will doubtless rise.

It may be said with confidence that rationing has benefited the health of the native races.

The two diseases to which the greatest number of deaths are attributed are Malarial Fevers, 4,690 deaths, and Tuberculosis, 3,336 deaths.

Each year since 1917, though never before, the deaths from Tuberculosis have exceeded 3,000. The deaths from malarial fevers are about the average.

Dysentery caused 1,085 deaths and Diarrhœa 337 deaths.

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony have not played a large part in our mortality. There were 20 deaths from Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, 55 from Plague, 33 from Cholera and 3 from Small-pox.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1920.
Singapore	2340·75 m. m.
Labuan	3458·00 ,,
Penang	2584·00 ,,
Province Wellesley ...	2329·50 ,,
Malacca	2333·50 ,,
Dindings	1661·60 ,,

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 83·09. The maximum recorded was 95·0° in Penang on July 28th and 94·0 in Malacca on April 3rd. The minimum was 68·0 on 1st October and 27th November. The minimum in Singapore was 71·0 on 25th January, 16th February and 3rd August.

AGRICULTURE.

In the early part of 1920, the price of rubber was quite satisfactory and the industry appeared to be in a sound position. From the middle of the year onwards, however, there was a rapid fall in price due to restriction of credit universally and also to over-production such as had not been anticipated. The conditions in Central and Eastern Europe were such that there was no market in these countries, while the demand in Western Europe and America fell rapidly as a result of the restriction of credit. At the close of the year the price was such that it was insufficient to meet the cost of production in most cases and a condition of serious depression existed, which caused a reduction both of labour forces and of European supervision. Many estates have greatly restricted their output. Some have stopped tapping entirely. Many small owners have had to seek employment and leave their land to take care of itself, since they are unable to support themselves on the money realised by the sale of their rubber. In consequence the holdings have begun to be overgrown with bush and lalang grass, while the efforts of the Agricultural Department, commenced early in the year to encourage and, where necessary, to enforce better methods of cultivation and sanitation, have had recently to be suspended, as they were liable to cause undue hardship.

So far, fortunately, no serious diseases of rubber have been recorded apart from the prevalence of Pink Disease to some extent in Province Wellesley and the universal presence everywhere, as in the past few years, of Brown Bast.

The price of copra has been somewhat lower than in 1919, the average being about $22 per pickul. The price paid to the growers for nuts has ranged between $5 and $10 per hundred. Early in the year the Agricultural Department's officers found that coconut beetles had become extremely prevalent, especially in Malacca. This condition is partly due, in Malacca, to the absence of any restriction on the felling of coconut trees with the result that large numbers have been felled for various reasons and have been allowed to form very effective breeding places for these insects. All through the year active measures have been taken with a view to suppressing these breeding places. Lectures have been given to landowners all over Malacca, while throughout the Colony very vigorous steps have been taken under the Agricultural Pests Ordinance to have all accumulations of coconut, or other suitable refuse where beetles breed, thoroughly destroyed or buried. It will, however, take some time before a satisfactory condition of sanitation is reached and the work will be continued. No other pests of coconuts were worthy of mention.

Vegetables were fairly plentiful on the Malacca market until the middle of the year, but were scarce during the end of the second quarter and the beginning of the third.

The first main fruit crop was a failure generally and in Province Wellesley the second crop was also light. In Malacca, however, the second crop was satisfactory and fruit was plentiful and reasonably cheap at the close of the year. There was a considerable importation of fruit into Province Wellesley from Perak during December since it was plentiful in that State as elsewhere throughout the Federated Malay States.

Rice.—The harvest obtained in Malacca early in 1920 was somewhat disappointing owing to the damage done by rats and other pests. On the other hand the crop coming to maturity at the end of the year was very promising in appearance and on the whole free from pests.

The area under padi in Province Wellesley and Malacca has again shown considerable increase and is believed to be higher in Malacca than it has been for many years. In Penang the area is about the same as in 1919-1920. The increase is due to the high price of rice. Although a considerable extension of the area planted with padi has resulted from

the efforts of administrative officers and others to increase the local production of rice in order to supplement the restricted supplies obtainable from other countries during the last 2½ years, yet it should not be assumed that this increase will be of a permanent nature unless the price of rice remains above the local cost of production.

The Acting Assistant Agricultural Inspector remarks that in Province Wellesley the light yielding short season varieties are grown, as the cultivators avoid the heavy yielding varieties on account of their longer maturation period. The short season varieties are also grown in Malacca as is the general rule in the southern part of the Peninsula.

There was an outbreak of army worms on the padi nurseries in parts of Malacca, but natural enemies and heavy rain combined with hand picking of the insects rapidly eradicated them and no permanent harm resulted. The Officers of the Agricultural Department have paid considerable attention during the year to the question of padi pests and it is hoped that when investigations are completed the control of several of these may be effected. The problem of reducing the damage caused by rats is very difficult, but it is hoped that some good may be done in time. Much depends on the vigorous and complete co-operation of the owners of the padi land if effective results are to be obtained, and educational measures will be necessary to achieve this.

Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes).—This common water weed is to be found in considerable quantity in parts of Province Wellesley and Malacca. In some places it undoubtedly obstructs the flow of water to the padi fields and measures may have to be taken for its control.

It was not until the end of the year that a European Officer for the Straits Settlements Agricultural staff arrived in the country and he has had to obtain some knowledge of his duties before taking up his work in Malacca. During the year, therefore, the Assistant Agricultural Inspector, Negri Sembilan, has acted in Malacca and the Assistant Agricultural Inspector, Perak, acted in Province Wellesley on assuming his appointment in June.

The Department has made a good start with the work of training the necessary staff and also with the general work of improving agricultural methods in the Colony. This is in spite of the fact that the Department itself has been faced with a very serious shortage of officers especially in the Inspection Division, so that much credit is due to the officers who have performed the work in the Colony in addition to their already extensive duties in the Federated Malay States.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 24,027,912 as compared with 18,885,183 in 1919.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1919 and 1920.

NATIONALITY.	1919.					1920.					Increase in 1920 as compared with 1919.	Decrease in 1920 as compared with 1919.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
...	327,758	42,574	...	7,776	378,108	1,303,796	350,058	...	1,904	1,655,758	1,277,650	...
...	2,768	6,810	...	...	9,578	2,622	1,384	...	...	4,006	...	5,572
...	...	...	...	...	...	35,898	...	...	...	35,898	35,898	...
...	6,516,855	2,954,575	467,588	142,102	10,081,120	7,940,852	4,601,655	453,550	143,268	13,139,325	3,058,205	...
...	84,975	12,198	...	...	97,173	47,594	3,286	...	...	50,880	...	46,293
...	196,874	62,936	...	...	259,810	280,619	104,788	...	...	385,407	125,597	...
...	2,007,405	339,962	1,008	624	2,348,999	2,288,478	432,118	...	4,686	2,725,28[illegible]	376,283	...
...	581,307	16,162	7,374	...	604,843	838,755	28,694	204	...	867,653	262,810	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	11,484	...	...	...	11,484	11,484	...
...	11,872	...	...	...	11,872	13,934	...	...	...	13,934	2,062	...
...	47,854	...	...	...	47,854	166,296	147,302	...	...	313,598	265,744	...
ed ...	178,374	...	...	...	178,374	78,334	...	...	...	78,334	...	100,040
...	3,439,605	517,635	88,430	57,730	4,102,800	3,541,520	455,762	98,490	62,690	4,158,462	55,662	...
an ...	163,112	20,156	...	...	183,268	89,364	20,340	...	...	109,704	...	73,564
se ...	16,286	...	...	...	16,286	31,354	...	...	...	31,354	15,068	...
...	88,742	4,170	...	...	92,912	55,508	...	...	...	55,508	...	37,404
...	104,614	...	...	14,650	119,264	79,504	258	...	346	80,108	...	39,156
..	230,872	21,682	...	...	252,554	193,837	4,190	...	12,128	210,155	...	42,399
...	48,626	3,742	...	...	52,368	56,370	...	...	...	56,370	4,002	...
...	41,476	6,524	...	...	48,000	44,692	...	...	...	44,692	...	3,308
LS ...	14,088,775	4,009,126	564,400	222,882	18,885,183	17,100,811	6,149,835	552,244	225,022	24,027,912	...	...
										Net Increase ...		5,142,729

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1916	...	...	19,528,671 tons.
1917	...	...	15,784,369 ,,
1918	...	...	13,064,270 ,,
1919	...	...	18,885,183 ,,
1920	...	...	24,027,912 ,,

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 62,395 in number and 2,576,161 in tons in 1920 as compared with 63,770 and 2,566,091, respectively, in 1919.

Seven new steam-launches and motor-vessels with a tonnage of 149 tons gross and 48 sailing-vessels of 5,120 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1910, 28 new sailing-vessels of 3,078 tons were licensed under section 425, and 560 vessels of 8,323 tons were registered under section 426.

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony in 1920, which was satisfactory for the first six months of that year, declined soon after the close of the half-year.

The following figures excluding Coin and Bullion show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling for the last five years.

Merchandise—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Merchandise. Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports Merchandise. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1916 ...	61,855	56,934	...	...
1917 ...	73,987	72,307	12,132	+15,373
1918 ...	81,618	71,922	7,631	− 385
1919 ...	96,664	99,318	15,046	+ 27,396
1920 ...	124,216	102,536	27,552	+ 3,218

The value of the inter-port trade, including treasure for the last five years, was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports. Increase over the preceding year.*	*Exports. Increase over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1916 ...	6,412	6,488	...	...
1917	8,137	8,720	1,725	2,232
1918 ...	*9,183	*9,584	1,046	864
1919 ...	†13,164	†13,235	3,981	3,651
1920 ...	14,938	14,797	1,774	1,562

The aggregate trade for the year 1920 was therefore £226·7 millions, against £195·9 millions in 1919, an increase of £30·8 millions over 1919.

Bullion and Specie.—The figures for Bullion and Specie in thousands of pounds sterling for the year were:—

Imports.	*Exports.*
£	£
23,975	16,936

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows:—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1919.	*1920.*	*1919.*	*1920.*
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	34,901	43,579	26,659	28,141
2. Raw Materials	44,767	47,510	60,112	59,229
3. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles	16,996	33,127	12,547	15,166
TOTAL ...	96,664	124,216	99,318	102,536

The figures, except exports of "Raw Materials", exceeded those of the previous year.

The volume of Straits Produce shipped was in many cases less than in 1919.

* Excluding Coin and Bullion. † Coin and Bullion included for second half of 1919 only.

Articles of Straits Produce on the whole gave larger average prices than in 1919.

Tin.—The imports of tin and tin-ore were in 1920, 84,000 and 1,068,000 pikuls, respectively, as against 179,000 and 1,038,000 pikuls, respectively, in 1919 as shown below:—

	1919.		1920.	
	Tin.	*Tin Ore.*	*Tin.*	*Tin Ore.*
	Pikuls.	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*
Malay States ...	133,000	686,000	61,000	732,000
Netherlands Indies	38,000	113,000	1,000	146,000
Siam ...	6,000	207,000	5,000	143,000
Other Countries ...	2,000	32,000	17,000	47,000
Total ...	179,000	1,038,000	84,000	1,068,000

The exports of tin in 1919 and 1920 were as follows:—

	1919.		1920.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
		$		$
United Kingdom	324,000	41,347,000	225,000	34,344,000
United States of America ...	454,000	59,928,000	472,000	73,095,000
Other Countries	219,000	27,445,000	131,000	20,325,000
Total ...	997,000	128,720,000	828,000	127,764,000

Para Rubber.—The imports of Para Rubber in 1919 and 1920 from the following countries were as follows:—

	1919.		1920.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
		$		$
Malay States ...	1,412,000	132,093,000	1,305,000	120,454,000
Netherlands Indies...	456,000	37,089,000	373,000	30,009,000
Other Countries	79,000	6,623,000	80,000	7,398,000
Total ...	1,947,000	175,805,000	1,758,000	157,861,000

The exports of Para Rubber in 1919 and 1920 to the following countries were as follows:—

	1919.		1920.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
United Kingdom	406,000	44,088,000	406,000	40,507,000
United States of America ...	2,310,000	230,511,000	1,880,000	202,008,000
Other Countries	254,000	24,227,000	277,000	26,455,000
Total ...	2,970,000	298,826,000	2,563,000	268,970,000

It will thus be seen that there was a decrease in quantity of tin exported in 1920, and the value also decreased by nearly one million dollars.

As regards Para Rubber, both Imports and Exports showed large decreases in quantity and value as compared with the previous year. The value of imports decreased by nearly 18 million dollars and that of exports by over 29 million dollars.

IMPORTS.

In "Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics," increased values are seen under the sub-heads rice, fish, dry and salted, preserved fruits, bran, wheat flour, milk, brandy, oilman's stores, arecanuts, cigars and cigarettes and Benares opium, but sago flour, black pepper and sugar fell in values.

Under the heading "Raw Materials," enhanced values appear in tin-ore, coal, rattans, benzine, timber and kachang oil, while decreased import values are apparent in tin, Para rubber and Illipi nuts.

In the "Manufactured Class," cotton piece-goods, yarns, apparel, sarongs, slendangs and kains, silk piece-goods, machinery, ironware, motor-cars, motor-cycles and accessories, cement, rubber tyres and woodenware show increased values, but gunnies fell in value.

In quantities imported there were increases under coffee, bran, wheat flour, salt, cotton piece-goods, cement and benzine.

Declines in quantities are most noticeable in rice, Para rubber, sugar, ground-nuts and copra.

EXPORTS.

Exports of the following show increased values:—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Coffee, fish, dry and salted, preserved pineapples, oilman's stores, arecanuts, chandu, bran, wheat flour, cigars and cigarettes and milk.

"Raw Materials"—

Copra, gum copal, gutta percha and rattans.

"Manufactured Class"—

Sarongs, slendangs and kains, yarns, motor-cars, motor-cycles and accessories and tanned hides, while decreases are apparent in—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Rice, sugar and black pepper.

"Raw Materials"—

Para rubber and Illipi nuts.

"Manufactured Class"—

Chemicals and gunnies.

The quantities of coffee, preserved pineapples, wheat flour, copra and rattans show an increase.

A decrease in volume is recorded of rice, beans and peas, sago, tapioca, Para rubber, pepper and tin.

TRADE BY COUNTRIES.

The following statement shows the position of the Colony in the years 1919 and 1920 as a market for British, European, American, Japanese and other foreign goods.

(The value of the trade in merchandise with the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, United States of America, and Japan is shown in thousands of pounds sterling.)

		Imports.		*Exports.*	
		1919.	*1920.*	*1919.*	*1920.*
		£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		6,385	18,334	15,846	12,565
Belgium	Continent of Europe.	9	328	414	585
Denmark	Continent of Europe.	9	83	1,083	2,332
France	Continent of Europe.	267	432	3,229	2,927
Germany	Continent of Europe.	...	231	...	307
Holland	Continent of Europe.	135	729	206	1,323
Italy	Continent of Europe.	139	664	797	808
Norway	Continent of Europe.	5	64	8	...
Sweden	Continent of Europe.	6	94	25	1
Spain	Continent of Europe.	19	31	35	63
United States of America		3,441	5,595	35,271	33,846
Japan		4,165	5,437	2,963	1,918

The articles which gave the largest increased values from the United Kingdom were hardware and ironware including cooking utensils, steel, paper and stationery, linseed oil, canvas, machinery including electrical goods, cotton piece-goods, apparel, hosiery and millinery, corrugated iron and cement.

From the United States of America increases in imports are seen in cigars and cigarettes, tinned provisions including fruits, milk, rubber tyres, paper and stationery, motor-cars and accessories and decreases in tools and implements and petroleum.

From Japan the following show advances in imports:—

Coal, cotton piece-goods, apparel, and hosiery, while matches, chemicals and fishmaws show declines.

Exports to the United Kingdom showed advances in such articles as preserved pineapples and gutta percha, but decreases took place in tin, sago, pepper, tapioca, Para rubber and copra.

In our Exports

to France—Tin, rattans and coffee,

to Italy—Tin, sago and Para rubber,

to Denmark—Copra,

all advanced, declines being seen in copra, Para rubber and coconut oil to France, copra and coconut oil to Italy, and coconut oil and coffee to Denmark.

The principal exports to Belgium were sago, copra, and Para rubber; to Holland copra, rattans, sago and Para rubber; to Spain copra and sago, and to Germany copra, rattans and Para rubber.

Exports to the United States advanced in values of tin, rattans and gum copal, but copra and Para rubber fell in values.

Exports to Japan showed increases in values of phosphate of lime, while declines are seen in Para rubber, tin and gunnies.

There was a rise in the total value of exports to Australia and New Zealand, Netherlands Indies, Malay States, French Indo-China, North Borneo and Sarawak, British India and Burma, but Siam and Siamese States and Hongkong and China showed decreases.

A Committee was appointed early in the year to inquire into the present system of the Registration of Imports and Exports in the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States and to make proposals for the proper compilation and co-ordination of the statistics of British Malaya. The Committee met in Kuala Lumpur and a report was consequently drawn up and sent in to Government in November last.

FORESTS.

The area of reserved forests was increased by the addition of 155 acres to the Tanjong Burong Reserve in the Dindings. A further 754 acres were ready for final notification at the end of the year. The total area of reserved forests amounted to 106,168 acres, being 11 per cent of the aggregate area of all Settlements.

Revenue and expenditure were $57,268 and $42,849 respectively, compared with $65,754 and $34,064 in 1919, giving a surplus of $14,419. There was an increase of revenue in Singapore due to the high prices obtained for the sale of the mangrove coupes. There were decreases in revenue in all other Settlements, that in Malacca amounting to $5,899.54. As was pointed out in the report for 1919 the revenue for that year was abnormally high. The expenditure figures exclude temporary allowances but include arrears of pay due as a result of alterations in rates of salaries.

The outturn of timber was 10,837 tons and of fuel 27,358 tons.

One hundred thousand mangrove seedlings were planted in Sungei Acheh Forest Reserve in Province Wellesley. The only expenditure incurred was $110 for the purchase of seed. Examination of the areas planted with bakau in former years in the Tanjong Burong Reserve shows that the planting has been successful. If the cost of this planting can be kept reasonably low it is likely to prove a useful silvicultural operation.

Forty-six breaches of the forest laws were reported, of which 23 were compounded and 23 taken into Court. In the latter cases the total amount of the fines was $524, and of compensation for damages $212. In the compounded cases compensation of $625 was demanded of which $65 was unpaid at the end of the year.

Toward the end of the year arrangements were being made, but were not completed, for the supervision of the forest work in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings by senior officers of the Federated Malay States Forest Service. Forest operations have suffered much in the past for want of such supervision.

LAND.

The Revenue was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1919	256,449	12,109	152,944	421,502
	1920	247,794	19,028	1,792,913	2,059,735
Penang ...	1919	195,632	19,498	9,106	224,236
	1920	214,057	21,194	21,424	256,675
Malacca ...	1919	499,958	25,284	196,657	721,899
	1920	571,400	16,078	313,700	901,178
Labuan ...	1919	2,692	524	36	3,252
	1920	4,037	4,266	1,027	9,330
Total...	1919	954,731	57,415	358,743	1,370,889
	1920	—	—	—	—

PENANG.

—	Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
North-east District ...	49,573 89	5,437 45	9,260 00	64,271 34

Land Revenue increased by $3,329 chiefly under the heading of Miscellaneous Receipts. There were seven applications for Crown Land. One was refused, one withdrawn, two are awaiting survey of Penang Hill and three are under consideration. Auction of Crown Land which had been suspended owing to restrictions on alienation was resumed during the year.

There were 47 applications for subdivisional surveys and 26 for re-surveys. Action on 27 was completed.

11,150 deeds were presented for registration as against 13,670 in 1919. There was a marked decrease in the latter part of the year owing to trade depression and tightness of the money market.

PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

Revenue collected in 1920 was as follows:—

			$ c.
Land Revenue	...	...	83,480 87
Reimbursements	...	...	7,679 73
Land Sales	...	...	6,032 00

Land Rents increased by about $1,900 over the figures of 1919.

172 acres, 3 roods and 10 poles of Crown Land were alienated during the year and the premium collected amounted to $6,032.

The padi harvest was fairly good. A threatened failure was averted by the fall of rain two or three months after the usual planting time.

MALACCA.

Receipts on account of rents on Grants and Leases and assessment under the Malacca Lands Ordinance amounted to $453,251 in 1919 as against $412,931 in 1918. In 1920 $538,420.

ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

SINGAPORE.

	1916.	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*	*1920.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,442 0 39	2,034 3 10	599 0 03	392 3 25	340 3 34
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	40,220	61,182	237,980	204,130	131,908
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	63	87	79	83	88
Premia paid ...	$49,299	$76,113	$291,273	$348,235	$1,780,736

PENANG.

	1916.	*1917.*	*1918.*	*1919.*	*1920.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,576 2 39	636 1 10	472 0 19	16 1 32	556 3 00
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	5,840	9,015	12,228	Nil.	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	161	288	151	1	83
Premia paid ...	$19,906	$8,022	$4,109	$2,457.50	$15,422.00

MALACCA.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted...	4,581 2 20	7,113 2 28	8,721 0 12	4,214 0 08	1,919 2 38
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	33,884	...	738	20,190	15,957
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	432 & 2 Mining Leases.	494	286	219	108
Premia paid ...	$82,975	$143,267	$172,622	$77,207	$50,170

LABUAN.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	667 2 28	185 2 12	...	...	1,403 1 26
,, Town Lots	0 2 26	0 2 13	0 4 10	17 1 17	...
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	93	62	39	73	290
	(13 new Grants & 80 in exchange for old titles.)		(18 new Grants & 44 in exchange for old titles.)	(in exchange for old titles.)	
Premia paid ...	$447	$460	$83	$36	$1,027.64

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

The number of deeds presented for registration in Singapore was 6,714 as compared with 6,561 in 1919, and the number of deeds finally registered, 6,835, as against 5,915 in 1919. Conveyances and Assignments accounted for 3,282, Mortgages for 1,672, and Reconveyances for 1,302. Revenue amounted to $26,967.95. The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1915, is not in force in the Settlement of Malacca.

REGISTRIES OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Last year was the fifth year during which the Companies Ordinance, 1915, was in force. Seventy-three new companies were registered with a capital of $83,097,015; of these, 34 were private companies with a capital of $19,707,140.

At the end of the year 345 companies remained on the register of which 30 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 335 companies which carry on a business was $145,851,250.

Four hundred and forty companies not registered in the Colony, have filed documents under the 1915 Ordinance; of these, 342 are British, 29 are Japanese, 26 are Dutch and 23 are incorporated in the United States, America. Apart

from these, 13 companies of which 12 are British have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of five foreign companies. Fifty-seven companies do Fire Insurance business.

The total revenue of the department was $36,632.31.

LIQUORS AND TOBACCO.

Liquors.—The revenue from liquors amounted to $3,413,899.27 as against $3,125,262.28 in 1919.

The system of distributing Toddy licences on the basis of tenders submitted in respect of individual shops introduced last year continued to work well and with satisfactory financial results. The revenue from Toddy in 1920 amounted to $373,597.36, being $100,064.58 more than in 1919.

Rules under the Liquors Revenue Ordinance were passed by resolution of the Legislative Council on the 23rd of January providing for the nature and origin of European liquors being clearly described on the labels of the receptacles in which they were offered for sale by retail.

Tobacco.—The total tobacco revenue collected in Singapore, Penang and Malacca during the year was $1,668,663.42 as against $1,550,135.86 in 1919.

The revenue from tobacco in the Settlement of Labuan was $3,949.77 as against $3,894.16 in the preceding year.

Prosecutions.—The total number of cases instituted by the Department during the year was 322 in Singapore, 127 in Penang and 56 in Malacca.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 13,917,430, an average of 16·09 per inhabitant, as against 15·58 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 11,651,860, as compared with 9,355,950 in 1919. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year 1920 was 578,006 as compared with 497,843 in 1919 whilst the number received over the Government telegraph lines increased from 442,744 in 1919 to 488,931 in 1920. The number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges increased from 891 to 936.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1920, was $1,761,845.48, an increase of 18 per cent as compared with the amount on

December 31st, 1919. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $187.01. There was a profit on the year's working of $31,340.58. The estimated present value of the investments is $1,444,287.46.

Money Order and Postal Order transactions amounted in value to $7,972,307, an increase of $2,176,307.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 33 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Durian Tunggal (Malacca), Jarak, Kreh, Penanti, Pinang-Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley). Of these 21 are telegraph offices.

LEGISLATION.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1920 were 32 in number, including two Supply Ordinances. Seventeen of these are amending Ordinances.

2. The most important of the Ordinances which are not amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Victory Loan Ordinance (No. 1) which authorises the Straits Settlements Government to raise a loan in order that such moneys may be lent to the Imperial Government.

(ii) The Income Tax Ordinance (No. 3) authorising the continuation of a tax on income on the same principles as those on which War Tax was levied during the continuance of the war. A total contribution to the Imperial Government of £1,000,000 in respect of the year 1920 was voted by the Legislative Council on the 19th day of December, 1919, and the principle that the proceeds of an income tax on lines similar to the former War Tax was also accepted by the Council.

(iii) The Clearing Office Ordinance (No. 18) which provides for the establishment of a Local Clearing Office in accordance with the Treaty of Peace Order in Council of 18th August, 1919.

(iv) The Registration of Schools Ordinance (No. 21) which provides for the registration of all schools (except British Military Schools) and of all teachers employed in them for the purpose of control.

3. The principal amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Railway and Police Force (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which provides that persons in the service of the Federated Malay States Railway Police when serving in the Colony shall have the same rights and be subject to the same obligations as members of the Police Force of the Colony.

(ii) The Labour Ordinance (No. 19) which consolidates the law relating to labour in the Colony. It is modelled on the Federated Malay States Labour Code, 1912, and makes the law more uniform as between the Colony and the Federated Malay States.

(iii) The Police Force Ordinance (No. 20) which consolidates the several Ordinances dealing with the constitution, powers, duties and discipline of the Police Force. It also provides for the creation of a Volunteer Police Reserve for service in each Settlement.

(iv) The Land Acquisition Ordinance, 1920 (No. 28) which consolidates and amends the existing law relating to the acquisition of land for public purposes and for Companies. The decision to recast the law arose out of the recommendation of the Singapore Housing Commission, and the law at present existing in India has been followed to a considerable extent.

(v) The Former Enemy Aliens Admission (Amendment Ordinance (No. 30) which empowers the issue of temporary permits to former enemy aliens whose passports have been visaed by British Authorities in Europe, and amends the definition of "Former Enemy Alien" in accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State.

EDUCATION.

The expenditure on the nine Government English schools was $352,424.16, on the 43 aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Malay, Tamil and Chinese) $709,913.14 and on the 193 Government vernacular schools $220,236.02.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $28,110.27.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show a decrease of 7 over the figures for 1919. The Normal Classes continued their work during the year, and 29 Normal Class Certificates were issued.

The Department was still very short-handed. One master retired, while on furlough, on account of ill-health. 5 new masters and 3 new mistresses had arrived before the end of the year.

The Committee appointed to make recommendations as to what permanent form of educational memorial should mark the Centenary of Singapore sent in its report in due course. The proposal is to found an institution for higher education to be known as Raffles College, and to reorganise the work and curriculum of the schools. The Government of the Straits Settlements has promised a donation of $1,000,000 towards building the College, and has undertaken to contribute $50,000 annually towards its maintenance. Generous help has been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Johore, and handsome subscriptions have been received from merchants and others.

To ensure the success of the College it is necessary, as recommended by the Committee, to raise the present level of the schools. For this, Training for Teachers is required, and a sufficient and competent European staff.

The present schools are crowded and steps are being taken to provide new schools.

Approval has been given for two new appointments:—(1) a Chief Inspector of English Schools, who will supervise the work of all Secondary Classes in the Colony and the Federated Malay States and (2) an Inspectress of Schools, who will be in charge of the Elementary work of the Girls' Schools.

Progress was made with the preparation of the new series of modern Malay text-books for the Malay Vernacular schools. An advanced Teachers' Arithmetic, four new Readers and a Guide to Malay Letter-Writing were printed during the year; and a Physical Geography and a Malay Dictionary for Malays were nearly completed for the press.

Further progress was made with Basketry, and it is now taught by many Trained Teachers in the Malay village schools.

A Lady Supervisor for Malay Girls' Schools arrived towards the end of the year.

The building of a Central Training College for the Malay Teachers of the Colony and the Federated Malay States was commenced in Perak. As soon as it is erected and staffed, elementary botany and agriculture will be taught in all Malay village schools.

RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

With the retirement in 1919 of Dr. HANITSCH, Director of the Raffles Museum and Library for 24 years, an important chapter in the history of the Department was brought to a close. The arrival of his successor and a trained Librarian in May, 1920, resulted in a certain amount of reorganisation work which occupied the greater part of the year.

Accessions to the Museum were up to the average of former years. The most important was a collection of natural history specimens obtained in Borneo by the Director and Museum Collectors from September to November. Over 400 bird-skins were obtained, representing some 160 different species. Among the mammals obtained, two (a Badger and Squirrel) have been described as new to science. Useful collections of Reptiles, Invertebrates and Ethnological specimens were also made. These had not been worked out by the end of the year. Among the Miscellaneous Accessions during the year was a German Trench Mortar, deposited in the Museum by the Colonial Government.

The public interest in the Museum and Library appeared to be well-maintained. Although no regular count of visitors is kept, a count was taken at the door for one week in each of the last six months of the year. From figures thus obtained it is estimated that about 250,000 visited the Museum and Library during the year, of whom 170,000 entered the Museum only.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the Department was as follows :—

	Singapore.	*Penang.*	*Malacca.*	*Labuan.*	*Total.*
ESTABLISHMENTS.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
(1) Salaries ...	124,969.09	105,380.60	43,397.53	6,872.00	280,619.22
(2) Other Charges	24,254.72	18,092.66	10,437.84	1,247.08	54,032.30
ANNUALLY RECURRENT.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	161,403.45	358,787.01	222,395.19	4,162.39	746,748.04
(2) Buildings, etc.	268,973.81	182,524.19	81,358.59	4,236.76	537,093.35
SPECIAL SERVICES.					
(1) Roads, etc. ...	35,241.38	300,057.59	683,428.98	1,999.00	1,020,726.95
(2) Buildings, etc.	1,051,136.62	256,604.04	191,569.06	7,814.09	1,507,123.81
Miscellaneous Services	114,167.33	67,825.43	6,324.67	1,420.13	189,737.56
Total ...	$1,780,146.40	1,289,271.52	1,238,911.86	27,751.45	4,336,081.23

No new public buildings of importance were completed during the year but extensive Anti-Malarial Works at the Dindings were carried out.

ROADS.

In Singapore.—Nearly five-and-half miles of roads were converted from laterite to granite and seven miles of asphalting surface applied to granite and other metalled roads.

In Penang.—Three miles of road were re-metalled and tarred.

In Province Wellesley.—Progress was made with the earthwork of the new road connecting the South of the Province with Kedah frontier.

In Malacca.—Nine miles of road were reconstructed.

The metalled roads in the Colony are as follows:—

Singapore	...	...	96·26 miles.
Penang and Dindings		...	70·55 ,,
Province Wellesley		...	167·00 ,,
Malacca	...	...	249·50 ,,
Labuan	...	...	4·50 ,,
			587·81

The Department has also charge of 49·13 miles of gravelled roads in Penang and Malacca and 97·44 miles of natural roads of which the greater part lies in Province Wellesley, Dindings, Malacca and Labuan. Main roads in the Colony will be found marked on the Map.

RURAL BOARDS.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure of the Rural Boards, which carry out in areas outside Municipal limits such of the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance as are applicable to country districts:—

		Revenue.		*Expenditure.*	
		$	c.	$	c.
Singapore Island	...	* 201,156	00	249,219	00
Penang Island	...	77,009	00	156,510	00
Province Wellesley	...	360,123	00	504,297	00
Dindings ...	...	36,233	00	56,633	00
Malacca ...	...	608,663	00	897,176	00

The deficit in the revenue of the Rural Boards is made good by contributions from the Government.

* Exclusive of Education Rate but inclusive of dog tax collected by Police, and bank interest.

POLICE.

The total strength of the Force at the end of the year was 2714 distributed as follows:—

Singapore and Christmas Island ...	1,212
Penang, Province Wellesley and Dindings	1,014
Malacca	401
Labuan and Brunei	87
The authorised strength of the Force was	2,960

All appointments for Europeans were filled at the end of the year, except two in the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police. The Probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police appointed and Probationary Inspectors enrolled had all served in His Majesty's Forces and all promise well. Recruiting for the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingents was not satisfactory (though an improvement took place towards the end of the year), and for the Sikh Contingent was entirely at a standstill. The Subadar was sent to India in April on a recruiting campaign, but achieved very little success.

Gambling was not noticeably prevalent in Singapore during the year; it was active in Penang, more particularly amongst women, and in Province Wellesley, though very good work was done by the Gambling Suppression Branch; there was comparatively little gambling in Malacca, especially towards the end of the year.

The cost of the Department was $1,304,773.47.

The returns of the more serious offences reported are:—

	1919.	*1920.*
Murder	31	46
Gang robbery	31	67
Robbery	131	127
House-breaking	423	529
Theft	2,325	2,854

The total number of cases in which arrests were effected with or without warrant in the Colony during the year was 22,509, compared with 17,735 in 1919. 145 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 171 in 1919.

PRISONS.

Criminal Prisons.—At the beginning of the year there were 867 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 3,847 were admitted and 3,879 discharged during the year; and 835 remained at the end of the year.

There were only 35 prisoners of the "habitual" class in prison at the end of the year.

Prison offences showed an average of ·9 per annum per convict as against 1 in the preceding year.

The number of "Middle-Grade" convicts—the men available for industrial labour was 163 in 1920, 143 in 1919, and 134 in 1918. The "Upper-Grade" men (59 in number) are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-Grade" men at stone-breaking and the "Short Sentence" and "Revenue Grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue-duties.

There were three executions (two in Singapore, one in Penang and none in Malacca), in pursuance of sentences of the Supreme Court.

Civil Prisons.—There were 156 occupants of the Civil Prisons of the Colony at the beginning of the year: 6,136 were admitted and 6,146 discharged during the year; and there remained 146 at its end.

Houses of Detention.—In these buildings, which are part of the Civil Prisons, there were 56 vagrants at the beginning of the year and 93 at the close of the year: 677 were admitted and 633 discharged. Of this last number 47 found employment and 523 were repatriated.

General.—The sanitary condition of the Prison and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory. The water carriage system for the removal of night-soil, etc., has been extended to the Workyards and is a great improvement.

The Prison was free from Beri-beri, Scurvy and Enteric Fever.

There was a marked decrease in the number of cases of Dysentery treated.

There were only 10 cases with 2 deaths, against 28 and 9 in 1919.

Five hundred and twenty-nine (529) prisoners were admitted to Hospital and the average daily sick was 24.

No European and Eurasian prisoners were admitted. 393 were criminal prisoners. 30 from Civil Prison and 106 vagrants.

There were 25 deaths in Hospital—13 occurred amongst Long Sentence prisoners, 5 Short Sentence, 2 Revenue Grade, 3 Vagrants and 2 Civil.

The total expenditure of the department was $489,126.24, and its revenue $27,493.23 besides which articles to the value of $4,000.42 were supplied to Government departments.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

In Singapore the total imports of live-stock were 859 horses, 36,219 cattle, 25,964 sheep, 5,388 goats, 104,988 swine, 432 dogs and 683 buffaloes as compared with 774 horses, 31,721 cattle, 27,122 sheep, 6,111 goats, 130,911 swine, 227 dogs and 821 buffaloes in 1919.

The total number of live-stock exported from Singapore was 701 horses, 5,936 cattle, 6,854 sheep, 1,542 goats, 30,946 swine, 257 dogs and 104 buffaloes as compared with 541 horses, 4,551 cattle, 6,317 sheep, 2,387 goats, 65,784 swine, 216 dogs and 201 buffaloes in 1919.

The total Revenue collected during 1920 amounted to $29,943.40 as compared with $35,242.85 in 1919.

The health of animals in Singapore was generally good.

Cases of rinderpest occurred from time to time amongst cattle imported from Siam, but no epidemic occurred.

The importation of cattle from Monthon Patani, Siam, was prohibited in November on account of rinderpest.

At the end of the year an outbreak of rinderpest, introduced from India, occurred amongst milking buffaloes and the infected animals were removed to the Quarantine Station. The outbreak has so far been confined to one stable.

There was no case of glanders or anthrax during the year.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to ($9,537,414), and their expenditure, excluding sums spent on Loan Works, to ($9,829,080). The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure appear below.

REVENUE.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,884,353	4,375,493	4,943,059	5,640,304	6,862,574
Penang ...	1,429,251	1,537,937	1,592,449	1,716,350	2,404,398
Malacca ...	177,742	210,149	226,862	242,185	270,442

EXPENDITURE.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	3,743,261	4,244,657	5,034,593	5,904,808	7,071,546
Penang ...	1,268,865	1,380,139	1,577,409	1,870,282	2,466,382
Malacca ...	160,655	185,682	259,283	264,562	291,152

SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD.

The income and expenditure of the Board at Singapore (first as the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board and latterly as the Singapore Harbour Board) for the seven-and-half years 1913—30th June, 1920, have been as follows:—

	Income.	*Expenditure*
	$	$
1913	6,091,296	4,070,912
1914	5,834,893	3,875,738
1915	5,432,425	3,421,271
1916	6,785,372	4,203,355
1917	7,931,597	4,665,596
1918	9,617,718	5,444,410
1919 (half-year to 30th June only)* ...	5,529,415	3,208,130
1920 (year ending 30th June, 1920)	20,754,623	11,079,039

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1920, at $51,548,956 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $2,852,294 from reserve accounts.

* The preparation of interim Half-yearly Accounts to 31st December having now been discontinued in favour of Yearly Accounts to 30th June, yearly figures to December as heretofore can no longer be given.

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Number of Vessels ...	2,544	2,364	2,329	2,400	2,114	2,416	2,497
Nett Tonnage	5,445,273	4,307,082	4,348,927	3,938,659	3,330,791	4,530,834	5,244,274
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	1,248,032	1,021,452	1,067,824	1,039,202	732,231	847,691	907,554
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	1,229,205	1,323,637	1,339,129	1,369,606	1,213,730	1,324,116	1,642,264

The tonnage occupying the Graving Docks during the years 1918, 1919, and 1920 based on the daily tonnage in dock was:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.
No. 1 Dock	233,023	369,339	467,796
No. 2 Dock	216,211	505,270	799,425
The Victoria Dock ...	253,074	987,000	600,127
The Albert Dock ...	407,319	895,870	813,105
The King's Dock ...	736,214	1,483,460	1,283,422

PENANG HARBOUR BOARD.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock for the year 1920 were $1,577,433* and the expenditure $1,398,080.*

The following figures are taken from the wharf tonnage returns:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Number of Vessels ...	596	728	661	532	513	554	616
Nett Tonnage	1,108,319	871,524	810,675	687,377	581,132	760,100	1,081,414
Coal (Inwards and Outwards)	266,146	72,016	93,388	106,676	60,029	39,356	72,463
Cargo (Inwards and Outwards)	313,360	254,066	245,681	247,051	251,183	242,544	290,153

F. S. JAMES,
Colonial Secretary.

22nd July, 1921.

* Approximate only, and subject to audit.

List of Publications for Sale in the Agricultural Department, Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

1. Coffee Robusta, by W. J. GALLAGHER, 1910. 20 cents a copy.

2. The Cultivation and care of Para Rubber Tree (in Malay), 1910. 20 cents a copy.

3. Coconut Cultivation, by L. C. BROWN, 1911. 20 cents a copy.

4. Padi Cultivation in Krian, by H. C. PRATT, 1911. 20 cents a copy.

5. Camphor, its Cultivation and preparation in the Federated Malay States, by B. J. EATON, Agricultural Chemist, 1912. 20 cents a copy.

6. The Preparation of Plantation Para rubber, by B. J. EATON, Agricultural Chemist, 1912. 20 cents a copy.

7. Agriculture in Malaya in 1912, by L. LEWTON-BRAIN, Director of Agriculture, 1913. 20 cents a copy.

8. Agriculture in Malaya in 1913, by L. LEWTON-BRAIN, 1914. 20 cents a copy.

9. The Tapping of Para rubber tree, by E. BATESON, Assistant Mycologist, 1914. 20 cents a copy.

10. Vegetable Culture in Malaya, by F. G. SPRING and J. N. MILSUM, 1917. 50 cents a copy.

11. The Preparation and Vulcanisation of Plantation Para rubber, by B. J. EATON, Agricultural Chemist, J. GRANTHAM and F. W. F. DAY, Assistant Agricultural Chemists, 1918. $1 a copy.

12. Fruit Culture in Malaya, by J. N. MILSUM, 1919. $1 a copy.

13. Food Production in Malaya, by F. G. SPRING and J. N. MILSUM. $1 a copy.

Annual Reports on all Departments, the Straits Settlements Blue Book and the Annual Report on the Colony are all on sale at the Government Printing Office, Singapore.

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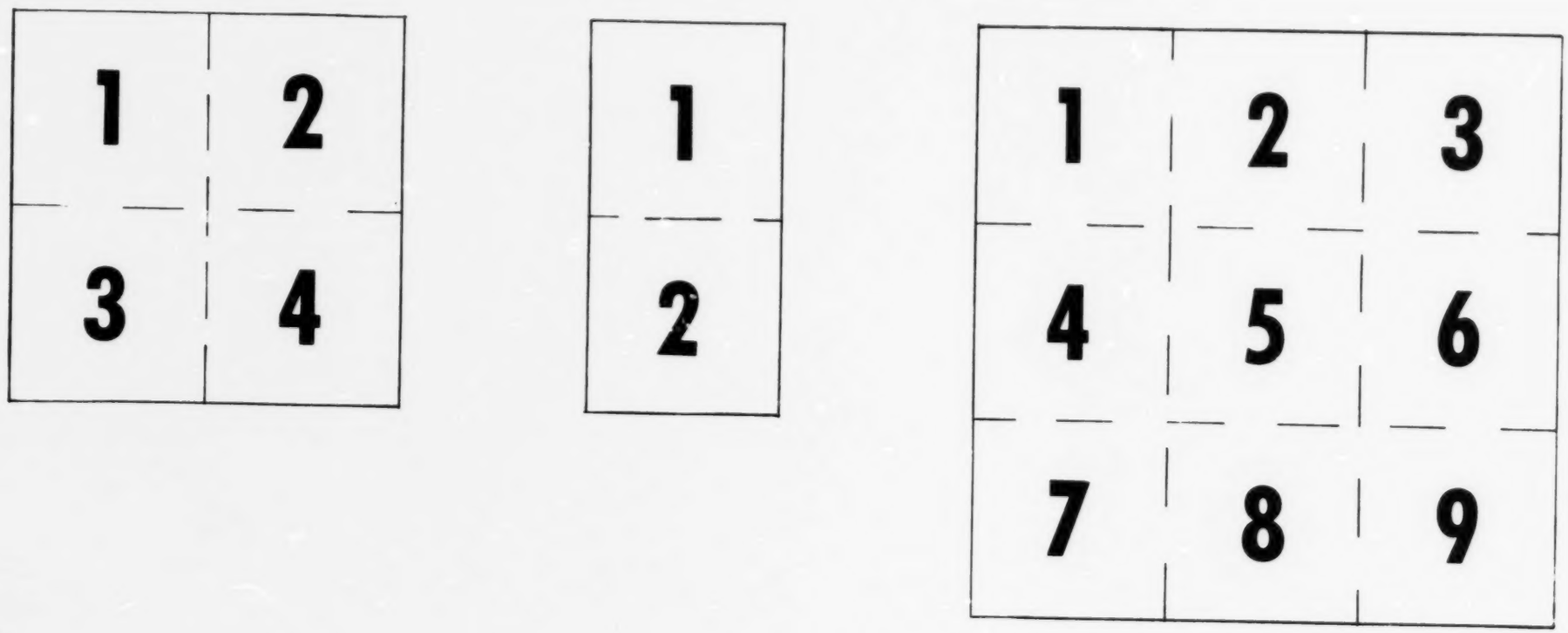

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1921
Scale 20 Miles to an Inch
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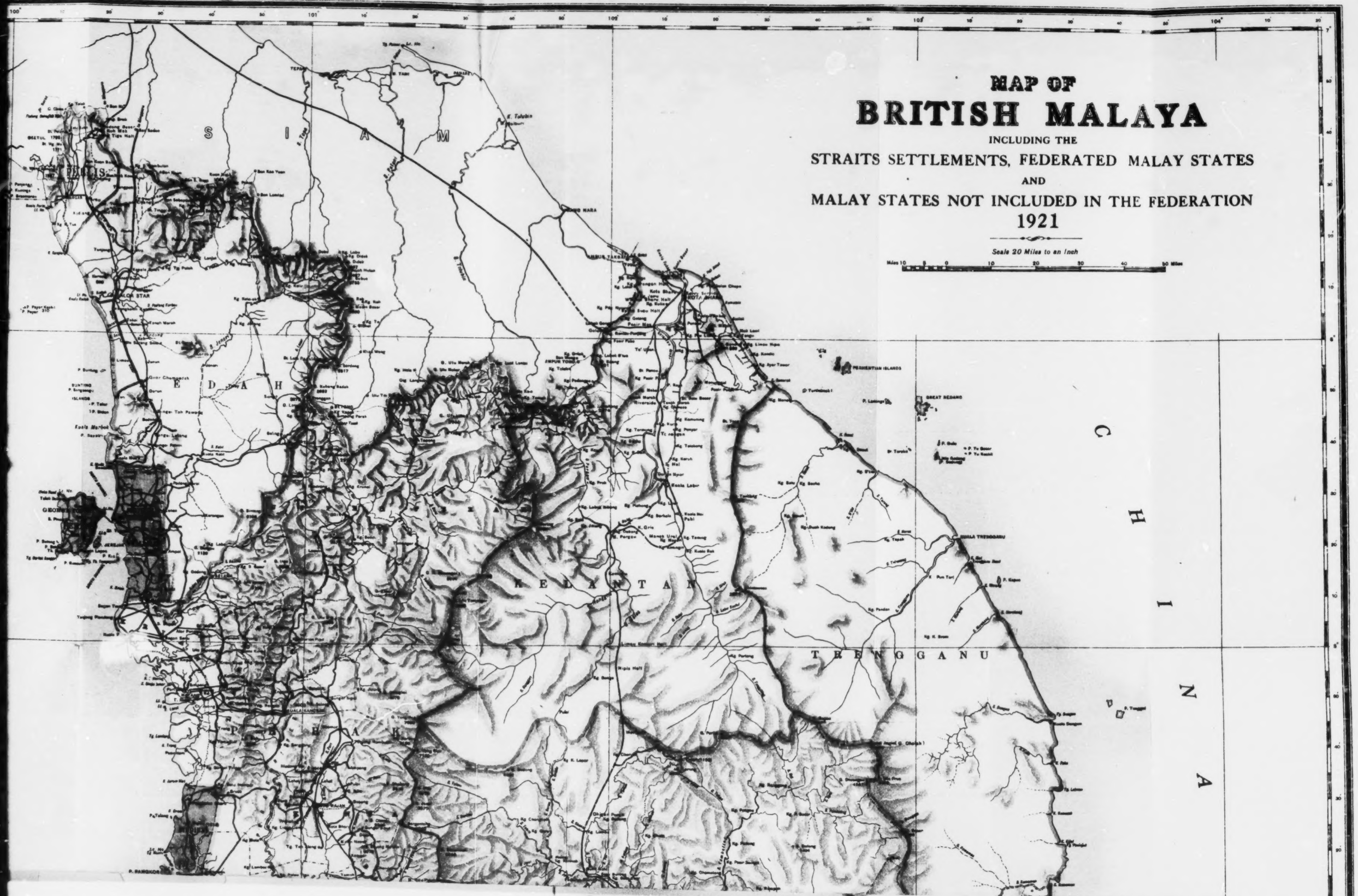

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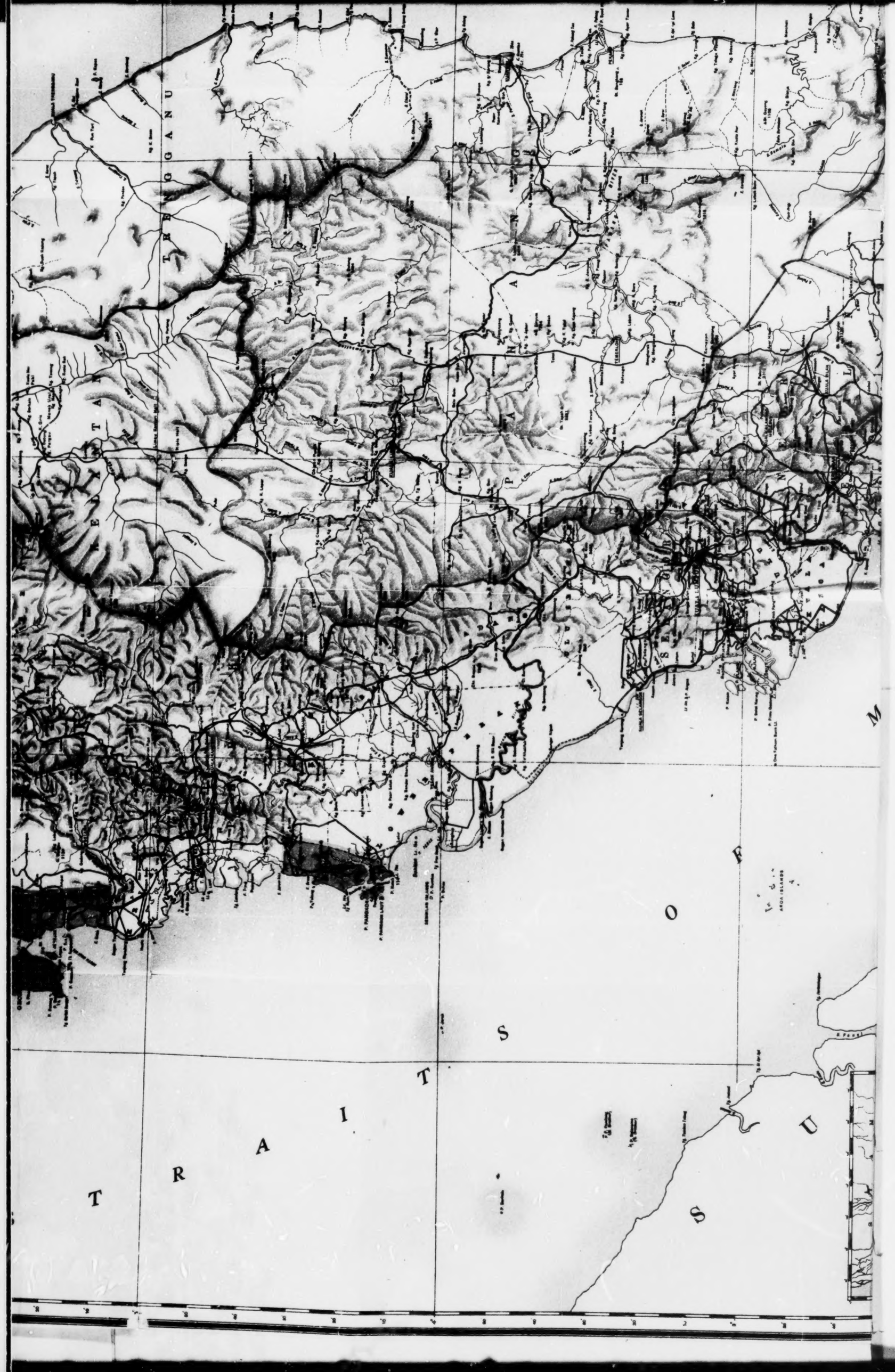
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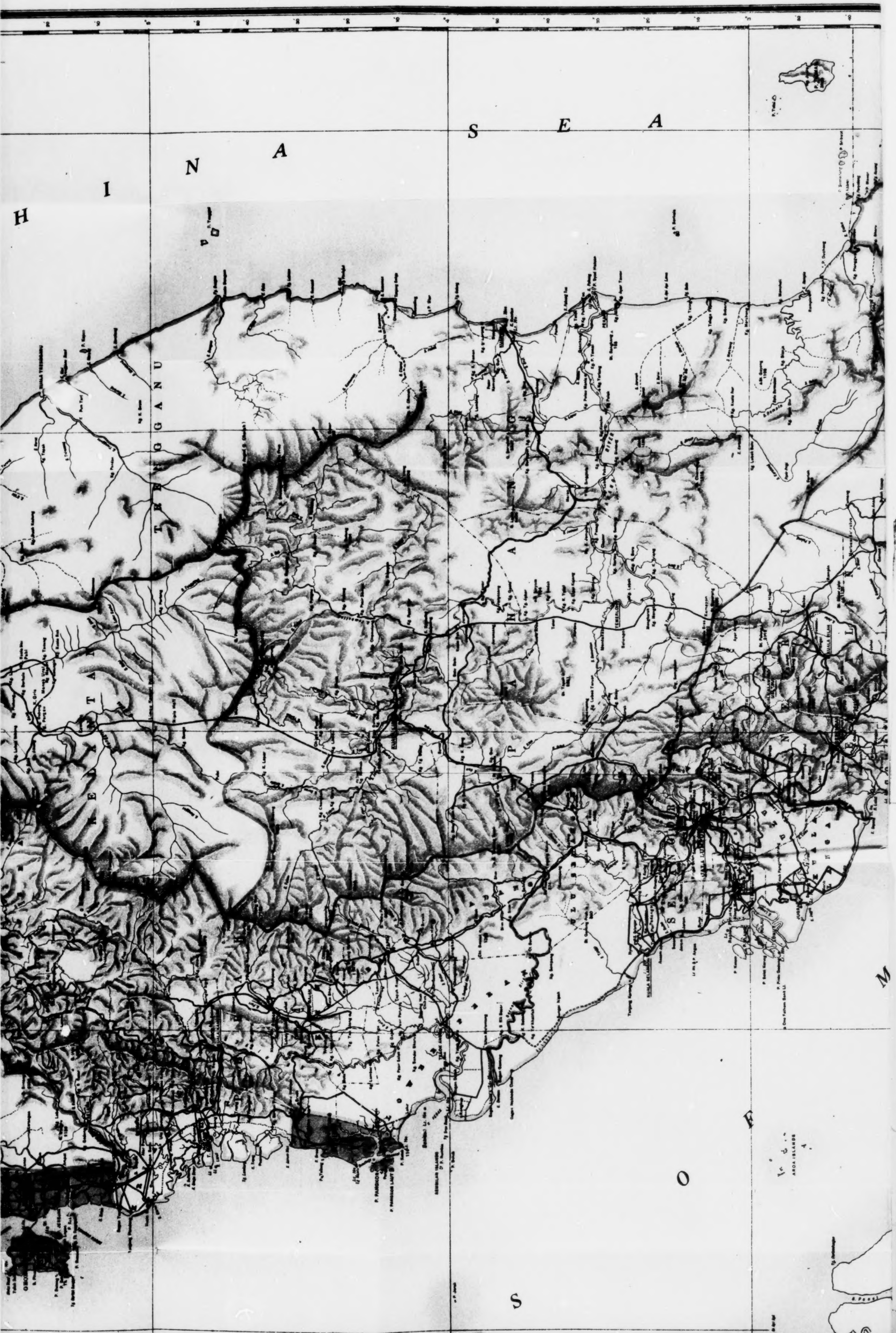
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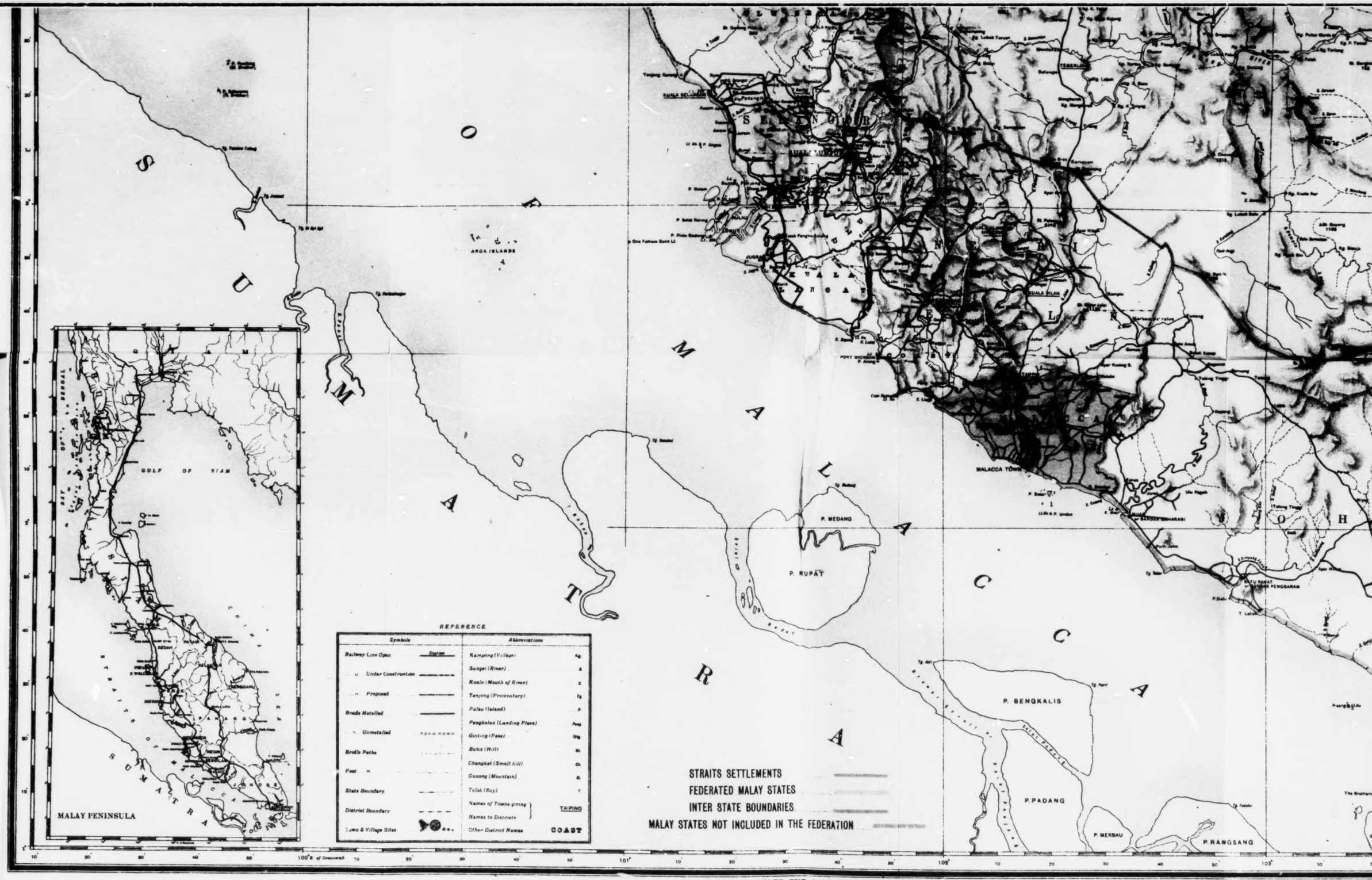

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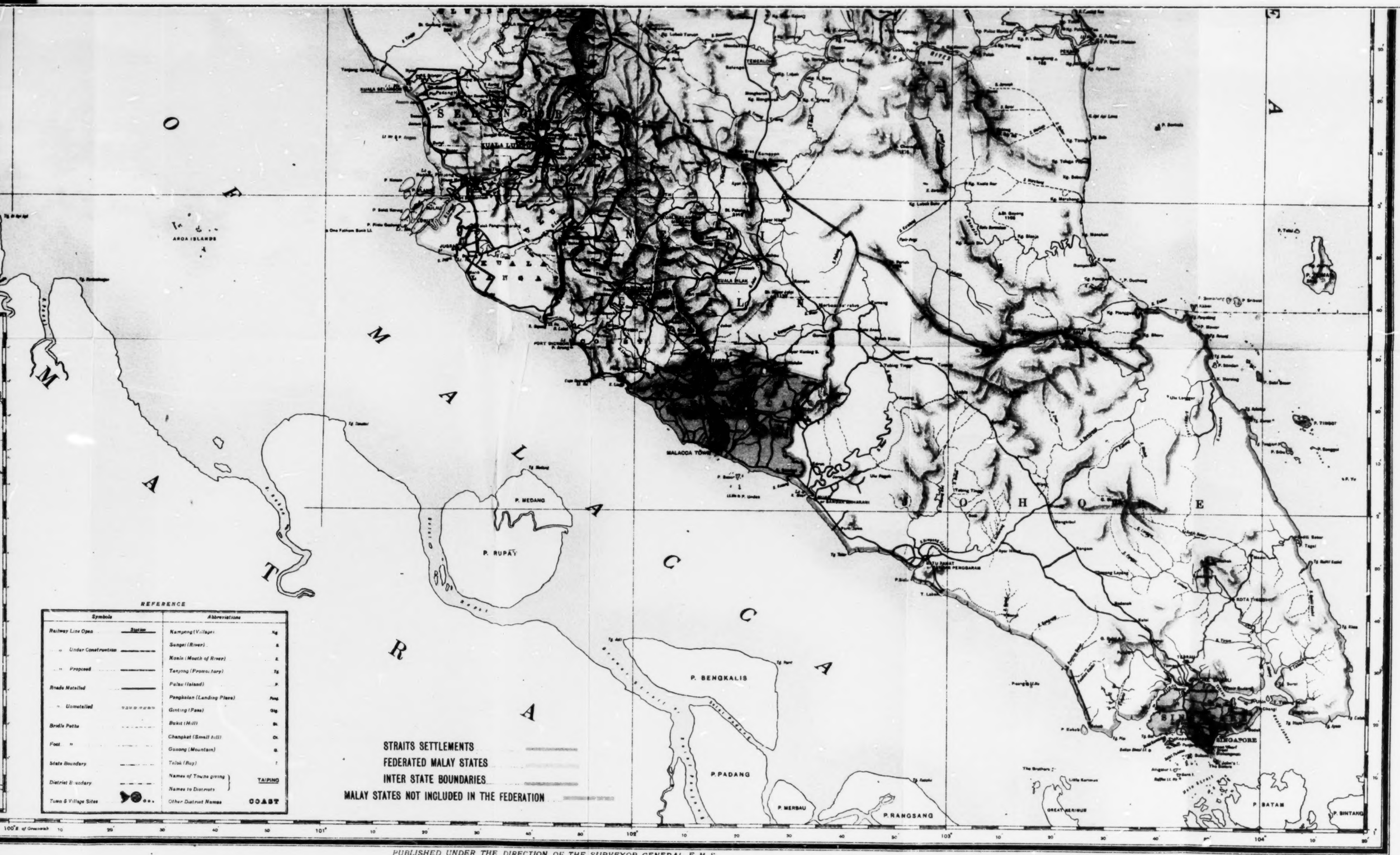

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COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent Reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1066	Gold Coast	1919
1067	Jamaica	1919–1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1070	British Honduras	"
1071	Hong Kong	"
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	"
1076	Falkland Islands	1919
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	"
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	"
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	"
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	"
1092	Caymen Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	"
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	"
1098	Nigeria	"
1099	New Hebrides	"
1100	Somaliland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1140.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1101.)

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1921.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

SITUATION AND AREA.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles, situated at the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula, from which it is separated by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width. There are a number of small islands adjacent to it which form part of the Settlement, which now comprises also Christmas Island, and the Cocos Islands.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

PENANG.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles, situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula in 5° north latitude, and at the northern extremity or entrance to the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, including 10 miles of territory to the south of the Krian river (*vide infra*), the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

MALACCA.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town, called Malacca, is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

THE DINDINGS.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang, in 4° 15′ north latitude, and 100° 35′ east longitude. Lumut, the head-quarters on the mainland, possesses a fine harbour with deep anchorage, and arrangements have been made for coasting steamers to call regularly.

COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903 they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ to 12° 45′ south, longitude 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram

with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which was formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

The total area of the Colony with these dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907. An account of Labuan will be found below.

HISTORY.

MALACCA.

Malacca, said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore, and known as an important independent State from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been capturel by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was taken by the English, who held it till 1818. It was then restored to Holland, but was again transferred to British rule as a consequence of the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

When Malacca was captured by the Portuguese in 1511, it was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the East, but as the Portuguese pushed their operations further to the east, in the archipelago and neighbouring countries, the trade of Malacca gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the establishment of Penang in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources. The trade of the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra passed to Penang, which also carried on a large

traffic with China, Siam, Borneo, the Celebes, and other places in the archipelago not under Dutch control; but no sooner was Singapore established than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to Singapore, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first unimportant, that trade has assumed enormous proportions, owing to the development of the rich tin areas and rubber-bearing lands of the Malay Peninsula.

PENANG.

Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, was the first British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula, having been ceded to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in 1786, with the proviso that the sum of 6,000 dollars should be paid annually to the Raja of Kedah so long as the British occupied the island. In 1800, in consequence of the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was acquired from the Raja, the annual payment being in return increased to $10,000. This has been subsequently enlarged from time to time, until it now extends from the Muda River to 10 miles south of the Krian River, a distance of 45 miles, containing in all 280 square miles. This province is in a high state of cultivation, the chief articles cultivated being padi, coconuts, and rubber. In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one government, Penang still remaining the seat of government. In 1836 the seat of government was transferred to Singapore.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded by Perak in 1826, with a view to the suppression of piracy, but no use was made of the cession at the time. In 1874 the cession of these islands was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose into prominence in the fourteenth century. Its greatness came to a sudden end in 1377, when it was sacked and destroyed by the Javanese, and thenceforth the island was scarcely

inhabited until Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES took possession of it in 1819, by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823 it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo, in 5° 16′ North latitude, and 115° 15′ East longitude. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles, or three days' steam.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned, and for practical purposes the history of the island begins with its cession to Great Britain in 1846 by the Sultan of Brunei. It was then uninhabited. The reason for the cession, given in the treaty, by which the island was handed over to Great Britain, was that it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei", and the consideration given by Great Britain was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station under the control of a naval officer, and the formal establishment of a Crown Colony was deferred until 1848. From that date until the end of 1889, Labuan was governed as a separate Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty, for the next twenty years. In 1889, the financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of the Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. This arrangement was terminated at the end of

1905, when Sir J. ANDERSON, Governor of the Straits Settlements, was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, Labuan was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, the island was constituted a separate Settlement.

Labuan has a fine port (Victoria Harbour), perfectly safe, and easy of access. Vessels drawing 23 feet can go alongside the outside jetty (not at present in use), and vessels drawing 15 feet alongside the coaling jetties.

It is a market for much of the produce of the neighbouring coasts of Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, indiarubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and beche-de mer, which are forwarded by the Labuan traders to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared, and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation. There are sago factories in the island, where the raw material received from the coast is converted into sago flour, which is exported to Singapore.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank in Labuan, but no other bank. The currency is Straits dollars and Straits subsidiary coins. Straits notes are also available in Labuan.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909.

I.—Finances.

The revenue for the year 1921 amounted to $39,545,735 exceeding the estimates by $2,359,972, whilst the expenditure was $35,430,899, being $5,114,641 less than the estimate.

The figure represents a fall in revenue, as compared with 1920, of $2,923,885, but expenditure was also reduced by $3,829,419, with the result that the excess of revenue over expenditure was $4,114,836, as compared with $3,209,302 in 1920.

The actual figures for 1920 and 1921 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE.

	1920.	*1921.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	1,610	1,822	212	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	34,211,116	29,105,291	...	5,105,825
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid ...	880,844	931,096	50,252	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,241,071	1,257,289	16,218	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property	1,232,813	1,396,602	163,789	...
6. Interest	975,196	1,988,163	1,012,967	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,812,970	4,738,350	2,925,380	...
	$40,355,620	39,418,613	4,168,818	5,105,825
8. Land Sales... ...	2,114,000	127,122	...	1,986,878
TOTAL ...	$42.469,620	39,545,735	4,168,818	7,092,703
		Net Decrease ...	$2,923,885	

The decrease is mainly due to a fall of $4,746,516 in opium revenue.

Stamp duties fell by $778,173, but there was a small increase of $12,642 in Estate duty.

The marked increase in the interest item is due to an increase in Interest on Loans and Advances by $1,079,739, which in its turn, was mainly due to the payment of $900,000 by the Government of the Federated Malay States on account of interest on its "Rice Debt".

The amount of tax collected under the Income Tax Ordinance, 1921, was about $5,300,000. Owing to the depression in trade the collections were less than under the 1920 Ordinance.

Among excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were:—

	$
Interest	1,259,433
Income Tax	969,060
Liquors	230,285
Tobacco Duties	354,313
Fees of Courts, etc.	123,521
Premia on Special Sales of Town Lands	14,983
Telok Ayer Reclamation Rents (unestimated)	270,000
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	4,662,497

(ii).—EXPENDITURE.

	1920.	1921.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions	679,920	755,963	76,043	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	14,483	17,946	3,463	...
4. The Governor ...	171,445	137,524	...	33,921
5. Civil Service ...	...	519,064	519,064	...
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident ...	371,123	212,350	...	158,773
7. Government Printing Office	278,666	226,635	...	52,031
8. Land and District Offices	344,605	314,413	...	30,192
9. Forests	34,628	53,187	18,559	...
10. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection	109,819	103,346	...	6,473
11. Treasury	211,719	220,478	8,759	...
12. Audit	75,243	77,460	2,217	...
13. Director of External Audit	4,912	...	...	4,912
14. Marine	612,715	737,774	125,059	...
15. Legal	486,977	427,907	...	59,070
16. Police	1,408,922	2,407,296	998,374	...
17. Prisons	464,383	465,017	634	...
18. Medical	465,380	570,576	105,196	...
19. Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,085,784	1,411,802	326,018	...
20. Veterinary	49,475	52,148	2,673	...
21. Education	562,086	911,121	349,035	...
22. Ecclesiastical ...	23,340	26,675	3,335	...
23. Transport	211,162	305,586	94,424	...
24. Military Expenditure ...	3,171,065	5,764,448	2,593,383	...
25. Miscellaneous Services ...	23,501,948	12,071,385	...	11,430,563
26. Post Office	881,517	1,808,170	926,653	...
27. Government Monopolies	590,825	687,275	96,450	...
28. Agricultural Department	8,550	106,225	97,675	..
29. Botanical Gardens ...	73,911	96,918	23,007	...
30. Raffles Museum and Library	35,946	46,604	10,658	...
31. Income Tax	...	38,829	38,829	...
32. Public Works Department	354,808	394,360	39,552	...
33. Survey Department ...	187,066	240,346	53,280	...
34. Public Works, Recurrent	576,148	639,153	63,005	...
35. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	1,465,890	3,531,938	2,066,048	...
Director of Supplies, S. S. and F. M. S. ...	...	13,897	13,897	...
War Expenditure ...	708,774	...	...	708,774
TOTAL ...	$39,260,318	35,430,899	8,655,290	12,484,709
		Net Decrease ...		$3,829,419

The main heads under which there has been increase in Expenditure are:—

		Increase.
		$
Salaries and Allowances	...	2,371,869
Salaries of Acting Officers	...	149,793
Military Expenditure	...	2,593,383
Public Works Extraordinary	...	2,066,048
		$7,181,093

and the main heads under which expenditure has decreased are:—

		Decrease.
		$
Loss on rice	... ...	5,785,777
Contributions to Imperial War Funds	... ...	6,329,079
		$12,114,856

As regards the increase in Salaries and Allowances, there was a decrease in allowances from $2,633,567 in 1920 to $2,058,042 in 1921, a difference of $575,525, so the increase in salaries must be put at $2,947,394.

The decrease in allowances was due to a reduction in rates of allowance as from 1st June, 1921. The increase in salaries was partly due to further revisions of salary of some of the officers in certain Departments, and partly to the fact that some part of the arrears of 1919 and 1920 salaries, arising out of revisions, were not paid until 1921. All arrears in connection with various revisions have not even yet been paid.

The most noticeable increases of Expenditure on Personal Emoluments are:—

		$
Police	... ...	944,660
Post Office	... ...	533,654
Civil Service (shown for the first time under a separate head)		519,064
Education	... ...	248,646
Hospitals and Dispensaries	...	155,092
Medical	... ...	75,747
Government Monopolies	...	111,150
		$2,588,013

The increase in salaries of acting officers may be attributed partly to improved facilities for granting officers leave, and partly to revisions of salary.

The increase in Military Expenditure is mainly due to the increased amount paid on account of Defence Contribution. The amount so paid is subject to adjustment when the cost of the garrison for 1921 is known.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the war, the following table will show the Colony's expenditure for the last seven years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

	Total Expenditure.	*Public Works Extraordinary.*
	$	$
1915	7,207,478	676,463
1916	6,514,527	318,788
1917	6,774,048	208,908
1918	8,687,204	458,257
1919	29,111,433	892,571
1920	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	29,807,490	3,531,938

Although there is quite a noticeable fall in expenditure, the advance upon 1918 figures is marked.

The difference of 21 millions is accounted for mainly under the 3 heads:—Personal Emoluments 7 millions, Miscellaneous Services 9 millions, Public Works Extraordinary 3 millions.

As regards Personal Emoluments, the cost of all Establishments has increased, but the most noticeable are:—

Police 1¼ millions, Medical and Hospitals ½ million, Miscellaneous Services (in which Head of Estimates all

temporary allowances are included) $2\frac{3}{4}$ millions. This leaves an increase of $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions to be divided up amongst other departments.

Miscellaneous Services:—The chief items under Other Charges are:—

	$
Loss on rice	3,674,423
Contributions to Rural Boards	1,286,093
Contributions to Municipalities	500,000
Depreciation in investments of the Treasury and the Currency Commissioners ...	600,157
Johore Causeway	256,318
Purchase of Land	707,451
	$7,024,442

The principal savings on the Expenditure Estimates were in respect of Public Works Extraordinary $6,595,713, Post Office $778,851, Military Expenditure $1,436,304, Marine $1,419,319, Civil Service $258,061 and Education $216,399.

The following comparative statement shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past seven years:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1915	14,131,691	10,196,560
1916	17,325,695	11,046,353
1917	19,672,104	11,369,392
1918	23,262,015	15,966,145
1919	34,108,465	34,901,233
1920	42,469,620	39,260,318
1921	39,545,735	35,430,899

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1921, were as follows:—

Liabilities.	$	*Assets.*	$
Deposits	15,279,799	Indian Agency Account ...	374,999
		Investments	20,571,974
Suspense (*a*) ...	4,702,287	Advances	783,497
		Imprests	64,089
Drafts and Remittances ...	31,057	Johore Foodstuffs Account	8,558
Loans:—		Loans:—	
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921–1926 ...	20,216,300	Municipalities ...	5,311,155
		Kelantan Government ...	320,000
		Singapore Harbour Board	3,242,957
Cash in transit ...	10 382	Penang Harbour Board	612,643
		Ho Hong Steamship Co.	300,000
Excess of Assets over Liabilities (*b*) (*c*) ...	48,990,868	Federated Malay States Government Advances at call	2,500,000
		Federated Malay States Government Rice Account	18,788,847
		Johore Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	800,000
		Federated Malay States Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	15,000,000
		Municipality Singapore Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan	3,500,000
		Cash	17,051,974
Total ...	$89,230,693	Total ...	$89,230,693

(iv).—Public Debt.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1921, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

(*a*) Includes Currency Commissioners $4,422,249.

(*b*) The excess of the assets over the liabilities increased during the year by $4,114,836.

(*c*) The available surplus was some $19½ millions. Of the 29½ millions in loans and advances, $6 millions was repaid by the Federated Malay States in January, 1922, and the cash position then improved accordingly.

The expenditure upon service in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	320,137
Total ...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	3,388,205
Total ...	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was $2,079,383 in 1921. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the 5½ per cent War Loan, 1918 stands at $28,655,700, under the 5½ per cent Conversion Loan, 1919 at $36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan, 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal and interest on all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Straits Settlements 7 per cent Loan was floated on the 26th April, 1921, and closed on the 15th December, 1921. Subscriptions amounted to $20,216,300. The bonds are registered and bearer bonds at 7 per cent per annum redeemable at par on the 1st May, 1926. The proceeds of this loan were lent to the following Governments and Municipalities:—

	$
Federated Malay States Government	15,000,000
Johore Government	800 000
Singapore Municipality	3,500,000
Penang Municipality	916,300
Total ...	$20,216,300

Ordinance 24 of 1921 authorised the issue of a loan to produce £10 million sterling, the proceeds to be lent to the Federated Malay States Government. A first instalment of this loan amounting to £5,155,000 was issued in London on the 8th December, 1921, the final instalment of subscriptions to this issue being payable on 23rd January, 1922.

(v).—Exchange.

The following Banks have Establishments in the Colony:—

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, Netherlands Trading Society. (Nederlandsch Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de l'Indo-Chine.
,, International Banking Corporation.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank. (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
,, Bank of Communications.
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
,, Banque Industrielle de Chine.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Asia Banking Corporation.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
,, Bank Voor Indie.

[During the year under report, the demand rate (Bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 and 2/3 .]

(vi).—Currency.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the Currency of the Colony in circulation in the Currency Area at the end of the year consisted of $84,596,806.90 in currency notes and $6,476,418.50 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $149,951.

At the beginning of the year 1921 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $101,587,186.80. The demand for Sterling which started in March, 1920, continued with little abatement until July, 1921, and the Currency contracted in consequence of Sterling Remittances to London being made through the Currency Commissioners.

The nett result shows that the Commissioners sold Sterling to the extent of £1,975,000 during the year under review, and this reduced the currency notes in circulation to $84,596,806.90 at the end of 1921.

The Coin Reserve held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $37,407,345.74 consisting of £328,251 in gold and $8,629,793.18 in silver in the Colony and £3,029,130-2-8 in gold in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Note Guarantee and Depreciation Funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year, $50,425,384.46, the cost price of those investments being $60,086,106.28.

The decrease in value compared with original cost is due to the general depreciation of all securities.

The Note Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $89,971,695.63 (Coin portion $37,407,345.74, Investment portion $50,425,384.46 and on deposit with the Government pending investment $2,138,965.43), while the Gold Standard Reserve Fund at the same date was worth $13,936,472.93. The total of the funds controlled by the Commissioners was, therefore, $103,908,168.56 or $19,311,361.66 more than the total note circulation at the end of the year.

The demand for small change slackened during the year with the result that the subsidiary silver coins and notes in circulation decreased by $428,363 and $942,556.90 respectively. The notes in circulation of a face value less than $1 stood at the end of 1921 as follows:—

	$	c.
10-cent notes printed in United Kingdom	1,872,200	00
10-cent notes printed locally	513,502	90
25-cent notes printed locally	36,575	00
Total ...	$2,422,277	90

This shows very considerable contraction from the total of $3,364,834.80 at the end of 1920.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 8,623,555 against 4,118,343 in 1920, that is to say the number cancelled more than doubled that of the previous year. This is satisfactory but the notes presented for cancellation were, at the same time, far in excess of the number destroyed.

Ten-cent notes accounted for 6,500,000 of the number destroyed, but it must be remembered that the processes of destruction of these subsidiary notes are less exhaustive than in the case of the higher denominations.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 5,198,581, and further 15,686,163 were presented during the year, making a total of 20,884,744 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 8,623,555 as stated in the preceding paragraph, and the balance remaining for destruction at the end of the year was consequently 12,261,189 of which number 9,763,319 represented notes of a face value of less than one dollar.

(v).—Enemy Property.

The balance to the credit of the Custodian of Enemy Property at the end of the year was $13,808,737.88 of which $13,682,881.59 was invested. In addition $210,076 was specially invested for the separate accounts of certain Enemies and does not appear in either of the above figures.

A Local Clearing Office was formally established on the passing of the Local Clearing Office Ordinance No. 18 of 1920 in July, 1920, but work actually commenced beforehand in June, 1920.

Claims from Germans against British Nationals said to be resident in the Colony received through the Central Clearing Office, London, amounted to $910,060.14 of which claims to the value of $96,721.76 were admitted and $550,802.03 contested up to the 31st December, 1921; the balance were still under investigation.

Claims from British Nationals resident in the Colony against Germans forwarded to the Central Clearing Office, London, amounted to $173,756.91. Of which $15,368.24 were admitted by the German Clearing Office and $145,293.57 contested, the balance being under investigation.

Between the date when the office was opened and the end of 1921, the Local Clearing Office collected $147,056.62 from British Nationals in respect of German claims and paid out $11,606.29 to British Nationals in respect of their claims against German Nationals. The Controller's investment on 31st December, 1921, stood at $32,600.

There were no claims received from or against Austrian or Hungarian Nationals up to the end of the year 1921.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests and Land.

(a) Shipping.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 25,055,798 as compared with 24,027,912 in 1920.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1920 and 1921.

TIONALITY.	1920.					1921.					Increase in 1921 as compared with 1920.	Decrease in 1921 as compared with 1920.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
erican ...	1,303,796	350,058	...	1,904	1,655,758	1,151,746	205,046	...	...	1,356,792	...	298,966
gian ...	2,622	1,384	...	...	4,006	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,006
zilian ...	35,898	...	...	...	35,898	11,138	...	...	...	11,138	...	24,760
ish ...	7,940,852	4,601,655	453,550	143,268	13,139,325	8,153,028	4,769,644	385,014	186,369	13,494,055	354,730	...
nese ...	47,594	3,286	...	...	50,880	88,838	7,520	...	...	96,358	45,478	...
ish ...	280,619	104,788	...	...	385,407	273,470	96,420	...	...	369,890	...	15,517
ch ...	2,288,478	432,118	...	4,686	2,725,282	2,873,526	541,958	564	1,150	3,417,198	691,916	...
nch ...	838,755	28,694	204	...	867,653	928,516	124,252	...	...	1,052,768	185,115	...
man ...	11,484	...	...	...	11,484	4,176	...	...	...	4,176	...	7,308
ek ...	13,934	...	...	...	13,934	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,934
an ...	166,296	147,302	...	...	313,598	191,566	93,942	...	...	285,508	...	28,090
r-allied ...	78,334	...	...	...	78,334	11,322	...	...	...	11,322	...	67,012
anese ...	3,541,520	455,762	98,490	62,690	4,158,462	3,584,708	507,680	124,670	47,806	4,264,864	106,402	
wegian ...	89,364	20,340	...	...	109,704	178,496	16,862	...	...	195,358	85,654	...
uguese ...	31,354	...	...	...	31,354	19,884	...	...	...	19,884	...	11,470
sian ...	55,508	...	...	...	55,508	...	...	...	...	...	...	55,508
wak ...	79,504	258	...	346	80,108	69,995	...	...	1,155	71,150	...	8,958
nese ...	193,837	4,190	...	12,128	210,155	253,093	3,808	...	...	256,901	46,746	...
nish ...	56,370	...	...	...	56,370	62,942	...	...	...	62,942	6,572	...
dish ...	44,692	...	...	...	44,692	62,820	...	...	8,582	71,402	26,710	...
ho-slovak...	...	...	...	...	...	14,092	...	...	...	14,092	14,092	...
TOTALS ...	17,100,811	6,149,835	552,244	225,022	24,027,912	17,933,356	6,367,132	510,248	245,062	25,055,798	...	...
										Net Increase ...		1,027,886

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

In 1917	...	...	15,784,369 tons.
1918	...	...	13,064,270 ,,
1919	...	...	18,885,183 ,,
1920	...	...	24,027,912 ,,
1921	...	...	25,055,798 ,,

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 51,069 in number and 2,296,268 in tons in 1921 as compared with 62,395 and 2,576,161, respectively, in 1920.

Fourteen new steam-launches and motor-vessels with a tonnage of 1,716 tons gross and 29 sailing-vessels of 3,252 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1910, 16 new sailing-vessels of 1,539 tons were licensed under section 424, and 791 vessels of 8,667 tons under section 425.

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the years ending June 30th, 1920 and June 30th, 1921, have been as follows:—

	Income.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Year ending 30th June, 1920	20,754,623	11,079,039
Year ending 30th June, 1921	17,782,797	12,644,492

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1921, at $51,162,518 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $3,688,712 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock of the Penang Harbour Board for the year 1921 were $1,323,921 and the expenditure was $1,168,005 (the figures are only approximate for the second half of the year).

(*b*) Trade.

The trade of the Colony in 1921 was in a state of depression throughout the year.

The following figures excluding Coin and Bullion show the value of the foreign trade of the Colony in thousands of pounds sterling for the last five years:—

Merchandise—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Merchandise. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*	*Exports Merchandise. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1917 ...	73,987	72,307	...	...
1918 ...	81,618	71,922	+ 7,631	— 385
1919 ...	96,664	99,318	+ 15,046	+ 27,396
1920 ...	124,216	102,536	+ 27,552	+ 3,218
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	— 58,425	— 46,398

The value of the inter-port trade, including treasure for the last five years, was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*	*Exports. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1917 ...	8,137	8,720	...	...
1918 ...	*9,183	*9,584	+ 1,046	+ 864
1919 ...	†13,164	†13,235	+ 3,981	+ 3,651
1920 ...	14,938	14,797	+ 1,774	+ 1,562
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	— 8,034	— 7,910

The aggregate trade for the year 1921 was therefore £121·9 millions, against £226·7 millions in 1920, a decrease of £104·8 millions over 1920.

Bullion and Specie.—The figures for Bullion and Specie in thousands of pounds sterling for the year were:—

Imports.	*Exports.*
£	£
2,335	1,887

* Excluding Coin and Bullion. † Coin and Bullion included for second half of 1919 only.

Distributed according to classes the foreign trade records in thousands of pounds sterling are as follows:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	43,579	26,204	28,141	21,129
2. Raw Materials	47,510	24,391	59,229	25,439
3. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles	33,127	15,196	15,166	9,570
TOTAL ...	124,216	65,791	102,536	56,138

The figures of Imports and Exports decreased in all classes as compared with the previous year.

The volume of Straits Produce shipped was in many cases less than in 1920.

Articles of Straits Produce on the whole gave smaller average prices than in 1920.

Tin.—The imports of tin and tin-ore were in 1921, 78,000 and 1,029,000 pikuls, respectively, as against 84,000 and 1,068,000 pikuls, respectively, in 1920 as shown below:—

	1920.		1921.	
	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.
Malay States ...	61,000	732,000	73,000	678,000
Netherlands Indies	1,000	146,000	1,000	169,000
Siam ...	5,000	143,000	4,000	104,000
Other Countries ...	17,000	47,000	...	78,000
Total ...	84,000	1,068,000	78,000	1,029,000

The exports of tin in 1920 and 1921 were as follows:—

	1920.		1921.	
	Pikuls.	Value.	Pikuls.	Value.
		$		$
United Kingdom	225,000	34,344,000	200,000	16,338,000
United States of America ...	472,000	73,095,000	330,000	27,573,000
Other Countries	131,000	20,325,000	174,000	14,534,000
Total ...	828,000	127,764,000	704,000	58,445,000

Para Rubber.—The imports of Para Rubber in 1920 and 1921 from the following countries were as follows:—

	1920.		1921.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
Malay States ...	1,305,000	120,454,000	1,923,000	47,766,000
Netherlands Indies...	373,000	30,009,000	303,000	7,115,000
Other Countries	80,000	7,398,000	110,000	2,535,000
Total ...	1,758,000	157,861,000	2,336,000	57,416,000

The exports of Para Rubber in 1920 and 1921 to the following countries were as follows:—

	1920.		1921.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
United Kingdom	406,000	40,507,000	398,000	13,333,000
United States of America ...	1,880,000	202,008,000	2,268,000	64,264,000
Other Countries	277,000	26,455,000	622,000	16,590,000
Total ...	2,563,000	268,970,000	3,288,000	94,187,000

It will thus be seen that there was a decrease in quantity of tin exported in 1921, and the value also decreased by nearly seventy million dollars.

As regards Para Rubber, both Imports and Exports showed large increases in quantity but decreases in value as compared with the previous year. The value of imports decreased by nearly 100 million dollars and that of exports by nearly 175 million dollars.

Imports.—In "Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics," decreased values are seen under the sub-heads cattle, swine, bread and biscuits, butter and cheese, coffee, fish dry and salted, beans and peas, bran, rice, wheat flour, arrack and samsoo, brandy, milk, sago flour, arecanuts, black pepper, cigarettes and vegetables.

Under the heading "Raw Materials," decreased values appear in tin, tin-ore, coal, copra, gutta inferior, Para rubber, sticklac, hides raw, kachang oil, rattans and timber, while enhanced values are apparent in benzine and petroleum.

In the "Manufactured Class," cotton piece-goods, yarns, apparel, sarongs, slendangs and kains, silk piece-goods, gunnies, cycles and accessories, hardware and cutlery, iron corrugated, iron nails, motor-cars, motor-cycles and accessories, steel, tin-plates, cement, chemicals, leather, boots and shoes, paper and paperware, perfumery and cosmetics, rubber tyres and woodenware show decreased values.

In quanties imported there were decreases under coffee, swine, beans and peas, bran, wheat flour, brandy, milk, arecanuts, sago flour, black pepper, pig iron, coal, groundnuts, rattans, sandal wood, cotton piece-goods, canvas, steel, acetic acid and cement.

Increases in quantities are most noticeable in rice, fish dry and salted, salt, white pepper, sugar, cigarettes, copra, raw cotton, mangrove bark and cotton blankets.

Exports.—Exports of the following show declines in values:—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Swine, bread and biscuits, coffee, preserved pineapples, beans and peas, bran, wheat flour, milk, oilman's stores, prepared chandu, sago flour, arecanuts, black pepper, sugar, tapioca and cigarettes.

"Raw Materials"—

Tin, copra, gum copal, gutta percha, gutta interior, Para rubber, sticklac, hides raw, coconut oil, kachang oil, rattans and planks.

"Manufactured Class"—

Cotton piece-goods, sarongs, slendangs and kains, yarns, gunnies, ironware, motor-cars, motor-cycles and accessories, crockery and porcelain, tanned hides, matches and woodenware, while increases are apparent in—

"Foodstuffs, drinks and narcotics"—

Eggs fresh and salted and rice.

"Raw Materials"—

Mangrove bark, phosphate of lime, and bees and other wax.

"Manufactured Class"—

Other manufactured textiles of sorts and telegraph and telephone materials.

The quantities of fish, dry and salted, tapioca, arecanuts, rice, salt, cigarettes, copra and phosphate of lime show an increase.

A decrease in volume is recorded of wheat flour, arrack and samsoo, beans and peas, milk, prepared chandu, sago, tin, Para rubber, rattans, sandalwood and cotton piece-goods.

Trade by Countries.—The following statement shows the position of the Colony in the years 1920 and 1921 as a market for British, European, American, Japanese and other foreign goods.

(The value of the trade in merchandise with the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, United States of America, and Japan is shown in thousands of pounds sterling.)

		Imports.		*Exports.*	
		1920.	*1921.*	*1920.*	*1921.*
		£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		18,334	7,730	12,565	5,629
Belgium	Continent of Europe.	328	132	585	96
Denmark	Continent of Europe.	83	89	2,332	181
France	Continent of Europe.	432	389	2,927	1,302
Germany	Continent of Europe.	231	103	307	1,238
Holland	Continent of Europe.	729	353	1,323	1,142
Italy	Continent of Europe.	664	362	808	419
Norway	Continent of Europe.	64	4	...	...
Sweden	Continent of Europe.	94	26	1	...
Spain	Continent of Europe.	31	4	63	321
United States of America		5,595	2,990	33,846	11,418
Japan		5,437	2,627	1,918	2,030

The articles which gave the largest decreased values from the United Kingdom were cotton piece-goods, apparel, hosiery and millinery, corrugated iron, hardware and iron-ware including cooking utensils, yarns, steel, canvas, sarongs, slendangs and kains, motor-cars, motor-cycles and accessories, cycles, parts and accessories, cotton handkerchiefs and brandy.

From the United States of America decreases in imports are seen in cigars and cigarettes, tinned provisions including fruits, milk, rubber tyres, paper and stationery, motor-cars and accessories and increases in petroleum and lubricating oil.

From Japan the following show declines in imports:—

Coal, cotton piece-goods, apparel, and hosiery, cabinet and woodenware, matches and cement.

Exports to the United Kingdom showed advances in such articles as preserved pineapples and oil cakes, but decreases took place in tin, sago, pepper, tapioca, Para rubber, rattans, gutta percha, copra, gambier, hides and illipi nuts.

In our Exports

to France—Sago,

to Italy—Preserved pineapples,

to Denmark—Para rubber,

all advanced, declines being seen in tin, copra, pepper, Para rubber and illipi nuts to France; copra, sago and Para rubber to Italy; and copra and sago to Denmark.

The principal exports to Belgium were sago, copra, and Para rubber; to Holland copra, rattans, sago and Para rubber; to Spain copra and sago, and to Germany copra, rattans, Para rubber, peppers, tapioca and tin.

Exports to the United States advanced in value of pepper, but tin, gambier, tapioca, copra, rattans, gutta inferior, gutta percha, Para rubber and gum copal fell in values.

Exports to Japan showed increases in values of raw cotton, copra, gutta percha, rattans and Para rubber, while declines are seen in shells, tin and gunnies.

There was a fall in the total value of exports to Australia and New Zealand, Netherlands Indies, Malay States, French Indo-China, North Borneo and Sarawak, British India and Burma, Siam and Siamese States and Hongkong and China.

A Committee was appointed early in 1920 to inquire into the system of the Registration of Imports and Exports in the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States and to make proposals for the proper compilation and co-ordination of the statistics of British Malaya. The Committee met in Kuala Lumpur and a report was consequently drawn up and sent in to Government in November, 1920. As a result a monthly return of Imports and Exports in British Malaya was compiled and published from July, 1921 onwards.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.—1921 was the sixth year during which the Companies Ordinance, 1915, was in force. Twenty-nine new companies were registered, one without share-capital and twenty-eight with a capital of $16,270,000; of which 21 were private companies with a capital of $14,640,000.

At the end of the year 381 companies remained on the register of which 38 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 332 companies which carry on a business was $164,053,810.

Four hundred and forty-three companies not incorporated in the Colony, have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 344 are British, 31 are Japanese, 25 are Dutch and 21 are incorporated in the United States, America. Apart from these 12 companies of which 11 are British have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of five foreign companies. Sixty-two companies do Fire Insurance business.

(*c*) Forests.

The area of reserved forests was increased by the addition of 754 acres to the Tanjong Burong Reserve in the Dindings, and by about 200 acres at Cape Rachado. The total area of reserved forests is now 107,122 acres, equivalent to 11·1 per cent of the total area of the Colony, and the reservation of a further 2,528½ acres in the Dindings is under consideration.

Revenue and expenditure were $43,837 and $50,572 respectively, compared with $57,268 and $42,849 in 1920. There was therefore a deficit of $6,735. Revenue in Singapore increased from $12,979 to $16,678, owing chiefly to the transfer of $3,000 from deposits to revenue. In all other Settlements the revenue fell, the most important decrease being that from $23,245 to $10,341 in Malacca due to the gradual exhaustion of Crown Land and the fall in premia on forest areas alienated. A rise is however expected when trade conditions improve and the effects of the better administration of the forests make themselves felt.

The out-turn of timber was 9,835 tons, and of fuel 24,375 tons, compared with 10,837 and 27,358 tons the previous year.

Planting of mangrove was continued in the Tanjong Burong Reserve in the Dindings, where about 246 acres which had been exploited in previous years were planted with bakau minyak at a cost of $3.25 per acre. The area should have been planted up by the felling contractors, who paid the department $1,400 for failure to do so. About 1,000 seedlings were protected against the attacks of crabs by means of pieces of tin bent round the stem just above the ground. These were planted alternately with unprotected seeds, and at the end of the year it was found that 84 per cent of the protected and only 60 per cent of the unprotected had survived. The experiment is being continued.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 104 of which 67 were compounded, and 33 were taken to court, and 4 were pending at the close of the year. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $445 in addition to $39.16 awarded as compensation for damage to the forest. In the compounded cases a sum of $872.50 was paid.

A complete scheme for the amalgamation of the forest departments of the Federated Malay States and the Colony was submitted towards the close of the year and has actually been carried into effect pending a settlement of the financial arrangements to be made. The two senior rangers belonging to the Colony have been transferred to the Federated Malay States, and Federated Malay States officers are now entirely responsible for all the purely administrative work.

(*d*) Agriculture.

Rubber.—The year under review must be described as the worst, from a financial point of view which the plantation rubber industry has ever suffered. This state of affairs was due entirely to general world conditions and was reflected in most agricultural industries in other parts of the world. The market price of rubber was low throughout the year, as will be seen in the table below, which gives the Singapore prices during the year.

SINGAPORE PRICE.

CENTS PER lb.

—	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Standard ribbed sheet	32–37	34–37½	30–33	30–32	28–29½	21–26	28–31½	26½–28	26½–30½	30½–33½	33–38	36½–39½
Second quality ribbed sheet	20–33½	20–35½	20–32	17–31	16–30	11–25	15–31	19–27½	20–30	23–33	25½–38	31½–39½
Standard 1st Latex crepe	34–37	35½–39	36½–39	34½	32½–33	25–28	30–32	27½–29½	27½–30½	29½–31½	32–37½	36–39½
Second quality latex crepe	20–36½	20–35½	19–32	17–31	16–30	11–25	16–32	21½–29½	20–29	22–32	25–37½	31–39
Lower grade crepe ...	11–26½	12–26½	10–26	9½–23½	9½–24½	4½–20	8–25	13–22½	11½–23½	17–27	18–34	24–35½
Bark Crepe ...	10–17	10–15½	8–14	8–13	8–16	4–10½	5–14½	13–15	11½–18	17–21½	18–27	24–29

A number of estates ceased tapping and reduction of output was effected on other estates by alternate day tapping or adoption of resting periods. Conditions at the end of the year indicated little or no improvement in the market.

The two diseases of the rubber tree which have received special attention during the year are Pink Disease (Corticium Salmonicolor) and Mouldy Rot (Sphæronema fimbriatum).

Two cases of Pink Disease were found in Malacca, where the disease was almost unknown.

Three cases of Patch Canker were observed on an estate in Malacca and also one case of Mouldy Rot.

The appointment of two Assistant Agricultural Inspectors, enabled systematic inspection and supervision to be undertaken. No serious outbreaks of disease were recorded in the Colony during the year.

In spite of the present over-production, considerable interest is being taken in methods of improvements of yield of rubber by bud-grafting and seed selection. Experimental work is being continued in this connection. More attention is also being paid to soil and water conservation on hilly and undulating land by means of scientific methods of drainage, silt-pitting, terracing, etc., and cultivation of cover crops.

Coconuts.—Coconut cultivation still continues to be a steady and sound agricultural industry. The price of copra has been maintained at a fairly satisfactory level throughout the year, although the prices are below those for 1920.

The price of nuts in the coast district has ranged from 4 to 5 cents compared with 4 to 10 cents in 1920 while prices in inland districts have ranged from 6 to 15 cents compared with 15 to 20 cents in 1920.

The price of copra has ranged from $10 to $16 per picul compared with an average price of $22 per picul in 1920.

The present price is only slightly above that prevailing in 1912-1913 but is sufficient to give a reasonable profit.

Considerable attention has been paid to the clearing up of small holdings during the year and also to the destruction of refuse heaps which constitute favourable breeding grounds for the Black Beetle and the Red Stripe Weevil.

These pests have been in evidence in Province Wellesley, Malacca and Singapore. There still remain large numbers of decaying coconut stumps and logs, cut probably in 1915—1916 and all liable to be badly affected with the grub of the Black Beetle.

The work in Malacca has had satisfactory results, while progress in Singapore has been slow, but is improving.

A suitable, cheap and effective incinerator for the destruction of village refuse was designed by the Government Entomologist and Chief Agricultural Inspector.

Tractor cultivation is being carried out on a number of coconut estates and found to be very effective in controlling weeds and for cultivation purposes.

Investigations have been carried out on Bud-rot of coconut palms and on the Black Beetle and Red Stripe Weevil and considerable progress in our knowledge of these pests has been made. Further work on Plesispa Reichei and Brachartona catoxantha, two important pests of coconuts have been carried out.

The latter pest was prevalent in Province Wellesley and the Geylang district of Singapore during the year.

Investigations on seed selection are also being carried out.

Rice.—Seed selection investigations are being continued with satisfactory results.

In Malacca in 1921 the crop was reported to be good. Planting during the 1921 season however was irregular, due to an outbreak or rinderpest, which killed a number of buffaloes and reduced the area which could be planted. The earlier planted portion was ripening at the end of the year but the later planting is suffering from drought.

In Province Wellesley the crop appeared fair but will not be as good as the unusually good crop harvested in 1921.

The padi at Balik Pulau (Penang) yielded well in 1921 and promises well for 1922.

The gross yield of wet padi in 1921 on an area of 74,835 acres was 21,787,700 gantangs giving an average of 291 gantangs per acre.

The principal enemies of padi in Malaya are insects and a number of investigations are in progress in connection with their control.

The practice of allowing padi stubble and self-grown padi to grow between the padi season is undesirable, since ideal conditions are maintained for the insects to remain and propagate till the next season. Stem borers are distributed generally in the padi areas. Podops coarctata (Bena Kuru or Kutu Bruang) was reported in Malacca. It causes damage only when the padi areas are too dry.

Leptocorisa variconis (Pianggang) also caused damage to padi in Malacca. Rats have caused considerable damage

during the past year in all parts of the country, but chiefly on sawahs adjoining jungle land in Malacca. Poisoned baits appear to be eaten readily but the exact effect is not easy to ascertain, owing to the difficulty of finding the dead rats. The Malays in Malacca however appeared to be satisfied with the results obtained.

The chief difficulty is that the owners of holdings take no steps to keep down the numbers, until the rats commence to attack the padi, by which time they are numerous. Useful results can only be obtained by trapping and poisoning during the whole season. Stocks of poison have now been purchased by the Department for distribution.

Other Crops.—Investigations in connection with other crops are being carried out by the Department on the New Experimental Plantation at Serdang in the Federated Malay States, which it is hoped will result in information enabling the Department to recommend the planting of crops other than rubber.

(*e*) Land.

(i).—Land tenure.

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999 year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99 year leases for land in the town were issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of free-hold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was however insufficient with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under these titles, which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99 year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99 year leases and 999 year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent, the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant is now the usual form of title issued but leases for 999 and 99 years and for shorter periods are still occasionally issued in particular cases. Monthly and

annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held of the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Singapore eighteen and in Penang twenty different kinds of title are in the hands of the public. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Statutory Grants as in Singapore, and Statutory Grants are also being substituted for Permits and Expired Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for alienation of foreshore.

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber, tapioca and gambier leases and of mukim assessment under customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE.

The Revenue in 1921 was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1920	247,794	19,028	1,792,913	2,059,735
	1921	266,844	22,769	104,439	394,052
Penang ...	1920	214,057	21,194	21,424	256,675
	1921	216,982	23,927	13,358	254,267
Malacca ...	1920	571,400	16,078	313,700	901,178
	1921	523,055	5,952	34,247	563,254
Labuan ...	1920	4,037	4,266	1,027	9,330
	1921	4,604	5,048	422	10,074
Total ...	1920	1,037,288	60,566	2,129,064	3,226,918
	1921	1,011,485	57,696	152,466	1,221,647

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

Singapore.

	1917.	*1918.*	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,034 3 10	599 0 03	392 3 25	340 3 34	454 2 17
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	61,182	237,980	204,130	131,908	49,766
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	87	79	83	88	30
Premia paid ...	$76,113	$291,273	$348,235	$1,780,736	$92,308

Penang.

	1917.	*1918.*	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	636 1 10	472 0 19	16 1 32	556 3 00	824 1 5
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	9,015	12,228	Nil.	Nil.	12,357
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	288	151	1	83	84
Premia paid ...	$8,022	$4,109	$2,457.50	$15,422.00	$11,061.50

Malacca.

	1917.	*1918.*	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	7,113 2 28	8,721 0 12	4,214 0 08	1,919 2 38	1,500 1 32
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	...	738	20,190	15,957	6,522
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	494	286	219	108	39
Premia paid ...	$143,267	$172,622	$77,207	$50,170	$42,790

Labuan.

	1917.	*1918.*	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	185 2 12	...	...	1,403 1 26	185 0 16
,, Town Lots	0 2 13	0 4 10	17 1 17	...	5 0 00
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	62	39 (18 new Grants & 44 in exchange for old titles.)	73 (in exchange for old titles.)	290	221 (190 new Grants 15 in exchange for old titles & 16 sub-division grants.)
Premia paid ...	$460	$83	$36	$1,027.64	$422.60

III.—Legislation.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1921 were 39 in number, including two Supply Ordinances. Sixteen of these are purely amending Ordinances.

2 The most important of the Ordinances which are not purely amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Income Tax Ordinance (No. 1) which reproduces and continues with some variations the Income Tax Ordinance, 1920 (No. 3).

(ii) The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance (No. 8) which provides for the enforcement in the Colony of maintenance Orders made in England or Ireland or *vice versâ*.

(iii) The Straits Settlements Loan Ordinance (No. 11) which authorises the Governor to raise a loan not exceeding $20,000,000 and to lend the whole or part of the sum so raised to the Government of the Federated Malay States.

(iv) The Machinery Ordinance (No. 20) which consolidates the law relating to machinery and provides for the inspection of boilers, engines and other machinery and for regulating their control and working.

(v) The Indemnity Ordinance (No. 21) which first provides for the indemnity of all those who acted during the war in good faith on behalf of the Government, secondly limits the time within which actions may be brought against the Government for acts done during the war, and lastly limits in the absence of a definite previous agreement claims in respect of damage to property or in respect of requisitioned or controlled shipping.

(vi) The Straits Settlements Loan Ordinance (No. II), (No. 24) which authorises the Straits Settlements Government to raise a loan of £10,000,000 and to lend the money so raised to the Federated Malay States Government.

(vii) The Rubber Dealers Ordinance (No. 27) which consolidates the law in regard to Rubber Dealers.

(viii) The Statistics Ordinance (No. 28) which provides for the establishment in the Colony of a Statistical Bureau for the collection and arrangement of information relating to various interests with which the Colony is concerned.

(ix) The Volunteer Ordinance (No. 30) which replaces the forces (other than Regular forces) existing in the Colony by the establishment of a Volunteer force.

(x) The Food Control Ordinance (No. 31) which provides for the maintenance of an adequate supply of food in the Colony.

(xi) The Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments (No. 34) which facilitates the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments and Awards in this Colony and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions or Territories under His Majesty's Protection.

(xii) The Rent Restriction Continuation Ordinance (No. 35) authorising the extension for six months of the operation of the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1921, which would otherwise have expired at the end of 1921.

The principal amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12) which empowers Judges of the Supreme Court of the Colony to sit as ex-officio Judges of the State of Johore and *vice versâ* and secondly provides for special remuneration of duly qualified persons other than salaried public servants appointed temporarily to act as Judges. This Ordinance was repealed by the Ordinance mentioned in (iii) below and its provisions embodied in Ordinance No. 101 (Courts).

(ii) The Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which provides for the control, by licence, of market vendors and for the licensing of places in which human food or drink is sold or prepared or stored for sale. This innovation was necessary for the purpose of preventing the rings, which had control over the stall-holders in the markets, from selling fresh provisions at an unduly high price. This Ordinance was repealed by the Ordinance next mentioned and its provisions embodied in Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal).

(iii) The Statute Laws (Revised Edition) Operation Ordinance (No. 26) which amends the Revised Edition of the Laws of the Colony in accordance with the amendments in 1920 and 1921 of such Ordinances as are included in the Revised Ordinances.

IV.—Communications.

(*a*) POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

A	Letters addressed to foreign countries ...	First oz. ...	12 cents.
		each succeeding oz.	3 ,,
B.	Letters addressed to places in the British Empire except those places named in *C*. ...	Per oz. ...	6 ,,
C.	Letters addressed to places in the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Johore, British North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei, Trengganu and Kemaman ...	First two ozs. ...	5 ,,
		each succeeding one ounce or fraction thereof	1 cent.

D. Postcards addressed to:—

(i) Foreign countries ... ... 8 cents.

(ii) Places in the British Empire except those named in *C* ... ... 4 ,,

(iii) Countries named in *C* ... ... 2 ,,

E. Printed Papers, for every two ozs. ... 3 ,,

except that the rate of postage on a newspaper

(*a*) printed and published within the Straits Settlements or in any British Possession or Protected State in Malaya; or

(*b*) registered as a newspaper at the General Post Office, London, if posted in the Straits Settlements addressed to any place in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu, (including Kemaman), British North Borneo, Sarawak or Brunei, is 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 4 ounces, and 2 cents for every additional 2 ounces, provided that the postage on a single newspaper shall not exceed 4 cents, and provided that no enclosure which is not part of the newspaper or a supplement thereto is enclosed with the newspaper. If two or more copies are sent in a single packet, each newspaper shall be liable to the same postage as if posted separately, but in no case shall a packet of such newspapers be chargeable with a higher rate than that chargeable on a packet of printed papers of the same weight.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 12,762,832, an average of 14·44 per inhabitant, as against 16·09 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 10,369,760, as compared with 11,651,860 in 1920. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year 1921 was 496,819 as compared with 578,006 in 1920, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph lines decreased from 488,931 in 1920 to 370,236 in 1921. The number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges increased from 936 to 1,038.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1921 was $1,772,240.08, an increase of ½ per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1920. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $181.99. There was a profit on the year's working of $25,987.46. The estimated present value of the investments is $1,526,063.65.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 38 Sub-offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Kreh, Penanti, Pinang-Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley). Of these 22 are Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1921 to $6,384,428, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Ceylon, United Kingdom, Netherlands East India and United States of America.

Ten Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Madras	...	1 Direct.	
Penang	...	4, thence to Madras	(2)
		,, ,, Colombo	(1)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	1, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1 Direct.	
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)

There are also Government telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca, and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 790 miles of

telegraph lines, 36 miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley and 2 miles between Singapore and Johore, and there are 21,081 miles of telephone line. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the Exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(*b*) Communication by Sea.

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly by British India steamers *viâ* Negapatam and Bombay, and fortnightly services by the Peninsular and Oriental and Messageries Maritimes vessels *viâ* Ceylon; in addition there is a fortnightly service by the Steamship Company *Nederland;* and at frequent intervals by the Holt's, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines; with China and Japan twice a fortnight by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China weekly by the Messageries Maritimes; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong and by Spanish packets direct; with Bangkok by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports by Netherlands India Company's steamers; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philip, Ocean Steamship Co., Western Australia Steam Navigation Co., and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence of Orient Packets; with Madras (direct), and other ports on the Coromandel Coast, weekly by the British India Company's steamers; and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above, there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Native States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 23 to 27 days. Services have not yet become normal.

(*c*) Railways.

There is a railway from Singapore to Woodlands on the Johore Straits, communication between Woodlands and Johore being maintained by steam ferries. The Federated Malay States Railway extends from Parit Buntar in Krian through Province Wellesley to Penang which is reached by steam ferries from the mainland. There is a railway from Malacca to Tampin in Negri Sembilan. All the railways have a gauge of one metre and connect with the Federated Malay States Railway System, a continuation of which through Johore was opened in 1909. Progress was made in 1921 with the construction of the causeway

across the Johore Straits to connect Singapore with the mainland. This causeway will greatly facilitate the direct transfer of goods to the Federated Malay States from the Tanjong Pagar Wharves. The extensive docks owned by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company were acquired by the Government in 1905 and are now controlled by a Board composed of members appointed by the Governor.

The Railways in Christmas Island connecting South Point with the loading piers at Flying Fish Cove were all completed in 1921. Phosphate can now be conveyed by railway across Christmas Island and shipped.

There are electric tramway systems in Singapore and Penang.

(*d*) Roads.

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) are Singapore 97 miles; Penang and the Dindings 72 miles; Province Wellesley 167 miles; Malacca 239 miles; Labuan 4½ miles.

In addition there are 33 miles of gravel road in Malacca and 132 miles of natural road in Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley, the Dindings, Malacca and Labuan.

In 1921 in Singapore a further two miles of road was converted from laterite to granite while various other portions totalling one and one-half miles were raised and metalled with granite. Asphalt surface was provided for seven and three-quarter miles of road.

In Penang three miles of main road were re-metalled.

In Province Wellesley the bridge across the Muda River which flows between the Northern boundary of Province Wellesley and Kedah was finished and some two and a half miles of main road were re-metalled under the reconstruction scheme.

In Malacca about eleven and one-half miles of main road were reconstructed, granite being substituted for laterite.

V.—Food Control.

Rice-crop prospects at the close of 1920 in Burma, Siam and Saigon were unexpectedly good and would have justified decontrol early in 1921 but for the comparatively large and high cost Government stock which it was decided should be previously cleared. This stock consisted of 74,500 tons, 40,000 tons of which had been purchased in December, 1920, at an average price of 50 cents a gantang, before the new rice-crops were assured.

As soon as the new padi prospects were ascertained, the Food Controller made public declarations of Government's policy, which was to remove all restrictions at the earliest possible date, to restore the trade to its pre-control activities, and to dispose of Government's present stocks in hand and sight at the earliest opportunity.

As it was necessary to have stocks ready to take the place of Government stocks when the latter were exhausted arrangements were made in January with the Importers in Singapore to have imported by the 4th April, 18,000 tons of rice to be kept in reserve to replace Government's stocks on decontrol. As compensation for this tying up of the Importers' capital, a six weeks' monopoly of import was granted to them from such date as decontrol was declared. In Penang, where the liquid capital of the importers, who were also the wholesalers, was already being utilised in the purchase and distribution of Government stocks, 5,500 tons only were imported.

The controlled retail price of rice to consumers in the Distributing Centres of Singapore and Penang was on January 1st, 1921, $1, in Malacca $1.07, and in the Federated Malay States $1.05, per gantang. On the 10th of January, 1921, in view of the seriousness of the industrial position, these prices were reduced to 80 cents, 86 cents, and 84 cents respectively, with an additional loss to Government of $3,700,000. A further reduction to 70 cents in Singapore and Penang, 77 cents in Malacca and to 75 cents per gantang in the Federated Malay States, was introduced as from the 1st of February. This last reduction cost Government no additional loss, the revised prices representing the average cost of the old Government stock and of the 40,000 tons new stock purchased in December, 1920. There was no further change of price till the 1st of May, when all control over prices was removed.

On the 1st of February, the first steps in decontrol were taken, when transport-forms and retail licences were abolished and Government ceased supplying retailers and Estates direct. From this date onward Government sold in Singapore and Penang to licensed wholesalers only who in turn supplied local retailers and Estates in the Colony and wholesalers and Estates throughout the Federated Malay States. In this way the Trade was enabled gradually to resume its old functions.

On the 16th February, the Rice Distribution Board ceased its operations which during the most critical period of control had been of great assistance to Government and of invaluable service to the community.

Complete decontrol of prices was not declared till May 1st. The causes of this delay lie in the fact that at the close of 1920 Government when it was still supplying the Governments of Sarawak and British North Borneo and when crop prospects were still uncertain, purchased from considerations of public security the 40,000 tons referred to above. Good crops however and general trade depression combined steadily to reduce the market price of rice with the result that, control prices being in excess of market prices, there was at once a reduced consumption of Government stocks coupled with a marked stimulus to the local padi-pounding industry. Consumption was also reduced by the uncertainty of further reductions in controlled prices and the consumer's fear of being left with higher priced stocks in hand.

To accelerate the clearing of Government stocks, no rice was allowed to be imported except with the consent of the Food Controller. The Chinese Mills in Penang, and from the 18th of March, the Government mill at Bagan Serai were for this same reason prohibited from selling their local millings, though they were encouraged to mill in order to have stocks ready for the day of decontrol.

Decontrol was declared on the 1st of May when all remaining restrictions on trade (subject to the six weeks' monopoly granted to those Importers who had brought in stocks) were removed. The powers of the Food Controller, however, to re-introduce restrictions in case of necessity remained. The remaining Government stocks amounting to 30,300 tons, equally distributed at Singapore and Penang, were sold by public tender at an average price of 29 cents per gantang in Singapore and 31 cents in Penang. At the same time the Importers' stocks that had been held in readiness were released, and with the assistance of local emergency reserves that had previously been distributed to Government agents throughout the country, a continuity of supply everywhere was maintained. Prices immediately fell to market level ranging from 60 cents Siam to 55 cents Saigon and 50 cents Rangoon and parboiled in Singapore and Penang and proportionately in Malacca and the Federated Malay States. Daily reports from all centres were received by the Food Controller till the situation had steadied.

Milk prices were decontrolled on the 23rd of May.

The necessity for the retention by the Food Controller of powers to control distribution was proved the following month (June) when as a result of speculations and an

unexpected shortage of stocks in Rangoon, the Burma Government found it necessary, suddenly and without warning, to suspend all rice exports not previously licensed. As Penang relies for its white rice supplies almost entirely on imports from Burma, it was found necessary immediately to prohibit the re-export of rice from Penang to non-Malayan countries. On the 26th July, the Burma Government sanctioned the additional export to the Straits of 15,000 tons, and on the 13th August a further 10,000 tons of which total three-quarters was allotted by the Food Controller to Penang. (Malaya's normal import of rice from Burma is 25,000 tons per mensem). For the same cause, on the 18th July, the export of rice from Singapore also was similarly prohibited except with the consent of the Food Controller, which was granted only in respect of stocks in excess of a margin of safety (in Singapore) of 25,000 tons. Rice exports from Singapore were resumed on the 1st of September, thanks to plentiful supplies of rice from Saigon and Siam and a good harvest in Java. In Penang however restrictions on export were maintained till the end of the year.

As the Imperial Order in Council of 1896 under which the Food Control Regulations of 1917 and 1918 were enacted, was liable to be withdrawn, a Food Control Bill consolidating the Food Control Regulations was introduced into the Legislative Council on the 5th September and finally passed (No. XXXI of 1921) after amendment by a Select Committee, on the 23rd November. The Ordinance as enacted is brought into operation only on declaration of a State of Emergency. It also provides for Advisory Committees in each Settlement together with the necessary Food Control Officers to be appointed subject to the said declaration. The period of operation is 21 days and may be renewed.

The Imperial Order in Council of 1896 and the Food Control Regulations Straits Settlements ceased to be operative in the Colony on the 9th December.

The Audited Accounts for the three years ending 31st December, 1921 show the total loss of the Food Control Department in all its activities to be $41,880,773.19 which will be borne as follows by the three Administrations concerned: Straits Settlements $\frac{3}{8}$ths, Federated Malay States ths and Johore $\frac{1}{8}$th.

Mr. F. M. BADDELEY, who was in addition appointed Under Secretary, Straits Settlements, with effect from the 1st of June, continued to perform the duties of Food Controller throughout the year.

VI.—Immigration.

(i).—Chinese.

One hundred and ninety-one thousand and forty-three immigrants arrived from China by sea, the largest number since 1913; the figure is an increase of 51·5 per cent on that for 1920 and is only 29·2 per cent less than the figure for 1911, the record year.

As compared with the average for the previous ten years, 1911 to 1920, the number of arrivals in 1921 shows an increase of 19·4 per cent.

Adult males formed 72·6 per cent and adult females 15 per cent of the immigrants.

The increase in the number of immigrants is somewhat surprising in view of the stagnation in the tin and rubber industries; it may be ascribed to the unsettled political conditions in South China, the fall in passage rates due to competition from an increasing number of steamers employed on the China-Straits run, the reduced price of rice combined with a fairly steady rate of exchange ruling throughout the year.

(ii).—Southern Indian.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 45,673 as compared with 95,220 in 1919.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 61,551 as against 55,481 in 1919.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1918.	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*
Assisted immigrants*	55,583	88,021	78,855	15,413
Other immigrants ...	9,708	13,412	16,365	30,260
Total ...	65,291	101,433	95,220	45,673

The assisted immigrant consisted of 14,586 adults and 827 minors. Of the adults 12,211 were men and 2,375 women.

* "Assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(i) the independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bonâ fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (ii) the Kangany labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kangany, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a month's notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 9·24 per mille and in the Dindings 4·10 per mille. Among the 153 labourers employed on estates in Penang there were no deaths.

During 1921, 5,977 adult and 1,583 minor, decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The rate of assessment to the Tamil Immigration Fund was fixed at $2 for the first two quarters, $1 for the third quarter and 50 cents for the fourth quarter of the year 1921.

The Income of the Fund was $3,027,681.24 and its expenditure $2,371,613.43.

(iii).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 3,410. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force but approximately 122 local contracts for 300 days are in force in the Settlement of Penang.

VII.—Criminal and Police.

The total number of cases in which arrests were effected with or without warrant in the Colony during the year was 19,395 compared with 22,509 in 1920. There was however an increase compared with the previous year in serious offences such as murder and gang robbery. This increase in serious offences was largely due to unemployment. Singapore owing to its position is very liable to an influx of men from neighbouring countries who come to Singapore in search of employment. When they fail to find it some of them are apt to turn their attention to crime.

At the end of the year the strength of the Police Force was 2,996 (Europeans 96; Sikh Contingent 449; Malay and Indian Contingent 2,256; Eurasians 3; Detectives 192). In addition to this there are 335 Police employed by various Government departments, private firms and the Harbour Boards of Singapore and Penang.

Owing to a revision of the salaries of the Asiatic Police, for the first time for many years there was no difficulty in getting as many recruits of all nationalities as were required. The result was that more discrimination could be exercised in selecting recruits for admission and this should in time increase the all-round efficiency of the Force.

At the beginning of the year there were 835 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 4,988 were admitted during the year as compared with 3,847 in 1920, and 4,845 were discharged; 978 remained at the end of the year. There were 95 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,930 were admitted and 1,962 were discharged. Of the 1,962 vagrants discharged 40 found employment and 1,794 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding and mat and basket-making. The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at stone-breaking and the "Short Sentence" and "Revenue grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue duties. The revenue of the department was $11,555 besides which articles to the value of $8,545 were supplied to Government Departments.

Prison offences showed an average of ·8 per annum per prisoner as against ·9 in 1920. The health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the prison were satisfactory.

VIII.—Vital Statistics.

(*a*) Population.

At the census held on the night of April 24th, 1921, the total number of persons enumerated in the Straits Settlements was 881,939 of whom 557,838 were males and 324,101 females. The total increase since the 1911 census is 169,988 or 23·8 per cent. Males increased 92,203 or 19·8 per cent and females 77,785 or 31·5 per cent. The distribution among the Settlements was as follows:—

	1911.	*1921.*
Singapore	303,321	417,859
Penang	278,003	304,572
Malacca	124,081	153,599
Labuan	6,546	5,909

The total of 881,939 was made up of 8,045 Europeans and Americans, 9,015 Eurasians, 254,843 Malays, 497,406 Chinese, 104,498 Indians, and 8,132 other Nationalities.

Europeans have increased by 10 per cent. To a certain extent these figures are misleading as the European military population in Singapore was less by 564 in 1921 than in 1911.

Excluding the military population the European population of the Colony rose 21·7 per cent. The Eurasian population increased from 8,051 in 1911 to 9,015, an increase of 11·9 per cent. The increase in the Malay population was 15,349 or 6·4 per cent. The Chinese population increased from 368,564 to 497,406, an increase of 34·9 per cent. Chinese males increased by 24·0 per cent and females by 65·2 per cent. The increase in Chinese females was the outstanding feature of the census returns. The Indian population increased from 82,013 to 104,498 or 27·4 per cent.

(*b*) Public Health.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 28,727 and 28,000 respectively.

The crude birth-rate was 32·57 per 1,000 against 29·63 in 1920. The percentage of males born was 52, females 48.

The highest birth-rate as reckoned by nationalities was 42·08 per mille and was classed as "Malays". The lowest was among Indians, 24·67 per mille.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) shows a ratio of 190·69 per thousand births against 194·86 in 1920.

The number of deaths from infantile convulsions was 3,724, against 3,557 in 1920: many of these deaths are due to tetanus of the new born.

There were 1,424 still-births in 1921 and 1,189 in 1920.

The crude death-rate was 31·79 per thousand, against 33·20 in 1920. The lowest death-rates in the last 10 years were 29·15 in 1915 and 30·70 in 1916: the decrease in mortality in those years was largely due to a war-time measure, the repatriation of thousands of decrepit Chinese to their native land. The highest death-rates in the past 10 years were 46·46 per thousand in 1911 a very malarious year, and 43·85 per thousand in 1918 when the influenza epidemic struck the country.

The highest racial death-rate for the year was 37·05 per mille under "Other Nationalities" and the lowest 9·05 per mille among Europeans.

The deaths from Pneumonia were 1,702, against 1,966 and from Influenza 262, against 362 in the previous year.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,272 deaths, against 1,026 in 1920, 1,430 in 1919, and 1,958 in 1918: the decrease since the latter year has been due to the greater use of parboiled

or undermilled rice supplemented by other articles of diet, in place of the highly milled Siam rice.

Malarial Fevers and Tuberculosis were responsible for 4,707 and 3,292 deaths respectively, against 4,690 and 3,336 deaths in 1920.

Dysentery caused 1,081 deaths and Diarrhœa 359, against 1,085 and 337 respectively in 1920.

Dangerous infectious diseases notified in the Colony have not played a large part in our mortality. There were 63 deaths from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 28 from Plague, 2 from Cholera and 47 from Small-pox. Forty-one of the 47 deaths from Small-pox occurred in Singapore where Small-pox was prevalent from May until the end of the year: the total of cases in Singapore during that period was 147.

(c) Climate.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore for 1921 was 81·2° F.; in Penang 81·8° F.; in Province Wellesley, 83·7° F.; and in Malacca, 80·0° F. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures were between 85·4° and 75·7° F. There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being pretty evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1912 to 1921, it is found in Singapore that there is an annual average of 172 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period being 2555 m.m. In 1921 the mean rainfall in Singapore was 2575 m.m.; in Penang 3488 m.m.; in Province Wellesley 2409; in Malacca 2437 m.m.; and in the Dindings 1875 m.m. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, viz., S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is nothing unusual to have south-east, south or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1921.
Singapore	2635·00 m. m.
Labuan	3416·00 ,,
Penang	3488·00 ,,
Province Wellesley ...	2697·00 ,,
Malacca	2446·00 ,,
Dindings	1874·96 ,,

The mean temperature of the air throughout the year was 85·4°. The maximum recorded was 94·0° in Penang on April 13th and 93·0° in Malacca on December 24th. The minimum was 70° on January 9th and February 14th. The minimum in Singapore was 70·0° on June 9th.

IX.—Education.

The expenditure on the nine Government English schools was $441,903.08, on the 40 Aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Malay, Tamil and Chinese) $532,232.01 and on the 194 Government vernacular schools $287,469.44.

The Malacca Training College for Malay Teachers continued to do good work. Its cost, during the year under review, was $36,355.12.

The numbers in Secondary Classes show an increase of 116 over the figures for 1919. The Normal Classes continued their work during the year, and 17 Normal Class Certificates were issued.

The teaching staff of the Department is still considerably short of its full complement of European Officers but with the improved rates of salary which were introduced at the beginning of the year the future in this respect can be faced with confidence. Six local teachers were sent to study at the Hongkong University where the number of such students is now eleven. The absence of facilities for higher education in Malaya renders it difficult to get teachers competent to take the higher classes but the opening of the Raffles College will be a definite step in the direction of creating a supply of trained and qualified teachers drawn from the pupils educated in the Colony's own schools.

A site for the Raffles College was selected, in the Economic Gardens at Singapore. Dr. R. O. WINSTEDT, D. LITT., was seconded in June to act as Principal of the College in order to carry out the preliminary arrangements for its inauguration. An Ordinance was drafted to incorporate a Finance Committee and an Executive Committee with power to deal with all matters of detail. The preparation of plans has been thrown open to competition, and as soon as plans have been accepted building will be pushed on so that the College may become a going concern at the earliest possible date. One of its most important functions will be the training of students of both sexes to become teachers in the higher classes in our English Schools.

The Chief Inspector of English Schools for the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States arrived early in

the year. His duty is to ensure co-ordination and uniformity in the English education throughout the country, supplementing in this respect the work of the Inspectors of Schools in the several Settlements.

It had been hoped to commence the erection of three English Schools during the year, namely a new Secondary School at Penang and one Elementary School each at Singapore and Penang. Finances did not admit of this heavy expenditure being undertaken at the present time, but provision was authorised for the construction of two temporary school buildings, at Singapore and Penang respectively, to meet immediate needs in those places pending the time when permanent structures can be erected.

Arrangements were made for holding Evening Classes in commercial and technical subjects at Raffles Institution, Singapore. The response was very satisfactory, and the classes have since opened with a large attendance. A class in Shorthand was also held in Penang, with encouraging results.

Towards the end of the year a scheme of Agricultural education under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture was considered. It was arranged that the schools shall be visited by the Director of Agriculture and his Assistants, who are to advise on the suitability of available ground for school gardens, course of education, and to provide a supply of seeds, materials, etc. In Malacca there are already a number of school gardens.

The medical inspection of school children in Government and Aided schools was undertaken by the Medical Department, and a commencement was made, so far as the available staff of medical officers allowed, on lines which will place this important work on a systematic basis.

The Registration of Schools and teachers under the Registration of Schools Ordinance was carried out by the Education Department excepting in the case of Chinese Schools which were dealt with by the Chinese Protectorates. There was at first some reluctance on the part of Chinese Schools and teachers to register and an agitation was raised in favour of non-compliance. The agitation subsided after some prosecutions and the registration of all Chinese Schools and teachers was completed by the end of the year. The registration of other schools and teachers is still in progress and will soon be complete.

The services of the Physical Director of the Y. M. C. A. in Singapore were, by the courtesy of the Association, made available for the teachers and pupils in the schools and much useful work was done in this direction.

The preparation of text-books for the Malay Vernacular schools was continued. First edition of a Malay Dictionary for Malays, and Advanced Arithmetic for the Training College and a Jawi Reader for Standard II appeared. New editions of a Malay History and an Elementary Arithmetic were printed and a primer on Botany was sent to the press.

The new central College at Tanjong Malim for training Malay School Teachers for the Colony and the Federated Malay States is nearing completion and the students at the Malay College at Malacca will be transferred there when it is opened towards the end of the current year.

Malay vernacular education has broadly three functions to perform: (*a*) to teach the dull boy enough reading, writing and arithmetic to help him keep his accounts with the village shop-keeper or his employer; (*b*) to prepare the intelligent boy for that English education which is necessary if he is to aspire to well-paid business or Government; (*c*) to give the bright boy with a bent for manual work the ground work for prosecuting such work profitably. The first of these functions the Government Malay Schools have fulfilled with increasing success for several decades. The second they have taken up with vigour and most promising results of recent years. A little time ago European headmasters regarded the Malay pupil as backward and dull. For 1920 the Inspector of Schools, Penang, writes: "One of the classes of the Free School was composed of boys who had joined at the beginning of the year after passing Standard IV in a Malay School. In one year this class had advanced so far that the boys in it were able to take the *second* standard examination and succeeded in capturing the first half-dozen or so places". As for the third function, the introduction of basketry and gardening has already done much to inculcate the dignity of manual labour. And when the new Tanjong Malim College shall turn out teachers trained by an expert Agriculturist, an epoch-making advance it to be expected.

X.—General Observation.

Sir J. W. Murison acted as Colonial Secretary from the beginning of the year until May 14th when Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G., resumed that office on return from leave.

Sir Walter Shaw arrived in the Colony and assumed duty as Chief Justice of the Straits Settlements on May 29th.

H.M.S. *Malaya* visited Malaya in January and February and the opportunity of seeing this great battleship was much appreciated by the people of the Colony.

Towards the close of the year the Colony received visits from Marshal JOFFRE and Viscount NORTHCLIFFE.

On August 15th a Commission was appointed to enquire into and report on

(*a*) the present state of trade depression brought about in the main, by the continued depression in the Rubber Industry; and

(*b*) the extension of credit facilities.

The Commission presented a Report dated October 1st, 1921.

A Commission was appointed in September to enquire into the financial position of the Municipality of Singapore and presented a Report before the end of the year.

The preparation of the site of the New General Hospital at Singapore was proceeded with.

An interesting event in the history of the ancient Settlement of Malacca took place on September 3rd when at Alor Gajah OMAR BIN HASAN was invested with the title of Orang Kaya Seri Raja Merah Dato Penghulu Naning and restored to the former position held by the Datos Naning before the Naning Wars of 1832-1833. The little State of Naning, which was founded by settlers from Sumatra about the middle of the 16th century, from its geographical position naturally fell under the sway, first of the Dutch and then of the British in Malacca but to this day has preserved intact the matriarchal Menangkabau (Sumatran) custom of the Sister States in the modern Negri Sembilan. The restoration to the present Dato of the ancient dignities of his position was a fitting reward for a century of loyalty to British rule.

Trade in the Colony as in nearly all other countries in the world has suffered from the after effects of the war. The export trade of the Colony was largely affected by the low prices of rubber and tin. The low prices for both these articles which prevailed throughout the year caused a very serious depression in the export trade and consequently in the import trade. The bad state of trade throughout the year resulted in a considerable amount of unemployment, both European and Asiatic. In February Government was requested to appoint an officer to deal with the question of European unemployment and a central committee was formed in Kuala Lumpur with sub-committees in Singapore, Penang and Ipoh. The Government of the Colony contributed $10,000 and altogether subscriptions amounting to $160,155 were received and $143,187 was spent during the year. 630 applications for assistance were received

and of these 172 were found employment. Passages were granted to 180 men, 44 women and 24 children while financial assistance (including those who received money at their destinations) was given to 311 men, 120 women and 133 children. Including $10,000 subscribed to the funds of the committee, Government spent $66,311 on the relief of European unemployment during the year.

The labour position throughout the year caused some anxiety. As a result of the rubber slump, the majority of estates reduced their labour force to a minimum and stopped recruiting. As thousands of labourers return to India monthly either for a holiday or permanently whether times are good, bad or indifferent, this policy was bound in time to produce a shortage of Indian labour. Efforts were made to impress upon employers the necessity of recruiting sufficient labour to make good the wastage but very little recruiting was done. The position was difficult for, while it was clear to those who appreciated the position that there would ultimately be a shortage, there was actually for a short time a small surplus of labour in the country and this may have made employers hesitate about recruiting. During July, August and October there was a certain amount of unemployment among Indian labourers. The unemployed were looked after in camps erected by the Indian Immigration Committee. In October a shortage of labour supervened owing to the failure to make good the normal wastage and the few unemployed Indians were at once absorbed. In December a number of recruiting licences were taken out but the numbers leaving the country were still largely in excess of those arriving from India. There was no Indian unemployment at the end of the year.

It seems possible that the system of alternate-day tapping or some similar system, whereby all trees are not tapped continuously may assist in reducing the old demand for labour. Moreover, the practice of paying contract rates for tapping, which seems to be coming more popular, should have the same effect.

The Chinese Community like all other communities continued to suffer severely from the slump. There was some Chinese unemployment chiefly among coolies formerly employed in the mines or on railway construction but notwithstanding the general stagnation in the staple industries and in trade the large excess of new arrivals from China over returning emigrants appeared for the most part to be readily absorbed.

Trade was bad throughout the year which was one of the least prosperous in the history of the Colony. The depression was due to world-wide causes and the end is not yet in sight. In spite of many cases of suffering the situation has been faced by all classes of the community with patience and courage and the Colony may confidently rely on the spirit of its people to carry it through until a world revival brings commercial prosperity back to Malaya.

F. M. BADDELEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

4th August, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1107	Ashanti	1920
1108	Hongkong	"
1109	British Guiana	"
1110	British Honduras	"
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	"
1118	Weihaiwei	"
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	"
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	"
1125	Zanzibar	"
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1127	Gibraltar	"
1128	St. Vincent	"
1129	St. Helena	"
1130	Fiji	"
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	"
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	"
1137	Ceylon	"
1138	Swaziland	"
1139	Hongkong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1186.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1140.)

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1922.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

SITUATION AND AREA.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway is being built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

PENANG.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula in 5° north latitude, and at the northern extremity or entrance to the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

MALACCA.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

THE DINDINGS.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang, in 4° 15′ north latitude, and 100° 35′ east longitude. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ to 12° 45′ south, longitude 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length

being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

The total area of the Colony with these dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

LABUAN.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo, in 5° 16′ north latitude, and 115° 15′ east longitude. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

Labuan has a fine port (Victoria Harbour), safe, and easy of access.

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and beche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909

HISTORY.

MALACCA.

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu Kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammedanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources

PENANG.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of 6,000 dollars should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being

increased in return to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

Singapore.

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese Empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint Francis Xavier despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 29th January, 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

I.—Finances.

The revenue for the year 1922 amounted to $34 103,462 exceeding the Estimates by $4,901,288, whilst the expenditure was $24,797,085, being $4,037,008 less than the Estimate.

The revenue figure represents a fall of $5,442,273, as compared with 1921, but expenditure was also reduced by $10,633,814, with the result that the excess of revenue over expenditure was increased from $4,114,836 in 1921 to $9,306,377 in 1922.

The actual figures for 1921 and 1922 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE.

—	1921.	1922.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	1,822	1,682	...	140
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	29,105,291	26,763,528	...	2,341,763
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	931,096	961,625	30,529	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,257,289	1,420,589	163,300	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,396,602	1,295,360	...	101,242
6. Interest	1,988,163	2,153,997	165,834	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	4,738,350	1,332,646	...	3,405,704
	39,418,613	33,929,427	359,663	5,848,849
8. Land Sales	127,122	174,035	46,913	...
TOTAL ...	$39,545,735	34,103,462	406,576	5,848,849
	Net	Decrease ...	$5,442,273	

The decrease is mainly due to a fall of $2,341,763 in revenue from Licences, etc. (the chief sub-head being Income Tax which fell by $1,757,517) and $3,405,704 in Miscellaneous Receipts. Miscellaneous revenue in 1921 included $3,446,611 refund of overpayments of Defence Contribution of past years, whereas payments of this nature in 1922 only totalled $199,670.

Stamp Duties fell by $25,035, but there was an increase of $34,565 in Estate Duty.

The amount of tax collected under the Income Tax Ordinance 1922 was $3,911,543 as compared with $5,669,060 in 1921. This fall may be attributed to a depression in trade in 1921 as compared with 1920 and previous years, as Income Tax on business profits is assessed upon the profits of the previous year.

Among excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were:—

Licenses—	$
Income Tax	1,236,543
Opium	651,296
Tobacco Duties	120,406
Fees of Court, Etc.	164,104
Posts and Telegraphs ...	262,899
Interest	1,071,897
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,268,346
Land Sales	122,535

(ii).—EXPENDITURE.

—	1921.	1922.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions	755,963	852,591	96,628	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	17,946	17,808	...	138
4. The Governor	137,524	127,498	...	10,026
5. Civil Service	519,064	581,846	62,782	...
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	212,350	190,743	...	21,607
Government Printing Office	226,635	174,714	...	51,921
8. Land and District Offices ...	314,413	287,427	...	26,986
9. Forests	53,187	47,675	...	5,512
10. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	103,346	87,688	...	15,658
11. Treasury	220,478	232,814	12,336	...
12. Audit	77,460	78,448	988	...
13. Director of External Audit ...	...	...	...	...
14. Marine	737,774	634,410	...	103,364
15. Imports and Exports ...	...	53,691	53,691	...
16. Legal	427,907	402,349	...	25,558
17. Police	2,407,296	2,656,777	249,481	...
18. Prisons	465,017	410,590	...	54,427
19. Medical and Sanitary Services, Malaya	...	23,267	23,267	...
20. Medical	570,576	518,471	...	52,105
21 Health Branch, Singapore...	...	132,575	132,575	...
22. Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,411,802	1,189,423	...	222,379
23. Veterinary	52,148	55,740	3,592	...
24. Education	911,121	871,306	...	39,815
25. Ecclesiastical	26,675	25,949	...	726
26. Transport	305,586	175,240	...	130,346
27. Military Expenditure ...	5,764,448	4,046,407	...	1,718,041
28. Miscellaneous Services ...	12,071,385	5,203,517	...	6,867,868
29. Post Office	1,808,170	1,339,778	...	468,392
30. Government Monopolies ...	687,275	571,593	...	115,682
31. Agricultural Department ...	106,225	98,763	...	7,462
32. Botanical Gardens ...	96,918	85,487	...	11,431
33. Raffles Museum and Library	46,604	48,962	2,358	...
34. Income Tax	38,829	38,560	...	269
35. Public Works Department...	394,360	423,875	29,515	...
36. Survey Department ...	240,346	295,454	55,108	...
37. Public Works, Recurrent ...	639,153	512,285	...	126,868
38. Public Works, Extraordinary	3,531,938	2,266,281	...	1,265,657
39. Director of Supplies, S. S. and F. M. S.	13,897	...	...	13,897
TOTAL ...	$35,430,899	24,797,085	722,321	11,356,135
	Net	Decrease...	$10,633,814	

The main heads under which there has been increase in Expenditure (as compared with 1921) are:—

	Increase.
	$
Pensions	96,628
Civil Service	62,782
Police	249,481
Medical and Health Branch ...	80,470
Survey Department	55,108

and the main heads under which expenditure has decreased are:—

	Decrease.
	$
Marine	103,364
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	222,379
Transport	130,346
Military Expenditure ...	1,718,041
Miscellaneous Services ...	6,867,868
Post Office	468,392
Government Monopolies ...	115,682
Public Works Recurrent ...	126,868
Public Works Extraordinary ...	1,265,657

The increases under the heads "Police" and "Medical and Health Department" are mainly due to the fact that some part of arrears of salary in these Departments in respect of the year 1921 were not paid until 1922.

It is to be observed that the rise in "Civil Service" has been more than counterbalanced by a fall of over $100,000 in the expenditure against the vote 'Salaries of Acting Officers". This latter vote formerly bore the salaries of officers of the Federated Malay States Establishment lent for service in the Colony, but this practice was abandoned during the year under review in favour of payment from savings on the appropriation for "Civil Service".

The decreases in expenditure under the heads "Marine" and "Hospitals and Dispensaries" are mainly due to the establishment of separate new departments under the heads "Imports and Exports" and "Health Branch".

The reduction in Military Expenditure is principally due to reduced Defence Contribution, which was based on the estimated cost of the garrison, and not on 20 per cent of the revenue for the year, as has been the practice in the past.

Under Miscellaneous Services in 1921 were included $3,674,423 loss on sale of rice, $857,142 contribution to Imperial Government and $500,000 grants-in-aid to Municipalities to which there were no corresponding items in 1922. Temporary allowances to Government servants and contributions to Rural Boards included in this head show decreases of $800,000 and $600,000 respectively as compared with 1921.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the War, the following table will show the Colony's expenditure for the last seven years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

		Total Expenditure.	*Public Works Extraordinary.*
		$	$
1916	...	6,514,527	318,788
1917	...	6,774,048	208,908
1918	...	8,687,204	458,257
1919	...	29,111,433	892,571
1920	...	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	...	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922	...	20,9[illegible]	2,266,281

Although expenditure is being reduced, the advance upon 1918 figures is still marked and the following comparison between 1922 and 1918 is given.

The difference of 12 millions is accounted for mainly under the 3 heads:—Personal Emoluments 6¼ millions, Miscellaneous Services 2 millions, Public Works Extraordinary 1¾ millions.

As regards Personal Emoluments, the cost of all Establishments has increased, but the most noticeable are:—

Police 1½ millions, Medical and Hospitals ½ million, Education ½ million, Post Office ½ million, Miscellaneous Services (which includes $1½ million for Temporary Allowances to Government servants and pensioners) 1¾ millions. This leaves an increase of 1½ millions to be divided up amongst other departments.

Miscellaneous Services:—The chief items under "Other Charges" are:—

	$
Loss on Exchange	203,000
Contributions to Rural Boards ...	745,000
Visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales	149,000
Johore Causeway	686,000
Purchase of Land and Buildings	307,000
	2,090,000

The Johore Causeway is of the nature of a Public Work Extraordinary, but provision is made for it under the head "Miscellaneous Services", as the work is not being carried out under the superintendence of the Public Works Department.

The principal savings effected on the Expenditure Estimates 1922 were in respect of:—

	$
Civil Service	329,104
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	187,548
Education	340,432
Military Expenditure ...	1,706,435
Post Office	643,378
Government Monopolies ...	177,391
Survey Department	164,089
Public Works Recurrent ...	115,414
Public Works Extraordinary ...	934,626

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1922, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*	$
Deposits		10,387,500	Indian Agency Account ...	304,607
Drafts and Remittances ...		64,704	Investments	48,771,655
Suspense (*a*) ...		4,115,316	Advances	652,296
			Imprests	51,716
Loans:—			Loans:—	
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921–1926 ...		20,216,300	Municipalities ...	5,324,412
			Kelantan Government ...	520,000
Surplus—			Singapore Harbour Board	2,832,866
Reserved for specific purposes (*b*) ...	$30,780,000		Penang Harbour Board	601,521
			Ho Hong Steamship Co.	289,000
			Singapore Cricket Club	50,000
Unreserved ...	27,517,246		Brunei Government ...	20,000
		58,297,246	Federated Malay States Government Rice Account	5,261,917
			Federated Malay States Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	15,000,000
			Johore Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	800,000
			Municipality Singapore Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan	3,500,000
			Municipality Penang Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	916,300
			Cash in transit ...	24,732
			Cash	8,160,044
TOTAL ...		$93,081,066	TOTAL ...	$93,081,066

(*a*) Includes Interest Currency Commissioners $1,594,875.

(*b*)

Loans to Municipalities and Trengganu	$16,780,000
For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital	10,000,000
Raffles College Buildings	1,000,000
Malacca Water Supply	2,000,000
Government Contribution to Penang Water Supply	1,000,000
	$30,780,000

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1922, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon service in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ...	...	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	320,137
Total	...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	...	3,388,205
Total	...	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was $2,080,453 in 1922. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on 31st December, 1922, was approximately $3,500,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the 5½ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at $28,655,700, under the 5½ per cent Conversion Loan, 1919 at $36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan, 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal and interest on all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Straits Settlements 7 per cent Loan was floated on the 26th April, 1921, and closed on the 15th December, 1921. Subscriptions amounted to $20,216,300. The bonds are registered and bearer bonds at 7 per cent per annum redeemable at par on the 1st May, 1926. The proceeds of this loan

were lent to the following Governments and Municipalities:—

		$
Federated Malay States Government	...	15,000,000
Johore Government	...	800,000
Singapore Municipality	...	3,500,000
Penang Municipality	...	916,300
Total	...	$20,216,300

Ordinance 24 of 1921 authorised the issue of a loan to produce £10 million sterling, the proceeds to be lent to the Federated Malay States Government.

The first two instalments amounting to £9,355,000 ($80,185,714.29) have now been fully subscribed. By Enactment the Federated Malay States Government has undertaken to refund the interest and charges in connection with this Loan and also the Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish the Loan.

(v).—Exchange.

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1922:—

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, Netherlands Trading Society. (Nederlandisch Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de l'Indo-Chine.
,, International Banking Corporation.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank. (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited.
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, Bank of Communications.
,, Banque Industrielle de Chine.
,, Asia Banking Corporation.
,, Bank Voor Indie.

The Bank of Communications, which suspended payment on the 23rd November, 1921, re-opened on the 18th April, 1922, but again closed its doors on the 19th May, 1922.

The Banque Industrielle de Chine suspended payment on the 2nd July, 1921, but still maintains a representative in Singapore. It is understood that La Société de Gérance, formed to take over this Bank's affairs, commenced operations in Saigon in October, 1922, but proposals for re-opening at Singapore have not yet been placed before the Bank's creditors in this Colony.

The Bank Voor Indie closed its Singapore Office on the 31st May, 1922.

During the year under report, the demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 - 5/32 and 2/3 - 11/16.

(vi).—Currency.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year consisted of $72,944,004.70 in currency notes and $6,166,832.22 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $145,082, as compared with $149,951 at the end of 1921.

At the beginning of the year 1922 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $84,596,806.90. There was a demand by the public for sterling during the months of March and April and the consequent contraction in the currency during those months amounted to $12,728,571.43. In the month of November a slight demand for currency resulted in the issue of $857,142.86 in exchange for sterling.

The net result over the whole year shows that the currency notes in circulation were reduced to $72,944,004.70 at the end of 1922.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $32,145,606.39 consisting of £328,251 in gold and $8,848,419.53 in silver in the Colony and £2,389,754 2*s*. 8*d*. in gold in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Note Guarantee and Depreciation Funds were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year, $51,586,983.87, the cost price of those investments being $56,382,842.67.

The decrease in value compared with original cost is due to the general depreciation of all securities.

The Note Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $85,327,465.72 (coin portion $32,145,606.39, investment portion $51,586,983.87 and on deposit with the Government pending investment $1,594,875.46), while the Gold Standard Reserve Fund at the same date was valued at $23,065,314.47. The total of the funds controlled by the Commissioners was, therefore, $108,392,780.19 or $35,448,775.49 more than the total note circulation at the end of the year.

Small change continued to be returned to the Treasury during the year with the result that the subsidiary silver coins and notes in circulation decreased by $499,099.70 and $800,582.20 respectively. The notes in circulation of a face value less than $1 stood at the end of 1922 as follows:—

	$ c.
10-cent notes printed in United Kingdom	1,241,500 00
10-cent notes printed locally ...	344,090 70
25-cent notes printed locally ...	36,105 00
	$1,621,695 70

The corresponding figure at the end of 1920 was $3,364,834.80 and at the end of 1921 $2,422,277.90.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 22,421,620 against 8,623,555 in 1921. The increased rate of destruction is mainly due to an alteration in the methods of dealing with notes of face value below $1.

Ten-cent notes accounted for 19,626,000 of the number destroyed, and at the end of the year, there were no notes of this denomination awaiting destruction in the Note Cancellation Branch.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 12,261,189, and further 11,864,831 were presented during the year, making a total of 24,126,020 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 22,421,620 as stated in the preceding paragraph and the balance remaining for destruction at the end of the year was consequently 1,704,400, which represented notes of the face value of one dollar and five dollars only.

(vii).—Enemy Property.

Custodian of Enemy Property.—

Of the funds in the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property, a sum of $6,718,875.54 was transferred to the Controller of the Central Clearing Office, London, for the purpose of giving credit to the German and Austrian Governments in accordance with the Peace Treaties. Of this sum $6,569,213.29 represented the property of Germans and $149,662.25 that of Austrians.

At the end of the year the Custodian still had under his control $7,082,595.33, of which $7,012,034.79 was invested.

Local Clearing Office.—

The Local Clearing Office which was established under Ordinance No. 18 of 1920 continued its duties, and new claims continued to be presented up to the end of the year.

Claims by and against German Nationals.—

The claims by Germans against British Nationals dealt with during the year amounted to $722,336.25, making a total of $1,632,396.39 from the date of the establishment of the office. Claims amounting to $86,431.93 were admitted and $715,605.88 contested, making a total of admissions of $183,153.69 and contests of $1,266,407.91 from 1920 to 31st December, 1922. The Germans withdrew during the year claims amounting to $203,965.81.

British claims against German Nationals forwarded to the Controller of the Clearing Office, London during the year amounted to $97,029.46, and the admissions by Germans $16,076.36, making a total presented and admitted from 1920 to the end of 1922 of $270,786.37 and $31,444.60 respectively.

The claims contested by the Germans during 1922 amounted to $14,449.73, making the total of the contested claims to 31st December, 1922, of $159,743.30.

During the year this Clearing Office collected $19,711.74 from British Nationals on account of debts due to Germans, and paid out $7,592.36 to British Nationals in respect of their claims against German Nationals. The total collections and payments from 1920 to 31st December, 1922, were $166,768.36 and $19,198.65 respectively.

Of the claims contested by the Germans, this Clearing Office withdrew $7,122.75, leaving the balance in dispute.

Claims by and against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.—

During the year under review the Local Clearing Office also dealt with claims amounting to $38,994.71 by Austrians against British Nationals said to be resident in the Colony. The whole of the above claims have been contested, but have not yet been withdrawn by the claimants. As against the above, no claims from British Nationals against Austria were registered with the Clearing Office.

Claims from British Nationals against Hungary amounting to $3,024.41 were forwarded to the Controller of the Clearing Office, London during the year 1922.

No claims were received from the Hungarian Clearing Office against British Nationals resident in the Colony.

The Controller's investments on 31st December, 1922, amounted to $143,000.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries.

(*a*) Shipping.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 26,913,256 as compared with 25,055,798 in 1921.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1921 and 1922.

NATIONALITY	1921.					1922.					Increase in 1922 as compared with 1921.	Decrease in 1922 as compared with 1921.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	1,151,746	205,046	...	...	1,356,792	777,124	216,254	8,296	1,830	1,003,504	...	353,288
Brazilian ...	11,138	...	...	...	11,138	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,138
British ...	8,153,028	4,769,644	385,014	186,369	13,494,055	8,889,748	5,465,982	397,156	166,226	14,919,112	1,425,057	...
Chinese ...	88,838	7,520	...	...	96,358	80,975	1,542	...	...	82,517	...	13,841
Danish ...	273,470	96,420	...	...	369,890	315,722	103,556	...	13,506	432,784	62,894	...
Dutch ...	2,873,526	541,958	564	1,150	3,417,198	2,840,503	649,753	...	216	3,490,472	73,274	...
French ...	928,516	124,252	...	...	1,052,768	1,010,314	499,954	...	...	1,510,268	457,500	...
German ...	4,176	...	...	...	4,176	192,493	15,288	...	...	207,781	203,605	...
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,968	...	...	...	4,968	4,968	...
Italian ...	191,566	93,942	...	...	285,508	170,163	101,506	...	...	271,669	...	13,839
Inter-allied ...	11,322	...	...	...	11,322	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,322
Japanese ...	3,584,708	507,680	124,670	47,806	4,264,864	3,157,797	617,336	292,162	67,758	4,135,053	...	129,811
Norwegian ...	178,496	16,862	...	...	195,358	307,674	13,802	...	...	321,476	126,118	...
Portuguese ...	19,884	...	...	...	19,884	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,884
Sarawak ...	69,995	...	...	1,155	71,150	82,208	...	...	854	83,062	11,912	...
Siamese ...	253,093	3,808	...	...	256,901	273,582	...	...	...	273,582	16,681	...
Spanish ...	62,942	...	...	...	62,942	54,460	...	...	...	54,460	...	8,482
Swedish ...	62,820	...	...	8,582	71,402	122,548	...	...	...	122,548	51,146	...
Czecho-slovak...	14,092	...	...	...	14,092	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,092
TOTALS ...	17,933,356	6,367,132	510,248	245,062	25,055,798	18,280,279	7,684,973	697,614	250,390	26,913,256	2,433,155	575,697
										Net Increase ...		1,857,458

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1918	...	...	13,064,270 tons.
1919	...	...	18,885,183 ,,
1920	...	...	24,027,912 ,,
1921	...	...	25,055,798 ,,
1922	...	...	26,913,256 ,,

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 51,882 in number and 2,014,983 in tons in 1922 as compared with 51,069 and 2,296,268, respectively, in 1921.

Fourteen new steam-launches and motor-vessels with a tonnage of 823 tons gross and eight sailing-vessels of 551 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 15 new sailing-vessels of 1,513 tons were licensed under section 424, and 921 vessels of 7,389 tons under section 425.

Harbour Boards.

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the years ending June 30, 1921, and June 30, 1922, have been as follows:—

	Income.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Year ending 30th June, 1921 ...	17,782,797	12,644,492
Year ending 30th June, 1922 ...	7,961,050	10,345,960

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1921, at $50,760,467 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $4,723,662 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock Departments of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1922, were $1,154,300 and the expenditure $1,057,851

(*b*) Trade.

The trade of the Colony in 1922 as with other parts of the world, has apparently improved during the year, the most marked improvement being in the latter half.

The following figures excluding Coin and Bullion show the value of the whole trade of the Colony, with the exception of Inter-Settlement, in thousands of pounds sterling for the last five years:—

Merchandise—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Merchandise. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*	*Exports Merchandise. Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1918 ...	81,618	71,922	+ 7,631	− 385
1919 ...	96,664	99,318	+ 15,046	+27,396
1920 ...	124,216	102,536	+ 27,552	+ 3,218
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	− 58,425	− 46,398
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922

The aggregate trade for the year 1922, excluding inter-settlement trade, was therefore £128·7 millions as against £121·9 millions in 1921, an increase of £6·8 millions.

The value of the inter-settlement trade, including treasure for the last five years, was as follows in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*	*Exports Increase or decrease over the preceding year.*
	£	£	£	£
1918 ...	9,183	9,584	+ 1,046	+ 864
1919 ...	13,164	13,235	+ 3,981	+ 3,651
1920 ...	14,938	14,797	+ 1,774	+ 1,562
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	− 8,034	− 7,910
1922 ...	5,144	5,078	− 1,760	− 1,809

Bullion and Specie.—The figures for Bullion and Specie in thousands of pounds sterling for the years 1921 and 1922 were as follows:—

		Imports.	*Exports.*
		£	£
1921	...	2,335	1,887
1922	...	1,892	1,301

The following figures show the trade according to classes, in thousands of pounds sterling:—

	Imports.		*Exports.*	
	1921.	*1922.*	*1921.*	*1922.*
	£	£	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	26,204	25,044	21,129	19,056
2. Raw Materials	24,391	29,140	25,439	35,425
3. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles	15,196	12,508	9,570	7,577
TOTAL ...	65,791	66,692	56,138	62,059

The figures of Imports and Exports decreased in classes I and III and increased in class II.

The following tables show the quantities and values of eighteen articles of Import and Export in 1922 as compared with those in 1921.

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted.	1921.		1922.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber ...	C. of 100 lbs.	2,336,240	57,416,233	3,430,690	88,907,033	1,094,450	31,490,800	...	...
Tin Ore	Pls.	1,028,581	62,994,433	1,224,823	66,296,913	196,242	3,302,480	...	...
Rice	"	7,584,795	59,926,048	9,540,925	66,827,513	1,956,130	6,901,465	...	...
Milk Cond. ...	C/s.	435,528	8,883,839	549,278	8,540,411	113,750	...	...	343,428
Sugar	Pls.	1,420,040	18,374,942	1,411,705	13,842,634	...	...	8,335	4,532,308
Cigarettes	lbs.	11,022,081	22,380,736	9,487,178	18,730,081	...	...	1,534,903	3,650,655
Fish, Dry and Salted ...	Pls.	963,138	17,109,049	855,709	14,029,123	...	...	107,429	3,079,926
Arecanuts	"	720,101	5,483,624	810,992	6,636,163	90,891	1,152,539	...	...
Benzine	Galls.	3,113,565	3,225,960	7,297,407	6,907,353	4,183,842	3,681,393	...	...
Petroleum	C/s.	941,372	5,539,757	1,902,507	11,723,628	961,135	6,183,871	...	...
Sago	Pls.	634,827	2,956,032	958,084	4,822,782	323,257	1,866,750	...	...
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Pcs.	3,228,278	24,913,963	4,371,253	25,187,750	1,142,975	273,787	...	...
Sarongs	Corges.	352,233	13,599,306	378,602	11,082,895	26,369	...	...	2,516,411
Copra	Pls.	2,136,641	23,226,266	2,305,117	22,358,880	168,476	...	...	867,386
Pepper	"	255,607	5,519,114	325,336	5,465,758	69,729	...	...	53,356
Rattans	"	394,038	3,858,171	449,354	3,819,679	55,316	...	...	38,492
Coal	Tons.	541,060	16,818,541	584,414	10,979,692	43,354	...	...	5,838,849
Machinery	...	...	9,901,058	...	4,693,301	...	...	...	5,207,757

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted.	1921.		1922.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber ...	C. of 100 lbs.	3,287,909	94,186,664	4,634,313	136,145,195	1,346,404	41,958,531	...	...
Tin	Pls.	704,225	58,444,571	1,113,175	89,946,852	408,950	31,502,281	...	...
Rice	,,	5,921,157	47,296,648	6,062,454	42,045,470	141,297	...	...	5,251,178
Milk	C/s.	237,480	5,142,379	269,936	4,268,910	32,456	...	...	873,469
Sugar	Pls.	799,439	10,970,763	559,196	5,855,927	...	...	240,243	5,114,836
Cigarettes	lbs.	8,406,666	15,977,305	8,514,058	15,622,294	107,392	...	...	355,011
Fish, Dry and Salted ..	Pls.	1,074,029	20,710 191	931,607	17,040,827	...	...	142,422	3,669,364
Arecanuts	,,	828,931	7,619,108	864,004	8,308,458	35,073	689,350	...	...
Benzine	Galls.	759,670	793,233	3,635,779	3,481,825	2,876,109	2,688,592	...	...
Petroleum	C/s.	383,695	2,469,182	1,354,471	8,680,413	970,776	6,211,231	...	...
Sago	Pls.	677,703	3,688,496	978,441	5,881,511	300,738	2,193,015	...	...
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Pcs.	2,801,973	19,565,847	2,720,645	16,360,871	...	...	81,323	3,204,976
Sarongs	Corges.	195,393	6,573,310	183,057	5,245,258	...	...	12,336	1,328,052
Copra	Pls.	2,259,996	27,619,578	2,793,558	29,526,863	533,562	1,907,285	...	...
Pepper	,,	271,171	6,656,572	376,685	7,381,795	105,514	725,223	...	...
Rattans	,,	361,856	6,201,717	461,394	6,846,110	99,538	644,393	...	...
Preserved Pineapples ...	C/s.	662,360	6,210,383	710,671	6,694,098	48,311	483,715	...	...
Rubber Latex ...	Galls.	...	...	21,929	43,786	...	...	...	...

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1921 and 1922:—

	1921.		1922.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
Malay States ...	1,923,000	47,766,000	2,634,000	70,462,000
Netherlands Indies...	303,000	7,115,000	619,000	13,563,000
Other Countries	110,000	2,535,000	178,000	4,882,000
Total ...	2,336,000	57,416,000	3,431,000	88,907,000

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1921 and 1922:—

	1921.		1922.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs	Value.
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
United Kingdom	398,000	13,333,000	223,000	6,784,000
United States of America ...	2,268,000	64,264,000	3,681,000	108,504,000
Other Countries	622,000	16,590,000	730,000	20,857,000
Total ...	3,288,000	94,187,000	4,634,000	136,145,000

Tin and Tin Ore were imported in 1921 and 1922 from the following countries:—

	1921.		1922.	
	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.
	—	—	—	—
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.
Malay States ...	73,000	678,000	96,000	714,000
Netherlands Indies	1,000	169,000	11,000	334,000
Siam ...	4,000	104,000	6,000	139,000
Other Countries ...	...	78,000	...	38,000
Total ...	78,000	1,029,000	113,000	1,225,000

The exports of Tin in 1921 and 1922 were as follows:—

	1921.		1922.	
	Pikuls.	*Value.*	*Pikuls.*	*Value.*
	—	—	—	—
		$		$
United Kingdom	200,000	16,338,000	185,000	14,776,000
United States of America ...	330,000	27,573,000	752,000	60,768,000
Other Countries	174,000	14,534,000	176,000	14,403,000
Total ...	704,000	58,445,000	1,113,000	89,947,000

It will thus be seen that there was an increase in Imports of Para Rubber of over one million centals of 100 lbs. and the value increased by over 31 million dollars, while as regards Exports an increase of 1·3 millions centals of 100 lbs. is recorded and the increase in value amounted to nearly 42 million dollars.

Tin Ore Imports increased by 196 thousand pikuls, the increased value being 3·3 million dollars. The quantity of Tin exported shows an increase over 1921 of nearly 409 thousand pikuls and an increase in value of 3·1 million dollars.

Other items of interest are as follows:—

Rice.—Increase in Imports of nearly 2 million pikuls, increased value nearly 7 million dollars; Exports increase in quantity of 141 thousand pikuls, decrease in value of 5¼ million dollars.

Sugar.—Decrease in quantity imported by 8 thousand pikuls, decreased value 4½ million dollars; Exports decreased by 240 thousand pikuls and value by over 5 million dollars.

Cigarettes.—Over 1½ million pounds less were imported and the value also shows a decline of 3·6 million dollars; there were 107 thousand pikuls more exported and the value decreased by 355 thousand dollars.

Cotton Piece Goods.—The Imports increased by 4·1 million pieces and the value by 273 thousand dollars; but the Exports show a decrease of 81 thousand pieces and the value by 3·2 million dollars.

Sago.—323 thousand pikuls more were imported and the value increased by 1·8 million dollars; the Exports increased by over 300 thousand pikuls and the value by nearly 2·2 million dollars.

Coal.—43 thousand tons more were imported, the value decreased by 5·8 million dollars; the quantity used in bunkering ships engaged in the foreign trade was 431 thousand tons of an approximate value of 8·7 million dollars.

Rubber Latex.—This is the first time that this article has appeared in the Returns, and it indicates a new departure in the rubber industry; nearly 22 thousand gallons were exported from the Colony valued at about 44 thousand dollars.

Trade by Countries.—The following table shows the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, United States of America, and Japan in thousands of pounds sterling:—

		Imports.		*Exports.*	
		1921.	*1922.*	*1921.*	*1922.*
		£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		7,730	7,386	5,629	4,799
Australia and New Zealand ...		1,844	1,628	260	365
Belgium	Continent of Europe.	132	115	96	65
Denmark	Continent of Europe.	89	72	181	191
France	Continent of Europe.	389	361	1,302	1,977
Germany	Continent of Europe.	103	282	1,238	1,792
Holland	Continent of Europe.	353	398	1,142	1,033
Italy	Continent of Europe.	362	437	419	797
Norway	Continent of Europe.	4	6	...	3
Sweden	Continent of Europe.	26	18	...	35
Spain	Continent of Europe.	4	2	321	405
Russia	Continent of Europe.	...	55	...	...
United States of America... ...		2,990	1,892	11,418	20,751
Japan		2,627	2,106	2,030	1,786

The articles from the United Kingdom which show the largest decreased values are Apparel, Hosiery and Millinery, Hardware, Ironware including Cooking Utensils, Steel,

Sarongs, Motor Cars and Motor Cycles. Increases occurred in Corrugated Iron, Acetic Acid, Yarn, Toilet Soap and Chemicals. Increases in value of produce shipped to the United Kingdom occurred in the following articles, Sago, Copra, Gambier, Hides. Decreases took place in Tin, Pepper, Tapioca, Rubber and Gutta Percha.

As regards the United States of America decreases in Imports are seen in Tinned Provisions, Fruit, Milk, Paper, Stationery, Lubricating Oil, Motor Cars, and increases in Petroleum and Liquid Fuel only. The following exports to United States of America advanced in value: Tin, Pepper, Tapioca, Rattans, Gutta Percha, Para Rubber, Gums; but the value of Gambier fell.

Imports from Japan show decline in value in Coal, Apparel, Hosiery, Cement, Lamps and Lampware; values in the following increased: Acetic Acid, Cotton Piece Goods, Matches, Hats and Caps. Exports to Japan show increases in Phosphates of Lime, Sago, Shells, while Para Rubber, Tin, Raw Cotton, Gutta Percha and Rattans declined in value.

Exports—

to France were Tin, Sago, Tapioca, Illipi Nuts, Coffee and Para Rubber;

to Italy—Tin, Sago, Pepper and Copra;

to Denmark—Sago and Tapioca;

to Germany—Copra and Rubber;

to Holland—Rattans and Rubber;

all of which show increases in value.

The Exports to the Continent of Europe which declined in value were as follows:—

France—Jelutong;

Italy—Rubber;

Denmark—Copra;

Germany—Pepper, Rattans, and Tapioca;

Holland—Copra and Sago.

There was a fall in the total value of Exports to Netherlands Indies, Malay States, French Indo-China, Siam, Hongkong and China.

Increases appear in the values of the Exports to the following countries: Australia, New Zealand, British North Borneo, Sarawak, British India and Burma.

The total value of Imports from the Netherlands Indies amounted to 111 million dollars, an increase of 18 million dollars as compared with 1921.

The Exports were valued at 80·7 million dollars, a decrease of 18·3 million dollars.

The new classification of articles in the Import and Export List on the lines of the United Kingdom List of 1920, has been completed and will come into force in 1924.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.—During the year 37 new companies were registered, 2 without share-capital and 35 with a capital of $12,070,000 of which 29 were private companies with a capital of $6,420,000.

At the end of the year 397 companies remained on the register of which 45 were in liquidation: the total subscribed capital of the 340 companies carrying on a business was $157,541,595.

Four hundred and twenty-seven companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 329 are British, 30 are Japanese, 22 are Dutch, 2 are German and 21 are incorporated in the United States of America and Hawaii. Apart from these, 13 companies, of which 12 are British, have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Sixty-nine companies do Fire Insurance business.

(*c*) Forests.

The area of reserved forests was increased by the addition of 1,925 acres to the Segari-Melintang Reserve, and by the constitution of a new reserve of 602 acres known as the Kopia Reserve, both in the Dindings. On the other hand 156 acres of the Pandan Reserve in Singapore was revoked to provide room for a cement factory and subsidiary buildings. The total area of reserved forests is now 109,431 acres, equivalent to 11·3 per cent of the total area of the Colony and the reservation of a further 800 acres in Malacca is under consideration.

Revenue and expenditure were $45,007 and $44,419 respectively, compared with $43,837 and $50,572 in 1921, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a small surplus of $588, instead of a deficit of $6,735. Revenue fell in Singapore, was steady in Penang and Malacca, and showed a substantial rise in the Dindings, the result being a net increase for the Colony of $1,170. The estimates of revenue were in all cases exceeded.

The outturn of timber was 8,489 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 35,331 tons, compared with 9,835 and 24,375 tons in the previous year.

The planting of mangrove was continued in the Dindings and a good deal of sylvicultural work was done in the interests of gutta-percha in Malacca and Penang, in both of which places trees were also tapped departmentally.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 52 in addition to 4 which were pending at the beginning of the year. Of these, 22 were compounded, 32 were taken to court, and 2 were pending at the end of the year. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $802 in addition to $236 awarded as compensation for damage to the forest. In the compounded cases a sum of $478 was paid.

The Forest Department of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States was awarded a special gold medal for their display at the Malaya-Borneo Exhibition.

(*d*) Agriculture.

Rubber.—For nine months of the year the low prices for rubber that prevailed during 1921 continued to cause serious difficulties to producers. With the news that a scheme for restriction of output had been sanctioned prices rose in October and continued to improve until the end of the year. The following table gives the Singapore market prices for the different grades for each month of 1922:—

SINGAPORE RUBBER PRICES, 1922.

CENTS PER lb.

—	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Standard Rubber sheet	30–37½	27–31	25½–27	27–28½	24–28½	24½–27½	25–26½	23¾–25	23–26¼	41¼	43¾–47	47–48½
Second quality ribbed sheet	25–37	24–30½	20–26	21–28	20–27½	17–27	22½–26	21–24¾	18½–26	23¾–39¾	34–46	41½–47¾
Standard 1st latex crepe	29½–37	27–31	25½–26½	27½–28½	24½–27¼	24½–27½	25–26½	24–25¾	23–23¼	40¼–40½	39¼–47	No sales.
Second quality latex crepe	24–37	22–30	18–26½	21–28	20–27	19–26½	21–26	20½–24¾	20–25¾	22¾–39½	36¾–46	42¾–47½
Lower grade crepe ...	20–34	15½–27	15–23½	17–25½	15–25	13½–24½	16–23	16¾–23½	15¾–23¾	19–36½	29½–43	35–44½
Bark crepe ...	17½–30	15½–22½	14–21	17–22	15–19	12–21	15½–19	16–19¾	15¼–19	18¾–33½	29¾–38¾	36¾–41½

The high price commanded by rubber in the past has not been without harmful effects. Apart from being an important factor in the local high cost of living, it has led to a certain degree of extravagance in the administration of large estates; it has caused rubber properties to be regarded as a source for acquiring large profits rapidly, not as valuable assets that should be carefully preserved; it has led land owners to plant up unsuitable land with rubber, so that in parts of Malacca and Province Wellesley low-lying land with a high water table, suitable for padi or certain annual crops, is often found to contain stunted and unhealthy rubber trees with an inadequate root system, that can never yield a profit unless the price of rubber is unduly high; finally it has caused public interest to be centred on rubber cultivation and has led to the neglect of all other crops giving reliable but smaller profits.

The period of depression that now appears to have ended has done much to counteract some of these ills. Rubber companies of good standing have set their houses in order and have succeeded in producing rubber at a cost per pound that is believed to be lower than that obtaining in any other country. In some cases the upkeep of the estates has suffered, but instances of this are not very numerous. Padi cultivation in the Colony has benefited, and there has been much interest evinced in the possibilities of developing other crops. There is a danger that an improvement in the price of rubber will cause a return of many of the former undesirable effects, and every effort should be made to prevent this.

The planting community continues to be interested in the possibility of increasing the yield of individual rubber trees by bud grafting from selected high-yielding mother trees. The recent work of the Dutch scientists has shown that numerous difficulties remain to be overcome before this procedure can be relied upon to give satisfactory results on an estate scale, and also that it is unlikely that the excessively high yields once promised by this means will be realised. The work is still in an experimental stage requiring further investigation. There is, however, every need for the active support of further experimental work.

The output of Manufactured rubber goods, especially soles of boots and complete canvas boots and shoes with rubber soles, is increasing in the Colony. The goods are to a considerable extent being exported to China

It would appear desirable to impress on rubber growers and others the importance of encouraging the use of crepe rubber soles (unvulcanised). Such soles have been found most satisfactory in actual use: they are light and springy, and they grip well and wear well. In addition to this they

contain 100 per cent rubber and can be produced by any grower who in the ordinary course of his work produces crepe rubber. Here you have the grower turning out of his existing rubber factory with his existing machinery the complete article ready for use. The crepe rubber sole is finding a ready market in England; but it is curious and disappointing to find that shoes soled with it are not to be seen for sale in the European-owned shops of the Colony and Federated Malay States. If the world used the crepe rubber sole there would be no further need of restriction.

Only two diseases of rubber call for comment. Pink Disease (*Corticium salmonicolor*) occurs fairly generally in the eastern third of Province Wellesley, though it is not so prevalent as in parts of the Federated Malay States. During the year it was found for the first time in three widely separated localities in Penang Island, two being on the western side. All these attacks are receiving regular attention. There were no cases of the disease in Malacca.

Mouldy Rot (*Sphæronema fimbriatum*) was present in Malacca on one estate only at the beginning of the year. Here it regularly received adequate treatment. Later it appeared in 4 new areas all of which are near the Johore boundary. The disease has been present for some years in Johore, and, as it is easily conveyed on tapping knives or clothing, its appearance in Malacca on the Johore boundary was anticipated. It is spreading generally in the Peninsula in spite of every effort to control it. All the Malacca planters have been advised of its appearance, and its treatment on infected holdings is being regularly demonstrated and enforced. The small holders naturally require teaching before they understand the need for treatment and for carrying out very thoroughly the measures recommended.

Coconuts.—Coconut cultivation still continued to pay regularly though the prices for copra and nuts fell as compared with the prices in 1921. The price of copra ranged from $9 to $11 a pikul (133½ lbs.), while nuts in the coastal districts were 2 to 3 cents each in the kampongs and 4 to 5 cents on the market.

Preliminary selection work on coconuts is in progress in the Federated Malay States for the joint benefit of the Straits Settlements. The chief object of this work is to increase the yield of copra per acre under this crop and to study the factors affecting yield.

Throughout the year the work of clearing up all dead palms, refuse and other accumulations suitable as breeding grounds for the black coconut beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) and red stripe weevil (*Rhincophorus schach*) was steadily maintained. Good results have been obtained in Malacca

and there is a marked improvement in Singapore, Penang and Province Wellesley, though in the last three Settlements more work remains to be done.

It is worthy of note that a small factory for the preparation of desiccated coconut has been operating with success in Province Wellesley. This is the only such factory at present in the Colony.

The preparation of copra from nuts grown on small holdings appears to offer a possible field for co-operative methods which might considerably benefit the producer.

Padi.—The padi harvest of 1921-1922 in Malacca was fair, though damage by rain and rats was reported from some districts. In Penang the crop was considerably below the average owing to unfavourable rains at planting and at harvest. The prospects for the 1922-1923 crop in Malacca are not good owing to severe damage by floods just after planting to the later planted areas, followed by long periods of heavy rain and wind before harvest which have damaged the earlier planted padi that promised well. In Penang and Province Wellesley, however, the conditions have been very favourable, with the one exception that there is excess of water in the fields. The prospects of a heavy crop are very good provided the padi is not "laid" by heavy storms.

Steps have been taken towards the improvement of padi yields. An Experiment Station for testing pure strains of padi from Krian and selecting pure strains of promising local varieties has been started in Malacca. Owing to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the department the first year's work has given little or no result, but improvements are expected in 1923.

A testing station for selected Krian strains has been established in Provice Wellesley and the 8 strains grown there promise very satisfactory results.

Seed of pure strains has been distributed to certain planters throughout the padi growing areas. The crops from these plots will be compared with the yield of local varieties on surrounding land so that the most suitable strains of selected rices may be determined for varying localities and their cultivation be encouraged in the future. It is intended to institute a few more testing stations in the coming year and to continue the distribution of suitable pure seed.

Pests other than rats were not of importance. The Agricultural Department has distributed supplies of barium carbonate at cost price for use as a rat poison with satisfactory results. In the coming year this action will be continued and the use of traps as well will be encouraged.

Tractor cultivation gave promising results on a small scale and will be further tested in the coming year. If successful it would prove of great advantage and would overcome the difficulties that arise when there are outbreaks of rinderpest among the buffaloes.

Control of the water supply is a dominating factor in padi cultivation and is receiving consideration.

Other Crops.—The results obtained from the cultivation of Roselle fibre are variable and it cannot yet be said that this plant is fully established as a suitable crop for small holders. But experience in the Federated Malay States shows that it can be cultivated with profit on large estates, and one estate is doing well by growing it and making rope for the local market.

A larger crop than usual of cloves and nutmegs was obtained in Penang. The quality of these Penang spices is good and it is worthy of consideration whether steps could not be taken to encourage and revive this industry. Difficulties might be experienced owing to the fact that the cultivation is entirely in the hands of Chinese small holders.

Tapioca and betel-nuts are grown in considerable quantities in Penang and Province Wellesley, and betel-nuts to a less extent in Malacca. In the Province there are small areas of a few interesting crops such as tobacco for cheroot wrappers, and indigo for local use.

There was an exceptionally good crop of durians, mangosteens and rambutans in Penang and Province Wellesley during the year.

It is also worthy of note that a small pineapple canning factory was started in the Province, but closed down owing to the low prices towards the end of the year. The larger factories in Singapore have continued in operation. They obtain much fruit from Johore and even from parts of the Federated Malay States. Their produce would be improved if more attention were paid to grading the fruit before canning and packing it.

Two or three factories for the distillation of patchouli oil are still operating in Singapore. The raw material appears to be derived almost entirely from Sumatra. The cultivation of patchouli and also of gingelly for which there is a considerable local Chinese and Indian market are worthy of attention. Good prices may be anticipated for kapok and tuba root.

The Agricultural Exhibit of the Malaya-Borneo Exhibition which was highly praised on all sides did valuable work not only in showing the agricultural products of the Peninsula and the activities of the Agricultural Department, but

also in focussing attention on new products which might be successfully cultivated in British Malaya.

But in connection with new products it must always be borne in mind that successful cultivation is only the first step; the second, and more essential one, is successful sale: It is no good producing if you cannot sell at a profit. These remarks are not intended to discourage enterprise but to encourage clear thinking.

It is satisfactory to record that there is enterprise in the country; and it is pleasant to be able to report that there have been a large number of enquiries from persons eager for information on cultivation and marketing products other than rubber and coconuts.

(*e*) Land.

(i).—Land Tenure.

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town were issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was however insufficient with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under these titles, which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent, the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but it has now been decided to restrict in future the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not

exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held of the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Singapore eighteen and in Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Statutory Grants and Leases as in Singapore, and Statutory Grants are also being substituted for Permits and Expired Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for alienation of foreshore.

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber, tapioca and gambier leases and of mukim assessment under customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE.

The Revenue in 1922 was thus distributed:—

——		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1921	266,844	22,769	104,439	394,052
	1922	291,458	23,059	119,897	434,414
Penang ...	1921	216,982	23,927	13,358	254,267
	1922	220,404	26,414	18,679	265,497
Malacca ...	1921	523,055	5,952	34,247	563,254
	1922	532,060	6,346	37,608	516,014
Labuan ...	1921	4,604	5,048	422	10,074
	1922	5,219	1,314	114	6,647
Total ...	1921	1,011,485	57,696	152,466	1 221,647
	1922	1,049,141	57,133	176,298	1,222,572

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

Singapore.

	1918.	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*	*1922.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	599 0 03	392 3 25	340 3 34	454 2 17	731 1 07
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	237,980	204,130	131,908	49,766	84,822
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	79	83	88	30	114
Premia paid ...	$291,273	$348,235	$1,780,736	$92,308	$188,476

Penang.

	1918.	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*	*1922.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	472 0 19	16 1 32	556 3 00	824 1 5	2,689 1 28
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	12,228	Nil.	Nil.	12,357	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	151	1	83	84	394
Premia paid ...	$4,109	$2,4 7.50	$15,422.00	$11,061.50	$26,555 50

Malacca.

	1918.	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*	*1922.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	8,721 0 12	4,214 0 08	1,919 2 38	1,590 1 32	1,124 0 31
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots	738	20,190	15,957	6,522	21,000
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	286	219	108	39	116
Premia paid ...	$172,622	$77,207	$50,170	$42,790	$52,843 00

Labuan.

	1918.	*1919.*	*1920.*	*1921.*	*1922.*
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	...	...	1,403 1 26	185 0 16	228 3 9
,, Town Lots	0 4 10	17 1 17	...	5 0 00	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	39	73 (in exchange for old titles.)	290	221 (190 new Grants, 15 in exchange for old titles & 16 sub-division grants.)	Nil.
Premia paid ...	$83	$36	$1,027.64	$422.60	$114.90

(*f*) Fisheries.

It was decided towards the end of 1921 to create a single Department of Fisheries for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States. Previously the Federated Malay States Department had for some years been under the control of the Department of Museums, Federated Malay States, and possessed, to a certain extent, a separate organisation; while the Straits Settlements Fisheries had been, for licensing purposes, an adjunct of the Master Attendant's Department, and little information was available as to any aspect of the industry other than the revenue it produced.

The services of Mr. David G. Stead, F.L.S., Fisheries Enquiry Commissioner to the New South Wales Government, had been engaged in 1921 for the purpose of investigating the economic possibilities of the Fisheries in Malayan waters and he landed in Singapore early in 1922. Mr. Stead was conducting his investigation throughout Malaya up to the end of the year.

In July a scheme for the organisation of Malayan Fisheries was submitted to the Governments of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. The scheme was drawn up by Mr. Stead after a close study of existing conditions in all parts of British Malaya and with particular regard to possible developments in the future.

The provisions of the scheme were briefly, that the whole coastline of British Malaya, from the border on the West to that on the East, inclusive of the Unfederated Malay States, should eventually be divided into 17 sub-divisions, each under a Fisheries Officer, the control of the whole becoming co-ordinated under one Department. In the meantime, however, and for the purpose of the 1923 organisation, the coastline from the northern boundary of Penang Settlement to the southern boundary of Malacca Settlement was to be divided into three Districts with a Fisheries Officer in control of each. Singapore settlement would comprise a fourth District, and the Pahang coast a fifth. A Senior Fisheries Officer would be stationed at Headquarters in Singapore. Motor launches of a type suitable to the peculiar conditions of the West Coast were to be allotted to the three large West Coast districts.

The organisation for 1923 was accepted, with certain modifications in matters of detail, by the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Governments.

III.—Legislation.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1922 were 39 in number, including two Supply Ordinances. Twenty-four of these are amending Ordinances.

2. The most important of the Ordinances which are not amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Income Tax Ordinance (No. 3) which reproduces and continues with some alterations the Income Tax Ordinance, 1921 (No. 1).

(ii) The Premiums (Leases) Ordinance (No. 4) which is designed to secure the disclosure of any premium paid upon the grant renewal or continuance of any lease or agreement for the tenancy of any premises and provides for a compulsory regular form of receipt in English to be given by the landlord.

(iii) The Decorations and Uniforms, etc. (Unauthorised Use) Ordinance (No. 5) which provides penalties for the unauthorised use or wearing of any British medal, decoration, title or uniform.

(iv) The Aliens Restriction Ordinance (No. 8) which restricts the activities of aliens in the Colony, especially in respect of employment as Pilots or in the Mercantile Marine and of the acquisition of certain kinds of property.

(v) The Prohibition of Exports and Imports Ordinance (No. 10) which provides for the control over the exports and imports of certain articles in the Colony.

(vi) The Rubber Lands Assessment Ordinance (No. 11) which provides for an equitable basis for the levying of rates on rubber lands in Rural Board areas.

(vii) The Raffles College (Committees Incorporation) Ordinance (No. 13) which provides for the incorporation of a Financial and an Executive Committee.

(viii) The Rent Restriction Continuation Ordinance (No. 20) authorising a further extension of six months of the operation of the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1921.

(ix) The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Ordinance (No. 25) which imposes a graduated export duty on rubber on the lines of the Scheme devised by Sir JAMES STEVENSON. This Ordinance applies only to Malacca, Province Wellesley and Dindings.

(x) The Deportees (Prohibition of Return) Ordinance (No. 37) prohibiting the return without the permission of the Governor of persons who were ordered to quit the Colony under the powers conferred on the Governor by the Order in Council dated the 26th day of October, 1896.

The principal amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Straits Settlements Loan Ordinance, 1921 (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which alters the authorised amount of the loan of $2,000,000 to $2,216,300.

(ii) The Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7.) which provides that piece-goods imported for sale in the Colony must be truly and correctly stamped on each piece with the length and weight which it purports to contain.

(iii) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which provides a new scale of fees for permits to work cargo on Sundays.

(iv) The Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which extends and defines the powers of the Commissioners to remove obstructions in the streets.

(v) The Defence Contribution (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) which prevents the Colony from making payments which may prove to be unnecessarily large.

(vi) The Inventions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 24) which increases the life of a patent from 14 to 16 years and reduces the period of extension from 14 to 10 years.

(vii) The Rubber Lands Assessment (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 26) abolishing the *ad valorem* rate for estates over one hundred acres and substituting the provisions of the restriction scheme devised by Sir JAMES STEVENSON.

(viii) The Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 30) which provides for the enforcement of judgments between the District Courts of the Colony and similar Courts in British India, in other Colonies and in Federated Malay States with which reciprocal arrangements have been made.

IV.—Communications.

(*a*) Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

A.	Letters addressed to foreign countries ...	First oz. ...	12 cents.
		each succeeding oz.	6 ,,
B.	Letters addressed to places in the British Empire except those places named in *C*. ...	Per oz. ...	6 ,,
C.	Letters addressed to places in the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Johore, British North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei, Trengganu and Kemaman ...	First two ozs. ...	5 cents.
		each succeeding ounce or fraction thereof ...	1 cent.

D. Postcards addressed to:—

(i) Foreign countries	8 cents.
(ii) Places in the British Empire except those named in *C*	4 ,,
(iii) Countries named in *C*	2 ,,

E. Printed Papers, for every two ozs. ... 3 ,,

except that the rate of postage on a newspaper—

(*a*) printed and published within the Straits Settlements or in any British Possession or Protected State in Malaya; or

(*b*) registered as a newspaper at the General Post Office, London, if posted in the Straits Settlements addressed to any place in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu (including Kemaman), British North Borneo, Sarawak or Brunei, is 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 4 ounces, and 2 cents for every additional 2 ounces, provided that the postage on a single newspaper shall not exceed 4 cents, and provided that no enclosure which is not part of the newspaper or a supplement thereto is enclosed with the newspaper. If two or more copies are sent in a single packet, each newspaper shall be liable to the same postage as if posted separately, but in no case shall a packet of such newspapers be chargeable with a higher rate than that chargeable on a packet of printed papers of the same weight.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 13,754,586, an average of 15·56 per inhabitant, as against 14·44, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 11,362,187, as compared with 10,369,760 in 1921. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph Lines during the year 1922 was 467,421 as compared with 496,819 in 1921, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph Lines decreased from 370,236 in 1921 to 318,053 in 1922. The number of subscribers to the Government telephone exchanges increased from 1,038 to 1,069.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1922, was $1,863,112.16, an increase of 6 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1921. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $181.03. There was a profit on the year's working of $22,057.16. The estimated present value of the investments is $1,760,258.54.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 38 Sub-offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Kreh, Penanti, Pinang-Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley). Of these 25 are Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1922 to $4,898,245.57, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Ceylon, United Kingdom, Netherlands East India and United States of America.

Ten Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Madras	...	1 Direct.	
Penang	...	4, thence to Madras	(2)
		,, ,, Colombo	(1)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	1, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1 Direct.	
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1).

There are also Government telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca, and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 636 miles of

telegraph lines, 36 miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley and 1 mile between Singapore and Johore, and there are 38,183 miles of telephone line. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the Exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(*b*) Communication by Sea.

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India steamers *viâ* Madras and Bombay, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly services by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon; in addition there is a fortnightly service by the Steamship Company Nederland; and at frequent intervals by the Holts, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines; with China and Japan a fortnightly service by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong and by Spanish packets direct; with Bangkok by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports by Netherlands India Company's steamers; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australia Steam Navigation Company, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence of Orient Packets; with Madras (direct), and other ports on the Coromandel Coast, fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers; and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above, there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca and ports of the Native States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 23 to 26 days. Services have not yet become normal.

(*c*) Railways.

There is a railway from Singapore to Woodlands on the Johore Straits, communication between Woodlands and Johore being maintained by steam ferries. The Federated Malay States Railway extends from Parit Buntar in Krian through Province Wellesley to Penang which is reached by steam ferries from the mainland. There is a railway from Malacca to Tampin in Negri Sembilan. All

the railways have a gauge of one metre and connect with the Federated Malay States Railway System, a continuation of which through Johore was opened in 1909. Progress was made in 1922 with the construction of the causeway across the Johore Straits to connect Singapore with the mainland. This causeway will greatly facilitate the direct transfer of goods to the Federated Malay States from the Tanjong Pagar Wharves. The extensive docks owned by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company were acquired by the Government in 1905 and are now controlled by a Board composed of members appointed by the Governor.

There are electric tramway systems in Singapore and Penang.

(*d*) Roads.

At the close of the year the lengths of road and their classification in the different Settlements were as follows:—

——	Stone Metal.	Laterite.	Natural.	Path.	Total.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Singapore ...	35·52	61·86	2·86	—	100·24
Penang ...	62·80	—	6·28	25·39	94·47
Dindings ...	22·50	—	7·50	6·00	36·00
Province Wellesley ...	168·19	—	33·58	0·18	201·95
Malacca ...	*273·50	—	27·00	—	300.50
Labuan ...	5·85	—	31·97	—	37·82
Total ...	568·36	61·86	109·19	31·57	770·98

* Part laterite.

The policy of converting all roads to stone metal with asphalt surfaces was continued and at the end of the year there were of such roads 40·46 miles in Singapore; 40·26 miles in Penang; 22·22 in Province Wellesley, and 54 miles in Malacca. In Labuan 3 miles of road was oil surfaced.

The above figures do not include streets and roads in charge of the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca most of which are of laterite or stone, part of the latter being surfaced with asphalt.

V.—Immigration.

(i).—Chinese.

One hundred and thirty-two thousand and eight hundred and eighty-six immigrants arrived from China by sea, a decrease of 30·4 per cent compared with the previous year and of 50·7 per cent compared with 1911, the record year.

As compared with the average of previous ten years, 1912 to 1921, the number of arrivals in 1922 shows a decrease of 12·7 per cent.

Adult males formed 74 per cent and adult females 13·7 per cent of the immigrants.

A decrease in immigration was to be expected in view of slump conditions in Malaya, but it would not have been so marked had not the Seamen's Strike in Hongkong and the anti-British boycott at Amoy cut off the stream of immigrants for several weeks; subsequent quarantine restrictions against Hongkong lasted for some months, while quite a number of young men, potential immigrants, must have been swept into the armies of the contending factions in Kwangtung Province and the disturbed political conditions existing in that Province throughout the year and in Fuhkien during the latter part of 1922, prevented intending emigrants from travelling to the ports. The reduced percentage of females to males is not surprising, because women are less inclined than men to travel through disturbed districts to reach the ports.

(ii).—Southern Indian.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 58,674 as compared with 45,673 in 1921.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 45,733 as against 61,551 in 1921.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1919.	*1920.*	*1921.*	*1922.*
Assisted immigrants	88,021	78,855	15,413	38,336
Other immigrants ...	13,412	16,365	30,260	20,338
Total ...	101,433	95,220	45,673	58,674

The assisted immigrants consisted of 35,074 adults and 3,262 minors. Of the adults 28,273 were men and 6,801 women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 9·91 per mille and in the Dindings 8·35 per mille. Among the 171 labourers employed on estates in Penang there were no deaths.

During 1922, 1,224 adult and 181 minor decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The rate of assessment to the Indian Immigration Fund was fixed at 50 cents for all four quarters of the year 1922.

The income of the Fund was $535,472.83 and its expenditure $1,232,499.10.

The reduction of the assessment rate to 50 cents was a temporary measure on account of the trade depression. The rate has since been raised to $1.50 and will probably have to be still further increased before a stable balance is reached between receipts and expenditure.

(iii).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,340. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force but approximately 159 local contracts for 300 days are in force in the Settlement of Penang.

VI.—Criminal and Police.

The total number of cases in which arrests were effected in the Colony during the year was 18,560 as compared with 19,395 in 1921 while the number of offences reported was 5,143 as compared with 5,094. There was a considerable decrease in the number of reports of gang-robbery and a small decrease in the number of reports of robbery and house-breaking but an increase in the number of reports of murder and causing hurt with dangerous weapons. The existence of a feud between two secret societies in Singapore was largely responsible for the increase in the number of serious offences against the person and special measures had to be taken to check such crimes. The Detective Branch during the year effected the arrest of a number of dangerous criminals and obtained possession of revolvers and pistols of various types. In the course of the rounding-up of one gang 1 Police Constable and two Detectives were wounded. At the end of the year the actual strength of the Force was:—Europeans 95, Sikhs 428, Malays, Indians and Chinese 2,309, Detectives 180, Additional Constables 139. Total 3,151.

Recruiting was good during the year but on the 31st December there was a shortage of 8 Inspectors on a strength of 69.

At the beginning of the year there were 978 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, and Malacca); 5,408 were admitted during the year as compared with 4,988 in 1921, and 5,245 were discharged; 1,141 remained at the end of the year. There were 61 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,439 were admitted and 1,403 were discharged. Of the 1,403 vagrants discharged 49 found employment and 1,030 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding and mat and basket-making. The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, Clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at stone-breaking, and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at stone-breaking, husk-beating and fatigue duties. The Revenue of the Department was $13,383.38 besides which articles to the value of $7,862.75 were supplied to Government Departments, exclusive of articles manufactured for use in the prison and work done for the Government Printing Department.

Prison offences showed an average of ·10 per annum per prisoner as against ·08 in 1921. The health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the prison were satisfactory.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

(*a*) Population.

The population for 1922 is estimated on that of the census of 1921. The distribution is:—

		1921 (*actual*).	*1922* (*estimated*).
Singapore	...	425,912	441,458
Penang	...	304,335	307,519
Malacca	...	153,522	157,160

(*b*) Public Health.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 27,723 and 27,804 respectively. In Singapore the deaths exceeded the number of births by 1,158, whereas in Penang, Malacca and Labuan the births were more than the deaths. The crude birth-rate was 30·59 per 1,000 against

32·57 in 1921: the decrease probably results from the slump in trade and employment. The percentage of males born was 52, females 48. The highest birth-rate in any nationality was 37·71 per 1,000 against 32·57 in 1921, in both years Malay. The lowest was among Indians 21·43. The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 207·52 per thousand births, an increase on the previous year, when it was 190·69 per thousand. Malacca shows the highest figure 1,128 infantile deaths amongst 4,992 births or 225·9 per thousand: this emphasises the need for more trained Malay midwives. The number of deaths from infantile convulsions, mostly due to tetanus, was 3,146, against 3,742 in 1921.

The crude death-rate was 30·68 against 31·79 per thousand in 1921; this is the second lowest on record. The highest racial death-rate for the year was 32·15 amongst Chinese, the lowest 9·04 amongst Europeans.

The deaths from pneumonia were 1,608 against 1,230 and from influenza 234 against 207 in the previous year; it is to be borne in mind that Europeans if sick for any length of time usually leave Malaya.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,388 deaths as against 1,299 and 1,026 in 1921 and 1920 respectively. Malaria and Tuberculosis were responsible for 3,977 and 2,966 deaths respectively against 4,703 and 3,258 in 1921. Deaths from Fever Unclassified were 3,043 against 2,367 in the previous year.

Dysentery caused 1,085 deaths and diarrhœa 458 against 1,090 and 263 in 1921.

Infectious diseases.—There were 45 deaths from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 39 from plague, 2 from cholera and 80 from small-pox.

(*c*) Climate.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore for 1922 was 80·7° F; in Penang 81·6° F; in Province Wellesley, 81·3° F; and in Malacca 79·74° F. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 84·4° and 76·5° F. The maximum recorded was 95° F on June 12th at Province Wellesley. The minimum was 67° F on March 31st and April 1st at District Hospital, Penang. The grass minimum in Singapore was 71·8 in September.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being pretty evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1912 to 1921, it is found in Singapore that there

is an annual average of 172 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period being 2555 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1913 with 3442·37 m.m. and the driest was 1877, with 1482·7 m.m. The average for the sixty-one years is 2396·5 m.m. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, viz.:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is nothing unusual to have south-east, south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1921	*1922*
Singapore	...	2635·00 m.m.	2587·25
Labuan	...	3416·00 ,,	2971·9
Penang	...	3488·00 ,,	3192·0
Province Wellesley	...	2697·00 ,,	2837·0
Malacca	...	2446·00 ,,	2168·5

VIII.—Education.

The expenditure on the 11 Government English schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 5,079 pupils, was $419,507. There were 31 aided English schools with an average enrolment of 14,078 pupils, and the grants in aid paid to these schools amounted to $527,174. There were also 10 aided vernacular schools with an average enrolment of 554, the grants to which in respect of 1922 amounted to $3,826. The expenditure on the 195 Government vernacular schools was $300,990; the average enrolment was 14,943.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English schools numbered 1,095, as against 841 in 1920 and 958 in 1921.

The registration of all schools and teachers has been completed throughout the Colony.

The Normal classes for teachers continued their work and 29 students passed the final examination, compared with 17 in the preceding year.

The European teaching staff in the Government English schools was still considerably below its full strength. Although strengthened by the engagement of eight men and

three women during the year, retirements and resignations reduced the staff by seven men, and the Department also sustained a severe loss by the death in October of Mr. A. J. WELLER, Chief Inspector of English Schools, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. The shortage of staff that existed in 1914 could not be made good during the war or for the first few years after its conclusion; the wastage from retirements and resignations on the other hand aggravated this shortage so that by 1921 the position had become very serious. Some years hence, when Raffles College is in being and has begun to turn out a supply of fully qualified and trained local teachers it should be possible to conduct the English schools with a smaller proportion of European teachers than is at present necessary.

During the year there were eleven teachers studying at Hongkong University at Government expense. All these were boys educated at English schools in Malaya.

Special attention is being paid in all English Schools to the teaching of spoken English. Insufficient knowledge of the living language is one of the chief difficulties in the way of higher or specialised education, owing to the inability of many students to follow intelligently the lectures which they attend. Every pupil entering for the Cambridge Local Examinations is now obliged to undergo a test in oral English, conducted by members of the Inspecting staff of the Department.

A new elementary school was opened in May in Northam Road, Penang, with an enrolment of over 400 boys, and an elementary school at Geylang, Singapore, to accommodate 320 boys was completed in December and has since begun work. In Malacca the work of converting the Malay College into an elementary English school was begun as soon as the College had been closed, and was progressing satisfactorily at the end of the year.

Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects were instituted in Singapore and met with a very satisfactory response, the applications exceeding the numbers which it was possible to accommodate. This evidence of a demand for vocational training augurs well for the future success of Raffles College.

The Malacca Training College for Malay vernacular school teachers was closed at the end of October, the staff and seventy students being transferred to the new Sultan Idris Training College at Tanjong Malim, which was opened in November. This College will be able to accommodate one hundred Malay student teachers from the Straits Settlements, who will undergo a three years course comprising the

theory and practice of teaching, gardening and elementary agriculture, physical instruction and manual work in addition to the ordinary literary subjects. The training of teachers at the Malacca College has had a marked effect on the quality of the teaching in the vernacular schools and with the improved facilities and extended curriculum which the Tanjong Malim College affords a further advance may be confidently expected.

Systematic medical inspection of schools and pupils has been started in all the Settlements. The shortage of medical officers has so far prevented the work being carried out with the completeness and continuity which are essential if the best results are to be attained, but valuable work has already been done and systematic lines for its further development have been laid down. Physical instruction plays an important part in the curriculum of all the schools.

Raffles College.—The audited accounts showed at the end of September, $1,291,397 received on account of the General Fund, Buildings and Scholarships: at the end of the year the amount reached was $1,326,084. Against this the Committee, which was legally authorised to expend moneys from the fund only from the commencement of 1923, owes the Government of the Straits Settlements the sum of $9,919 for money advanced, and the original Committee had disbursed $1,101 for printing and miscellaneous expenses.

Annuities in perpetuity amounting to $63,000 per annum have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years amounting to $655,000 of which $619,000 remains to be paid have been promised by the Governments of the Federaetd Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates. The Straits Settlements Government has promised $1,000,000 towards the cost of building.

During the year Straits Settlements Ordinance No. 13 of 1922 was passed "to incorporate a Financial Committee and an Executive Committee of Raffles College and to regulate their procedure".

Dr. R. O. Winstedt, D. Litt. (Oxon.) continued to act as Principal and, while on leave in Europe, was consulted by the Crown Agents and the architectural assessor as to the terms of the competition for architectural designs, which, it was decided, should be world-wide to ensure the erection of a College worthy to stand as a memorial of the Centenary of the founder of Singapore. Arrangements for this competition were practically complete at the close of the year.

IX.—General Observations.

The Governor, Sir LAURENCE NUNNS GUILLEMARD, K.C.B., was on leave from April 28th to September 25th, 1922. During his absence Mr. F. S. JAMES, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government while Mr. F. M. BADDELEY acted as Colonial Secretary.

In the New Year Honours list 1923, Mr. F. S. JAMES was created a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The trade of the Colony showed signs of recovery especially in the latter half of the year. On October 11th a telegram was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies directing that compulsory restriction of the export of rubber was to be brought into force on November 1st. The necessary legislation was passed on October 31st and the scheme brought into force with an almost entire absence of friction. The price of rubber quickly rose from 27 cents to over 50 cents, and the immediate result was to grant relief, in spite of their restricted output, to many estates which were in financial difficulties.

An event of the most far-reaching importance to the labour position in this country was the passing on March 5th by the Government of India of a new Emigration Act.

For a quarter of a century emigration from India to Malaya has been free from all restrictions. The new Act does not exempt Ceylon and Malaya from its provisions but it does not become applicable to these countries until the lapse of one year from the passing of the Act, *i.e.* until March, 1923.

With the consent of the Government of India a Deputation was sent from Malaya. This Deputation, which carried out its duties with conspicuous success, was able to satisfy the members of the Standing Committee that Malaya had of her own initiative built up a system of free emigration which had stood the test of time and that the Government of Malaya had been working on the principles on which the Government of India now proposed to regulate such emigration.

The conditions and Rules which have since been published have been so framed as to be readily adaptable to the existing system, and it is to be noted that the essential features of the Malayan system have also been made applicable to Ceylon.

The most noteworthy event of the year was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Colony. The weather was perfect and the Prince received a most enthusiastic and sincere welcome from all classes of the community. All the races of Asia meet in Singapore and one and all joined in adorning the city for the visit. The Chinese, Indian, Ceylonese, Singhalese and Japanese communities did most generous work and from the gorgeous Chinese arch near to Johnston's Pier to the very beautiful Malay arch on Government Hill the decorations were representative of the artistic ideals of every race in the Far East. Nowhere was the Prince received with more spontaneous enthusiasm than at Children's Corner where 10,000 children of all nationalities in the Colony were gathered together to meet him. On the evening of His Royal Highness' arrival the Banquet at Government House was followed by an official Ball—the largest that the Colony has ever known. On the following afternoon His Royal Highness was present at the Race Meeting specially arranged under the auspices of the Straits Racing Association and the visit was brought to a close by the ball given to the officers of H. M. S. "Renown" at the Victoria Memorial Hall and by a wonderful Lantern Procession, which was organised with an immense amount of labour by the Chinese community and in which a number of Malay clubs also took part. Penang was equally enthusiastic in her welcome as far as the short duration of His Royal Highness' visit to the Settlement allowed.

Immediately after the official reception on the day of his arrival His Royal Highness unveiled the War Memorial, a monument of which the Colony may well be proud, and in the afternoon opened the Malaya-Borneo Exhibition, an exhibition of the trade and economic possibilities of British Malaya and British Borneo which had been arranged to synchronise with His Royal Highness' visit. All the administrations concerned worked most energetically to make the enterprise a success and the beautiful collections of jewellery, weapons, embroidery, etc., placed at the disposal of the Exhibition authorities by the Sultans and Chiefs of the Federated and Unfederated Malay States made the collection of Malay arts and crafts the finest that has ever been brought together. The varied trade activities of Singapore were fully represented but the exhibition was a revelation to many accustomed to look on Singapore merely as a great exchange port differing little in essentials from half a score of others between Hongkong and Port Said.

With so rich a background of Malayan products and Malayan artistic skill Singapore stood out not only as one of the world's greatest ports but also as the chief city of one of the fairest and most romantic regions in Asia. The success of the exhibition held at a time of considerable trade depression did much to strengthen the belief of all who saw it in the resources and capabilities of the country and to give them confidence in the future of Malaya.

F. M. BADDELEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary, S. S.

14*th August*, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1150	Sierra Leone	1921
1151	Uganda	,,
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1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate (April-December)	,,
1154	Gold Coast	,,
1155	Nigeria	1922
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1158	Weihaiwei	1922
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1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
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1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	,,
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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No. 1235.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1186.)

PRINTED IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LONDON:
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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1923.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

SITUATION AND AREA.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

PENANG.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula in 5° north latitude, and at the northern extremity or entrance to the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

MALACCA.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

The Dindings.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang, in 4° 15′ north latitude, and 100° 35′ east longitude. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

Cocos-Keeling Islands.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ to 12° 45′ south, longitude 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

The total area of the Colony with these dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

Labuan.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo, in 5° 16′ north latitude, and 115° 15′ east longitude. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

Labuan has a fine port (Victoria Harbour), safe, and easy of access.

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and beche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909.

HISTORY.

MALACCA.

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In

1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources

PENANG.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of 6,000 dollars should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased in return to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE.

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapâhit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year under review the price of rubber was maintained at a figure which provided in most cases a margin of profit and with the recovery in the price of tin conditions were somewhat easier than in the preceding year.

An event of considerable importance took place on 26th February when the first meeting of the reconstituted Legislative Council was held and four additional unofficial members took their seats.

The constitution of Singapore as a naval base was decided on during the year and the Straits Settlements Government undertook the acquisition and presentation to the Imperial Government of the land required for the purpose. Early in the current year the policy of the Imperial Government was reversed, and work on the naval base has been discontinued.

With the opening to traffic in October of the railway over the Causeway connecting Singapore Island with Johore the final link of direct railway communication with Siam was completed. Work on the road was well advanced at the end of the year.

On the invitation of the Governments of British Malaya the Fifth Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine met in Singapore in September. It was attended by 300 medical members representing 15 different countries and many interesting meetings and discussions took place.

The prevalence of Venereal Disease in Singapore has given cause for grave anxiety and in January a small expert Committee was appointed to consider and report on the question. The Report, which was presented in July, disclosed a very disquieting state of affairs. Measures to remedy this are receiving the careful and anxious consideration of Government.

A Committee was also appointed in November to enquire into and report on various questions connected with the use of Opium in British Malaya. The report had not been presented at the end of the year.

I.—Finances.

The revenue for the year 1923 amounted to $33,316,015 exceeding the Estimates by $4,202,897, whilst the expenditure was $26,717,778, being $2,113,339 less than the Estimate.

The revenue was $787,447 less than that of 1922, while expenditure exceeded that of 1922 by $1,920,693. The excess of revenue over expenditure was $6,598,237, as compared with $9,306,377 in 1922.

The actual figures for 1922 and 1923 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE.

—	1922.	1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	1,682	1,662	...	20
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	26,763,528	23,493,001	...	3,270,527
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	961,625	973,225	11,600	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,420,589	1,723,412	302,823	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,295,360	1,532,744	237,384	...
6. Interest	2,153,997	2,432,528	278,531	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,332,646	3,033,716	1,701,070	...
	33,929,427	33,190,288	2,531,408	3,270,547
8. Land Sales	174,035	125,727	...	48,308
TOTAL ...	34,103,462	33,316,015	2,531,408	3,318,855
	Net	Decrease ...	$787,447	

The withdrawal of Income Tax at the end of 1922 accounted for more than the total decrease under the heading "Licences, etc.". The amount of Income Tax (arrears) collected in 1923 was $573,651, as compared with $3,911,543 in 1922.

Stamp Duties fell by $291,261, due to a fall of $392,165.17 in Estate Duty.

Miscellaneous Receipts include a sum of $1,716,748 recovered on account of overpayment of Defence Contribution for the period 1st January, 1921 to 31st March, 1922.

Among excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were:—

	$		$
Income Tax	123,651	Rents on Govt. Property ...	287,702
Petroleum Duty ...	78,907	Interest	962,508
Tobacco Duties ...	230,591	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,959,928
Posts and Telegraphs ...	319,582	Land Sales	45,726

(ii).—EXPENDITURE.

—	1922.	1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions	852,591	920,010	67,419	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	17,808	18,807	999	...
4. The Governor	127,498	128,021	523	...
5. Civil Service	581,846	710,583	128,737	...
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	190,743	193,366	2,623	...
7. Government Printing Office	174,714	148,038	...	26,676
8. Land and District Offices ...	287,427	305,923	18,496	...
9. Forests	47,675	43,230	...	4,445
10. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	87,688	86,654	...	1,034
11. Treasury	232,814	210,367	...	22,447
12. Audit	78,448	86,450	8,002	...
13. Director of External Audit ...	...	14,549	14,549	...
14. Marine	634,410	598,035	...	36,375
15. Imports, Exports and Statistics	53,691	70,677	16,986	...
16. Legal	402,349	401,629	...	720
17. Police	2,656,777	2,377,304	...	279,473
18. Prisons	410,590	384,519	...	26,071
19. Medical and Sanitary Services, Malaya	23,267	...	...	23,267
20. Medical	518,471	434,248	...	84,223
21 Health Branch, Singapore...	132,575	228,692	96,117	...
22. Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,189,423	1,119,612	...	69,811
23. Veterinary	55,740	59,913	4,173	...
24. Education	871,306	860,034	...	11,272
25. Ecclesiastical	25,949	25,400	...	549
26. Transport	175,240	218,224	42,984	...
27. Military Expenditure ...	4,046,407	4,176,566	130,159	...
28. Miscellaneous Services ...	5,203,517	6,662,586	1,459,069	...
29. Post Office	1,339,778	1,275,583	...	64,195
30. Government Monopolies ...	571,593	504,527	..	67,066
31. Fisheries Department, S. S. and F. M. S. ...	...	56,764	56,764	...
32. Agricultural Department ...	98,763	97,134	...	1,629
33. Botanical Gardens ...	85,487	90,471	4,984	...
34. Raffles Museum and Library	48,962	42,697	...	6,265
35. Income Tax	38,560	21,794	...	16,766
36. Survey Department ...	295,454	523,904	228,450	...
37. Public Works Department...	423,875	462,147	38,272	...
38. Public Works, Recurrent ...	512,285	602,283	89,998	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary	2,266,281	2,519,954	253,673	...
TOTAL ...	$24,797,085	26,717,778	2,662,977	742,284
	Net	Increase ...	$1,920,693	

The main heads under which there has been increase in Expenditure (as compared with 1922) are:—

	Increase.
	$
Pensions	67,419
Civil Service	128,737
Military Expenditure ...	130,159
Health Branch	96,117
Miscellaneous Services ...	1,459,069
Survey Department ...	228,450
Public Works Recurrent ...	89,998
Public Works Extraordinary ...	253,673

and the main heads under which expenditure has decreased are:—

	Decrease.
	$
Police	279,473
Medical	84,223
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	69,811
Post Office	64,195
Government Monopolies ...	67,066

The rise in "Civil Service" has been almost counterbalanced by a fall of over $125,000 in the expenditure against the vote "Salaries of Acting Officers".

The increase under the head "Military Expenditure" is mainly due to increased expenditure on the local Volunteer Forces, Defence Contribution showing an increase of $30,000 only.

Miscellaneous Services include the purchase of the Penang Hill Railway at a total cost of $1,474,500 and purchase of land for the Naval Base.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the War, the following table will show the Colony's expenditure for the last seven years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

	Total Expenditure.	*Public Works Extraordinary.*
	$	$
1917 ...	6,774,048	208,908
1918 ...	8,687,204	458,257
1919 ...	29,111,433	892,571
1920 ...	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921 ...	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922 ...	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923 ...	22,860,635	2,519,954

The difference of 14 millions between expenditure for 1918 and expenditure for 1923 is accounted for mainly under the 3 heads:—Personal Emoluments 6 millions, Miscellaneous Services 2¼ millions, Public Works Extraordinary 2 millions.

Miscellaneous Services:—The chief items under "Other Charges" are:—

	$
Purchase of Penang Hill Railway	1,474,500
Contributions to Rural Boards ...	434,000
Conveyance of passengers to United Kingdom in s.s. *Marama* ...	154,900
Johore Causeway	281,000
Purchase of Land and Buildings ...	1,361,500
Excess of payments over receipts on account of Liner Requisition Scheme	303,000
Interest on Straits Settlements War Loan	253,100
	$4,262,000

The Johore Causeway is of the nature of a Public Work Extraordinary, but provision was made for it under the head "Miscellaneous Services", as the work was not carried out under the superintendence of the Public Works Department.

The principal savings effected on the Expenditure Estimates 1923 were in respect of:—

	$
Civil Service	116,160
Marine	97,014
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	280,302
Education	261,191
Military Expenditure	303,886
Post Office	432,881
Government Monopolies ...	158,783
Public Works Recurrent ...	84,781
Public Works Extraordinary ...	888,377
Police	148,752
Health Branch	110,363

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*	$
Deposits		9,636,375	Indian Agency Account ...	344,465
Drafts and Remittances ...		47,697	Investments	59,174,715
Suspense (*a*) ...		4,700,629	Advances	483,783
Investments Depreciation Account ...		81,842	Imprests	76,526
Loans:—			Loans:—	
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921–1926 ...		20,216,300	Municipalities ...	5,950,481
Cash in Transit ..		6,005	Kelantan Government ...	520,000
Surplus—			Trengganu Government	450,000
Reserved for specific purposes (*b*) ...	$29,570,000		Singapore Harbour Board	2,406,207
Unreserved ...	35,325,482		Penang Harbour Board	584,139
		64,895,482	Ho Hong Steamship Co.	289,000
			Singapore Cricket Club	46,402
			Brunei Government ...	19,000
			Federated Malay States Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	15,000,000
			Johore Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	800,000
			Municipality, Singapore Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan	3,500,000
			Municipality, Penang Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	916,300
			Sailors' Institute ...	120,000
			Cash	8,903,312
TOTAL ...		$99,584,330	TOTAL ...	$99,584,330

(*a*) Includes Interest Currency Commissioners $2,024,811

(*b*) Loans to Municipalities	$15,255,000
Loan to Government of Trengganu	550,000
For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital	8,570,000
Raffles College Buildings	1,000,000
Malacca Water Supply	2,000,000
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply	1,000,000
Loan to Stadium Association	25,000
Loan to Sailors' Institute	170,000
Development of Penang Hill	1,000,000
TOTAL ...	$29,570,000

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1923, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon service in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	320,137
Total ...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	3,388,205
	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was $2,079,666 in 1923. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on 31st December, 1923, was approximately $5,400,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the 5½ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at $28,655,700, under the 5½ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at $36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The proceeds of the Straits Settlements 7 per cent Loan (1921) were lent to the following Governments and Municipalities, which pay all interest due on the Loan:—

	$
Federated Malay States Government	15,000,000
Johore Government	800,000
Singapore Municipality	3,500,000
Penang Municipality	916,300
Total ...	$20,216,300

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1921 amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish the Loan.

(v).—Exchange.

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1923:—

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, Netherlands Trading Society. (Nederlandisch Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de l'Indo-Chine.
,, International Banking Corporation.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank. (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company. Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, Banque Industrielle de Chine.

No Bank suspended payment in the Colony during 1923.

During the year under report the demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4-5/32 and 2/3-27/32.

(vi).—Currency.

A new Currency Ordinance came into force from the 1st October, 1923. Under it the old Gold Standard Reserve, Note Guarantee, Investment and Depreciation Funds were amalgamated into a Currency Guarantee Fund, which consists of two parts—a liquid portion and an investment portion.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year

consisted of $81,123,024.70 in currency notes and $6,718,594.12 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $144,090, as compared with $145,082 at the end of 1922.

At the beginning of the year 1923 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $72,944,004.70. There was a demand by the public for currency during the months of February, March, April, September and December, which resulted in the issue of $8,570,850 in exchange for sterling.

The net result over the whole year shows that the currency notes in circulation were increased to $81,123,024.70 at the end of 1923.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $47,510,865.86 consisting of £328,251 in gold, $13,358,966.38 in silver and $2,283,284.04 in subsidiary coin in the Colony and £773,330 in gold and £2,616,424 2*s*. 8*d*. in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year, $70,630,703.38, the cost price of those investments being $74,952,132.40.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $120,166,379.78 (liquid portion $47,510,865.86, investment portion $70,630,703.38 and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners' Income Account $2,024,810.54). The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $39,043,355.08, as compared with an excess of $35,448,775.49 at the end of 1922.

Small change continued to be returned to the Treasury during the year with the result that the subsidiary silver coins and small notes in circulation decreased by $634,600 and $298,476 respectively. The notes in circulation of a face value less than $1 stood at the end of 1923 as follows:—

	$	c.
10-cent notes printed in United Kingdom	955,600	00
10-cent notes printed locally ...	332,040	70
25-cent notes printed locally ...	35,579	00
	$1,323,219	70

The corresponding figure at the end of 1921 was $2,422,277.90 and at the end of 1922 was $1,621,695.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 23,508,315 against 22,421,620 in 1922. The increased rate of destruction is mainly due to an alteration in the methods of dealing with notes of face value below $50.

Of the notes destroyed 6,397,900 were 10-cent notes and 13,945,875 were $1 notes. There were 794,071 notes of various denominations awaiting destruction in the Note Cancellation and the Verification Departments at the end of the year.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 1,704,400, and further 22,597,986 were presented during the year, making a total of 24,302,386 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 23,508,315 as stated in the preceding paragraph and the balance remaining for destruction at the end of the year was consequently 794,071, which represented notes of the face value of 10 cents, one dollar, five dollars, ten dollars, fifty dollars and hundred dollars.

(vii).—Enemy Property.

Custodian of Enemy Property.—

Of the funds in the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property, a sum of $11,653,286.90 was transferred to the Controller of the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London for the purpose of giving credit to the German, Austrian and Hungarian Governments in accordance with the Peace Treaties.

At the end of the year the Custodian still had under his control $2,219,836.40 of which $2,149,040.95 was invested.

Local Clearing Office.—

The work of the Local Clearing Office continued unabated during the year.

Claims by and against Germany.

The claims by Germans against British Nationals dealt with during the year amounted to $200,417.64 making a total of $1,832,813.03 from the date of the establishment of the office. The admissions and contests during the year were $1,638.51 and $328,149.59 respectively, making a total of $184,792.20 for admissions and of $1,594,557.50 for contests from 1920 to 31st December, 1923. The claims withdrawn during the year by Germany amounted to $551,626, making a total of $755,591.81 to 31st December, 1923.

British claims against German Nationals forwarded to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London during the year amounted to $25,336.92 and the admissions by Germans

amounted to $2,343.75, making totals presented and admitted from 1920 to the end of 1923 of $296,123.29 and $33,788.35 respectively.

The claims contested by the Germans during the year amounted to $6,688.60 and brought the total of contested claims to 31st December, 1923, up to $166,431.90.

Of the claims contested by the Germans, this Clearing Office withdrew $2,218.06 during the year and thus brought the total of withdrawn claims to 31st December, 1923, up to $9,340.81, leaving the balance in dispute.

During the year this Clearing Office collected $8,066.19 from British Nationals on account of debts admitted due to Germans, and paid out $28,436.94 to British Nationals in respect of their claims against Germans admitted by the German Clearing Office. The total collections and payments from 1920 to 31st December, 1923, are $170,032.56 and $47,635.59 respectively.

In addition to the above claims by British Nationals against German Nationals, claims amounting to $73,083.85 were presented against the Treuhander for Enemy Property, Germany, in respect of property of British Nationals seized by that office during the war. Of this amount $24,957.79 was admitted up to 31st December, 1923.

Claims by and against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.—

During the year claims amounting to $221.33 by Austrian Nationals against British Nationals were received. Of the total claims presented by the Austrian Clearing Office, claims amounting to $186.56 have been admitted to 31st December, 1923, and the balance is contested. Of the total contested claims the Austrian Clearing Office has withdrawn $27,775.35. As against the above no claims from British Nationals against Austria have been registered with this Clearing Office.

The claims for $3,024.41 forwarded to Hungary in the year 1921 are still unsettled. One claim amounting to $4,166.39 was received during the year from the Hungarian Clearing Office and this was contested.

The Controller's investments on 31st December, 1923, amounted to $130,000.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries.

(*a*) Shipping.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 29,936,949 as compared with 26,913,256 in 1922.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1922 and 1923.

NATIONALITY.	1922.					1923.					Increase in 1923 as compared with 1922.	Decrease in 1923 as compared with 1922.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	777,124	216,254	8,296	1,830	1,003,504	674,349	267,330	41,898	...	983,577	...	19,927
B. N. Borneo ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,466	7,466	7,466	...
British ...	8,889,748	5,465,982	397,156	166,226	14,919,112	9,646,559	5,729,320	309,806	158,475	15,844,160	925,048	...
Chinese ...	80,975	1,542	...	...	82,517	64,514	4,440	...	...	68,954	...	13,563
Danish ...	315,722	103,556	...	13,506	432,784	351,454	188,754	6,674	...	546,882	114,098	...
Dutch ...	2,840,503	649,753	...	216	3,490,472	3,559,736	708,893	...	...	4,268,629	778,157	...
French ...	1,010,314	499,954	...	...	1,510,268	1,106,489	571,414	...	...	1,677,903	167,635	...
German ...	192,493	15,288	...	...	207,781	534,591	83,950	...	...	618,541	410,760	...
Greek ...	4,968	...	...	...	4,968	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,968
Italian ...	170,163	101,506	...	...	271,669	204,940	176,974	...	...	381,914	110,245	...
Japanese ...	3,157,797	617,336	292,162	67,758	4,135,053	3,353,709	775,650	241,346	64,818	4,435,523	300,470	...
Norwegian ...	307,674	13,802	...	...	321,476	369,101	45,775	...	...	414,876	93,400	...
Russian ...	...	...	...	...	...	74,342	...	...	...	74,342	74,342	...
Sarawak ...	82,208	...	...	854	83,062	108,775	...	...	996	109,771	26,709	...
Siamese ...	273,582	...	...	...	273,582	234,711	...	...	...	234,711	...	38,871
Spanish ...	54,460	...	...	...	54,460	61,752	...	...	...	61,752	7,292	...
Swedish ...	122,548	...	...	...	122,548	167,550	40,398	...	...	207,948	85,400	...
TOTALS ...	18,280,279	7,684,973	697,614	250,390	26,913,256	20,512,572	8,592,898	599,724	231,755	29,936,949	3,101,022	77,329
										Net Increase ...		3,023,693

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1919	...	...	18,885,183 tons.
1920 ...	...	...	24,027,912 ,,
1921 ...	...	...	25,055,798 ,,
1922 ...	...	...	26,913,256 ,,
1923 ...	...	...	29,936,949 ,,

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 59,238 in number and 2,174,942 in tons in 1923 as compared with 51,882 and 2,014,983, respectively, in 1922.

Five new steam-launches and motor-vessels with a tonnage of 184 tons gross and eighteen sailing-vessels of 1,372 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 8 new sailing-vessels of 569 tons were licensed under section 424, and 804 vessels of 6,435 tons under section 425.

Harbour Boards.

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the years ended June 30, 1922, and June 30, 1923, have been as follows:—

	Income.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1922 ...	10,345,960	7,961,050
Year ended 30th June, 1923 ...	7,881,712	5,923,898

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1923, at $50,342,174 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $4,941,892 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock Departments of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1923, were $980,142 and the expenditure $898,923.

(*b*) Trade.

The recorded trade of the Colony in 1923 compares favourably with that of the two preceding years. The aggregate values of both Imports and Exports were higher. This increased value was chiefly due to the enhanced prices obtained for the two principal commodities—Rubber and Tin. The exports of these although they show no great difference in quantity were valued at £14 million more than in 1922.

The following figures show the value of the Colony trade for the last five years, the value of Coin and Bullion, and of the trade between the Settlements, being excluded:—

	Imports of Merchandise.	*Exports of Merchandise.*	*Imports Comparison with preceding year.*	*Exports Comparison with preceding year.*
	(000's)		(000's)	
	£	£	£	£
1919 ...	96,664	99,318	+ 15,046	+ 27,396
1920 ...	124,216	102,536	+ 27,552	+ 3,218
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	− 58,425	− 46,398
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922
1923 ...	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,530

The aggregate trade for the year 1923, excluding inter-settlement trade was therefore £171·6 millions as against £128·7 millions in 1922, an increase of £42·9 millions. The value of the inter-settlement trade for the last five years, including treasure, was as follows:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports Comparison with preceding year.*	*Exports Comparison with preceding year.*
	(000's)		(000's)	
	£	£	£	£
1919 ...	13,164	13,235	+ 3,981	+ 3,651
1920 ...	14,938	14,797	+ 1,774	+ 1,562
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	− 8,034	− 7,910
1922 ...	5,144	5,078	− 1,760	− 1,809
1923 ...	5,644	5,332	+ 500	+ 254

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last three years:—

		Imports.	*Exports.*
		(000's)	
		£	£
1921	...	2,335	1,887
1922	...	1,892	1,301
1923	..	1,883	616

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

—	Imports.			Exports.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
		(000's)			(000's)	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics ...	26,204	25,044	26,223	21,129	19,056	19,722
II. Raw Materials ...	24,391	29,140	46,425	25,439	35,426	53,191
III. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles ...	15,196	12,508	16,354	9,570	7,577	9,677
TOTAL ...	65,791	66,692	89,002	56,138	62,059	82,590

There were increases in all three classes but chiefly in Class II.

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported in 1923 as compared with 1922:—

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted.	1922.		1923.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities	Values	Quantities.	Values.
			(000's)						
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber ...	Centals	3,431	88,907	3,850	163,273	419	74,366	...	...
Tin Ore	Pls.	1,225	66,297	1,353	94,831	128	28,534	...	...
Rice	"	9,541	66,827	8,986	58,863	...	...	555	7,964
Milk Condensed ...	Cases	549	8,540	709	9,763	160	1,223	...	...
Sugar	Pls.	1,412	13,843	1,360	16,624	...	2,781	52	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	9,487	18,730	10,969	20,571	1,482	1,841	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Pls.	856	14,029	841	13,167	...	...	15	862
Arecanuts	"	811	6,636	988	9,575	177	2,939	...	...
Benzine	Galls.	7,297	6,907	26,510	23,643	19,213	16,736	...	...
Petroleum	Cases	1,903	11,724	2,573	14,310	670	2,586	...	...
Sago	Pls.	958	4,823	745	3,393	...	...	213	1,430
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Pieces	4,371	25,188	6,493	32,632	2,122	7,444	...	...
Sarongs	Corges.	379	11,083	498	13,806	119	2,723	...	...
Copra	Pls.	2,305	22,359	2,375	24,415	70	2,056	...	...
Pepper	"	325	5,466	277	4,979	...	...	48	487
Rattans	"	449	3,819	413	3,868	...	49	36	...
Coal	Tons.	584	10,979	633	9,803	49	...	...	1,176
Machinery	...	...	4,693	...	6,810	..	2,117	...	...

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted.	1922.		1923.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
			(000's)						
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber ...	Centals	4,634	136,145	4,588	227,893	...	91,748	46	...
Tin	Pls.	1,113	89,947	1,174	119,717	61	29,770	...	...
Rice	,,	6,062	42,045	5,732	38,182	...	...	330	3,863
Milk Condensed ...	Cases	270	4,269	332	4,674	62	405	...	...
Sugar	Pls.	559	5,856	766	9,825	207	3,969	...	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	8,514	15,622	8,885	15,899	371	277	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted ..	Pls.	932	17,041	818	14,280	...	...	114	2,761
Arecanuts	,,	864	8,308	1,071	12,470	207	4,162	...	...
Benzine	Galls.	3,636	3,482	26,146	23,878	22,510	20,396	...	...
Petroleum	Cases	1,354	8,680	2,023	11,300	669	2,620	...	...
Sago	Pls.	978	5,881	828	4,718	...	...	150	1,163
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Pieces	2,721	16,360	4,027	20,988	1,306	4,628	...	...
Sarongs	Corges.	183	5,245	319	8,371	136	3,126	...	...
Copra	Pls.	2,794	29,527	2,527	28,649	...	...	267	878
Pepper	,,	377	7,382	312	6,002	...	...	65	1,380
Rattans	,,	461	6,846	388	5,787	...	...	73	1,059
Preserved Pineapples ...	Cases	711	6,694	843	5,549	132	...	...	1,145
Rubber Latex ...	Galls.	22	44	46	80	24	36	...	...

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1921, 1922 and 1923:—

—	1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Centals of 100 lbs	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs	Value.
		(000's)				
		$		$		$
Malay States ...	1,923	47,766	2,634	70,462	2,272	107,739
Netherlands Indies ...	303	7,115	619	13,563	1,331	44,533
Other Countries ...	110	2,535	178	4,882	247	11,001
Total ...	2,336	57,416	3,431	88,907	3,850	163,273

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1921, 1922 and 1923:—

—	1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.
		(000's)				
		$		$		$
United Kingdom ...	398	13,333	223	6,784	498	25,465
United States of America	2,268	64,264	3,681	108,504	3,247	161,238
Other Countries ...	622	16,590	730	20,857	843	41,190
Total ...	3,288	94,187	4,634	136,145	4,588	227,893

Tin and tin ore were imported in 1921, 1922 and 1923, from the following countries:—

—	1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Tin	Tin Ore	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.
			(000's)			
	Pikuls.	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*	*Pikuls.*
Malay States ...	73	678	96	714	122	766
Netherlands Indies ...	1	169	11	334	1	369
Siam	4	104	6	139	9	160
Other Countries ...	...	78	...	38	...	58
Total ...	78	1,029	113	1,225	132	1,353

The exports of Tin in 1921, 1922 and 1923 were as follows:—

—	1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Pikuls.	Value.	Pikuls.	Value.	Pikuls.	Value.
			(000's)			
		$		$		$
United Kingdom ...	200	16,338	185	14,776	169	17,578
United States of America	330	27,573	752	60,768	803	81,737
Other Countries ...	174	14,534	176	14,403	202	20,402
Total ...	704	58,445	1,113	89,947	1,174	119,717

The decreased imports of Para Rubber recorded from the Malay States—16,200 tons—were more than counterbalanced by the increased imports from outside Malaya—34,900 tons. The exports show a decrease of about 2,000 tons but an increase in value of nearly $92 million or about £10·7 million.

There was an increase in the imports of Tin Ore of about 128,000 pikuls (7,600 tons), and of Tin of 19,000 pikuls (1,100 tons). The exports of block tin increased by 61,000 pikuls (3,600 tons) and the value was nearly $30 million or £3·5 million in excess of that of the 1922 exports.

Other items of interest to be found in the tables given are the large increases in the trade in Petroleum, Benzine, Cigarettes and Cotton Piece Goods. There were decreases of some importance in the exports of Sago, Copra, Pepper and Rattans. The quantity of Preserved Pineapples exported increased but there was over $1 million decrease in the value.

The following table shows the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom;

Australia; countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America and Japan:—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000's)					
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	7,730	7,386	8,253	5,629	4,799	7,516
Australia and New Zealand	1,844	1,628	1,597	260	365	503
Continent of Europe.						
Belgium ...	132	115	206	96	65	203
Denmark ...	89	72	103	181	191	571
France ...	389	361	509	1,302	1,977	2,679
Germany ...	103	282	581	1,238	1,792	1,222
Holland ...	353	398	429	1,142	1,033	1,314
Italy ...	362	437	490	419	797	1,228
Norway ...	4	6	225	...	3	11
Sweden ...	26	18	28	...	35	66
Spain ...	4	2	8	321	405	341
Russia ...	...	55	11	...	...	...
United States of America	2,990	1,892	2,041	11,418	20,751	29,381
Japan	2,627	2,106	2,110	2,030	1,786	3,275

As will be seen the value of the trade with almost all the countries named was greater in 1923 than in 1922; exceptions are the imports from Australia and Russia and the exports to Germany and Spain.

The trade with the United Kingdom shows increased values of imports in the case of Cotton Piece Goods, Apparel, Cigars and Cigarettes, Steel, Paper and Stationery, Provisions, Machinery and Tinplates, and decreases for Yarns and Coal. The imports from the United States of America show increases in Tinned Provisions and Motor Cars and decreases in Petroleum and Liquid fuel. Japan furnished Cotton Piece Goods, Dried Fish and Hardware of increased value but there were decreases in the value of Coal and Woodenware.

The Export Trade to the United Kingdom, United States of America and Japan shows increased values for Rubber and Tin. There was a decline in the value of gambier, sago, pepper and preserved pineapples sent to the United Kingdom.

The total value of the Trade with the Netherlands Indies compared with that in 1922 was as follows:—

Imports.		*Exports.*	
1922.	*1923.*	*1922.*	*1923.*
(000,000's).		(000,000's)	
$111	$194·1	$80·7	$78·9

The increased value of the imports is principally due to the larger quantity and higher prices of rubber.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 39 new companies were registered, 1 without share-capital and 38 with a capital of $10,452,500, of which 32 were private companies with a capital of $7,472,500.

At the end of the year 404 companies remained on the register, of which 41 were in liquidation; the total subscribed capital of the 350 companies carrying on business was $155,497,767.

Four hundred and forty-seven companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these 346 are British, 30 are Japanese, 23 are Dutch, 3 are German and 20 are incorporated in the United States of America and Hawaii. Apart from these, 14 companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Sixty-four companies do Fire Insurance business.

Bankruptcies.

There were 77 trade bankruptcies of which 52 were Chinese. In 27 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In one case liabilities exceeded $1,000,000, in 3 cases $400,000 and in 3 other cases $100,000.

One Deed of Arrangement was registered.

(*c*) Forests.

The area of reserved forests was increased by the constitution of the Mandi Reserve (1,229 acres) in Singapore and the Linggi Reserve (800 acres) in Malacca. The Kubang Ulu Reserve (3 acres, 2 roods, 3 poles) in Province Wellesley was revoked and handed over to the Agricultural Department. The total area of reserved forests is now 111,519 acres, equivalent to 11·6 per cent of the total area of the Colony, but some reduction is likely to be made as the result of the development of Penang Hill for residential purposes.

Revenue and expenditure were $48,308 and $44,293 respectively, compared with $45,007 and $44,419 in 1922, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a surplus of $4,015, compared with $588 in 1922. Revenue rose in Penang, Province

Wellesley, and Malacca, and fell in the other Settlements. A temporary general fall is now anticipated, except perhaps in the Dindings. Estimates of revenue were exceeded everywhere except in the Dindings.

The outturn of timber was 10,255 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 23,516 tons, compared with 8,489 and 35,331 tons in the previous year. Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of $3,898, compared with $4,452 in 1922.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 100 cases in addition to 2 which were pending at the beginning of the year. The 100 cases reported included 22 in which the offenders were undetected. Of the 78 cases dealt with 25 were dealt with departmentally, 43 were taken to court, and 10 were pending at the end of the year. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $541 in addition to $447 awarded as compensation for damage to the forest. In the compounded cases a sum of $474 was paid.

The only important event to record is the amalgamation of the forest department with that of the Federated Malay States.

(*d*) Agriculture.

Rubber.—Throughout the year restriction of output combined with an increase in demand maintained the price of rubber at a figure providing a margin of profit on practically all estates; at the same time sufficient money was available to provide for proper attention to works of maintenance, such as drainage, weeding and sanitation. The majority of small holdings were regularly tapped, often somewhat severely, to obtain the full output allowed for exportation. The attached table gives the Singapore market prices for the different grades for each month of 1923.

SINGAPORE RUBBER PRICES, 1923.

CENTS PER lb.

—	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Standard Rubber sheet	49¾–65¼	61¼–62	58¾–61¼	53½–55	44¾–53¾	46–48	47	51½–53½	50¾–53¼	45¾–49¼	46¼–50	48½–49
Second quality ribbed sheet	45–64¾	57–61¾	51–61	50–57½	41–53½	42¼–51½	42¼–49¼	45–53¼	47¼–52¾	45½–49	43–49¾	44–48¾
Standard 1st latex crepe	51½–57½	62½	54–57	57½–58	51–52¼	48–51½	47–49¼	49½–53½	53–53½	47¼–48	47–51¾	49¼–49½
Second quality latex crepe	45½–64¾	55–61½	51–61	50–57	40–53½	42–51¼	40½–49	45–53¼	45½–52½	42½–49½	43–50¾	44–50
Lower grade crepe ...	39¾–58¼	49–54	47–55	43½–52	37–47½	37¾–46¼	37¼–42¾	39½–46	40¾–46	36½–42¼	35–42½	38–42½
Bark crepe ...	39–53	49–51½	46¾–52	42–47¾	38–43¼	38–43¼	36¼–38¾	40¾–45½	40–43¾	36¼–41½	37–42	37¾–41½

The increase in price was not such as to cause any reversion to former extravagance in administration of estates, and the year's experience has done much to standardise prices and methods of work. This will be to the benefit of the industry in maintaining expenditure at an economical level, even if the market price of the commodity should rise.

Two rubber factories continue in operation in Singapore. Experimental work on the vulcanisation of latex is being continued on an estate in Malacca and some of the articles and materials manufactured by this process appear to be very promising.

The necessity for preventing loss of valuable surface soil from clean cleared slopes, subject in this country to heavy rains, is now widely recognised by planters. Systems of catchment pits, terracing and the use of cover crops or plants such as citronella and lemon grass are in common vogue on estates.

In Province Wellesley and Penang Pink Disease (*Corticium salmonicolor*) is reported as being well under control, owing to the educative advice and the demonstrations of control measures given by the Inspecting Officers of the Agricultural Department.

Mouldy Rot (*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*) spread rapidly in Malacca during the year and is now present over the greater portion of that Settlement. This disease recurs from time to time on the estate which was originally infected and to which particular reference was made in last year's report. Outside this estate it is at present confined to small holdings. In some areas it is very prevalent, in others a few cases occur. Freedom of estate holdings from this disease is due partly to the fact that they have settled labour forces and do not employ coolies indiscriminately picked up, there being ordinarily therefore no contact with infected trees, and partly to better general conditions of sanitation enjoyed by estates.

Coconuts.—The price of copra rose from $10.30 a pikul (133⅓ lbs.) at the beginning of the year to $13.10 in April. It fell to $9.75 in July and rose again to $12.14 in December. The average price for the year was $11.30. The price of nuts varied from 4 cents to 6 cents each at different places and times. These prices provided coconut cultivators with a considerable profit during the year. The outlook for this crop is satisfactory.

The selection work on coconuts referred to in the report for 1922 has been continued. This is a slow process and some time must elapse before definite results are available.

Inspecting officers throughout the year continued the work of destruction of breeding places for the Black Coconut Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) and Red-stripe weevil (*Rhynchophorus schach*). This is work which must go on from year to year. Fresh accumulations are always being formed. Old and fallen coconut trees, heaps of manure and village refuse, call for regular attention.

There were outbreaks of the serious caterpillar pest (*Artona catoxantha*) which affected coconuts at two localities in Province Wellesley during the dry weather of February and March. In the Province this pest is controlled largely by the fungus (*Botrytis* sp.) which appears most frequently on the pupae. Dry weather which checks the fungus assists the spread of the pest. Heavy rains are beneficial, both in assisting the spread of the fungus and, apparently, in destroying the adult moths. It is noticeable that outbreaks of this pest tend to recur in the same localities at intervals of a few years. The only method of control, as far as we know at present, that gives promise of efficiency, consists of spraying the tops of coconut trees. This is of course a difficult matter and an expensive one.

The favourable condition of the coconut and copra market during the last few years has been a satisfactory feature of a difficult period. It is, therefore, the more regrettable that the rush for rubber and large profits induced owners, even as recently as 1916 and 1917, to destroy so many of their palms. The fine growth and yield of these trees on many of the coastal lands of this Peninsula, the ease with which they can be cultivated, and the steady market for their produce render this industry a particularly suitable one for Malay small holders. It is greatly hoped that co-operative methods of marketing can be introduced in the near future for the benefit of proprietors of small holdings and that the considerable profits which they at present enjoy may be increased thereby.

One large mill in Singapore is carrying on the manufacture of coconut oil and copra cake. It is understood that it is difficult to dispose of the oil, but that the cake finds a ready sale in Australia. The manufacture of desiccated coconut at Butterworth appears to be thriving; the plant in the one factory in operation has been increased. The price of desiccated coconut products is fair.

Padi.—In Malacca the padi harvest for the season 1922 - 23 was a fair average. Unsuitable weather conditions had a prejudicial effect on the growing crop during 1922. Later, however, conditions improved and the crop is considerably better than at first expected. Increased yields were reported from the Southern District. In Penang and Province Wellesley damage was done by excess of water in the fields during harvest, but on the whole the crops were satisfactory.

In Malacca the crop for the season 1923 - 24 promises well in most districts. In Penang and Province Wellesley planting of the 1923 - 24 crop was damaged by the lateness of the seasonal rains, on some lands by as much as two months if compared with last year's planting. When the rains did arrive they were so heavy and persistent that much damage was done to nurseries and to newly planted areas by heavy flooding. These unfavourable weather conditions did not continue long enough to cause real alarm and the condition of the crop at the end of the year was not far below average.

As stated in last year's report the first year's results of experiments in the Padi Experimental Station, Malacca, were disappointing. During 1923 development work was continued, an additional area of land was acquired, ploughed and harrowed with a tractor. The station now contains an area of 23 acres. An area of 18 acres was prepared and planted with pure strains of padi from Krian and with a few well-known Malacca varieties from which it is intended to select pure strains. The growth during the year was somewhat uneven.

Eight strains of selected Krian padi were grown at the testing station in Province Wellesley. These gave satisfactory results, the yields being carefully recorded. These trials are being continued.

A manurial experiment is also being started in Province Wellesley. Ten acres of land have been leased for 6 years and planted with one pure strain of padi. No manure has been applied this year, it being necessary first to obtain comparative yields on the different plots as an indication of the variation in the soil.

Krian pure strain padi distributed in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca gave varying results. In some localities they did remarkably well and are being planted again. Other localities do not seem so suitable. It will take some time to discover suitable strains for varying soils

Insect pests of padi did not give much trouble during the year. Some areas suffered badly from rats. In some places, as for example the Central District of Malacca, the use of Barium carbonate, supplied at cost price by the Department as a rat poison, is becoming popular among padi cultivators.

Other Crops.—In Penang and Province Wellesley fruit was plentiful and cheap at the usual season. No noticeable failure of any fruit crop is reported from Malacca. The cultivation of limes is being attempted on one estate in Malacca; the trees are still young, no results are as yet available.

The Pineapple Canning industry in Singapore appears to be thriving and the price of the canned fruit has been maintained at a good level. The price paid by the canners for the fruit, however, is not very remunerative to the growers.

The cultivation of Roselle fibre has not attracted much attention in the Colony. There is a local market in the Federated Malay States for supplies of this fibre for rope making and growers of small areas can consequently hope to dispose of their crop. Experience appears to show that this is not a crop which can economically be cultivated in small plots. It needs far too much care in cultivation and subsequently in the preparation of the fibre to warrant cultivation in kampongs on a very small scale.

The distillation of Patchouli oil in Singapore is being carried on at present by only one distiller who revived the industry in 1919. The leaves used by this distiller are obtained from plants grown in Sumatra by growers who are controlled by the distiller. The value of the oil has dropped considerably during the last year and is now only about $8 per lb.

Several enquiries has been received by the Department of Agriculture from prospective buyers in England.

Experiments with Egyptian cotton were commenced on a small scale towards the end of the year on some high ground at the padi experimental station in Malacca. The first sowings were not very successful owing to the raw nature of the soil but subsequent sowings give signs of greater promise.

Some interest has been shown in the subject of cattle breeding and fodder grasses during the year and the Agricultural Department is rendering what assistance is possible.

A large collection of exhibits and photographs was prepared during the latter half of the year by the Agricultural Department for the Agriculture Section of the Malaya Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition. This work took a considerable time. A collection has been provided representative of existing agricultural products and of new products which might be successfully cultivated in this country.

(*e*) LAND.

(i).—LAND TENURE.

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town were issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under these titles, which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent, the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but it has now been decided to restrict in future the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Singapore eighteen and in Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases and Statutory Grants are being substituted for Permits and Expired Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for alienation of foreshore.

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber, and of mukim assessment under customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE.

The Revenue in 1923 was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1922	291,458	23,059	119,897	434,414
	1923	344,161	15,787	58,845	418,793
Penang ...	1922	220,404	26,41	18,679	265,497
	1923	239,059	37,041	19,489	295,589
Malacca ...	1922	532,060	6,346	37,608	516,014
	1923	671,900	10,023	51,511	733,434
Labuan ...	1922	5,219	1,314	114	6,647
	1923	4,788	1,723	49	6,560
Total ...	1922	1,049,141	57,133	176,298	1,222,572
	1923	1,259,908	64,574	129,894	1,454,376

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Singapore.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	392 3 25	340 3 34	454 2 17	731 1 07	1,783 0 04
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	204,130	131,908	49,766	84,822	123,743
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	83	88	30	114	64
Premia paid ...	$348,235	$1,780,736	$92,308	$188,476	$131,476.00
Penang.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	16 1 32	556 3 00	824 1 05	2.689 1 28	525 3 24
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	Nil.	12,357	Nil.	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	1	83	84	394	127
Premia paid ...	$2,457.50	$15,422.00	$11,061.50	$26,555.50	$12,978.16
Malacca.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	4,214 0 08	1,919 2 38	1,590 1 32	1,124 0 31	2,348 0 16·96
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ..	20,190	15,957	6,522	21,600	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	219	108	39	116	273
Premia paid ...	$77,207	$50,170	$42,790	$52,843.00	$72,345.00
Labuan.	A. R. P	A. R. P.	A. R. P	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	...	1,403 1 26	185 0 16	228 3 09	59 2 35
,, Town Lots ..	17 1 17	...	5 0 00	Nil.	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	73	290	221	Nil.	91
	(in exchange for old titles.)		(190 new Grants, 15 in exchange for old titles & 6 sub-division grants.)		(55 new Grants. 17 sub-division Grants. 19 in exchange for old grants.)
Premia paid ...	$36	$1,027.64	$422 60	$114.90	$49.40

(f) Fisheries.

"The amalgamation of the fisheries administration of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States except Pahang under a Fisheries Department with headquarters in Singapore was effected during the year. The western coastline of the Peninsula between the southern boundary of Kedah and the northern boundary of Johore was divided into three districts and a Malay Fisheries Officer, provided with a motor cruiser, was put in charge of each.

"It was decided to purchase in 1924 a Fisheries Experimental Vessel to test the seas on either side of the Peninsula with the Otter-board trawl, Danish seine, American purse seine and if possible modern drift nets and long lines. The area about the Peninsula, of sea less than 100 fathoms deep, is the largest in the world and has not as yet been efficiently tested by modern power methods. The Fisheries Experimental Vessel will provide data for assessing in local waters the value of those modern power methods, which, since 1885, have revolutionized the fisheries of Great Britain. There is good prospect of financial support both local and in England for the commercial exploitation of the Malayan fisheries by modern power methods, if the data provided by the Fisheries Experimental Vessel are favourable".

III.—Legislation.

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year 1923. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and ten were purely Amending Ordinances. Of the remaining fourteen, several (such as the Companies, Labour and Volunteer Ordinances) are essentially consolidating and only incidentally amending Ordinances. For the purposes of this Report, therefore, the Ordinances are classified as either purely Amending Ordinances or not purely Amending Ordinances.

The more important of the Ordinances which are not purely amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Colonial Treasury Bills Ordinance (No. 3) which gives the Legislative Council the power to authorise the Governor to issue in London, through the Crown Agents, Straits Settlements Treasury Bills.

(ii) The Treasury Bills (Local) Ordinance (No. 4) which gives the Legislative Council the power to authorise the Governor to issue Straits Settlements Bills in the Colony.

(iii) The Rubber Restriction Ordinance (No. 10) which provides for a system of export permits for a closer watch upon rubber which is exported from Singapore and Penang; for making the transfer of licences and coupons illegal; for a census of dealers' stocks; for returns by rubber manufacturers of dry rubber used in their factories; for extended powers of seizure in regard to suspected rubber and for requisition of information in regard to stocks.

(iv) The Midwives Ordinance (No. 11) which confines the practice of midwifery to those only who are properly qualified. It also provides for the registration of qualified midwives and the control of such midwives by a Central Midwives Board.

(v) The Labour Ordinance (No. 14) which removes all sections in the old Ordinance relating to offences by labourers and eliminates all penalties for breach of such sections. It further improves very materially, for the labourer, labour conditions in the Colony. This very important Ordinance was substituted for the Labour Ordinance, 1920, as a concession to the Indian Government in return for the granting of facilities for the emigration of Indian labour to Malaya.

(vi) The Currency Ordinance (No. 15) which provides the Colony with currency legislation suitable to the circumstances of the present day.

(vii) The Agricultural Loans Ordinance (No. 19) which repeals Ordinance No. 105 (Agricultural Loans) and provides that in future Government makes the loans.

(viii) The Post Office Ordinance (No. 23) which revises thoroughly the law relating to the Post Office.

Provision is made for the conveyance of mails by air; for "clubbed packets"; for cash-on-delivery postal articles; for the prohibition against the transmission of narcotics by post; for the interception of postal articles in time of emergency and in regard to the liability of Government and the Post Office for payment of compensation in case of loss of, or damage to, registered or insured articles in the course of transmission by post.

The old Government Savings Banks are converted into Post Office Savings Banks.

The principal purely amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which provides that, in order to prevent an accumulation of provisionally registered deeds, a person who presents a deed for registration shall be deemed to have made an application for survey.

(ii) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which increases the penalty to a maximum of one hundred dollars and six months' imprisonment and compulsory forfeiture of arms. The penalty under Ordinance No. 96 (Minor Offences) was only twenty dollars.

(iii) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which increases the penalty for unauthorised use of firearms by the addition of liability to six months' imprisonment.

Provision is made for the report to the Licensing Officer by an auctioneer in respect of any arms or ammunition entrusted to him for sale with particulars thereof and the address of the owner.

(iv) The Municipal Amendment Ordinance (No. 18) which prevents the annual charge upon possession of an animal or a vehicle from being made twice over when such animal or vehicle is removed during the year from the limits of one Municipality to within those of another Municipality.

(v) The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance (No. 25) which increases materially the penalties for extortion and for the various offences in connection with the law against carrying and dealing in arms, explosives and offensive weapons. This is a very important Ordinance. It substantially follows similar legislation in Hongkong.

(vi) The Mahomedans (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 26) which provides for the administration of estates of Mahomedans who die intestate according to Mahomedan Law. It also provides that the Court may grant letters of administration to some person other than the next-of-kin of the deceased if such grant is considered necessary.

IV.—Communications.

(*a*) POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

A.	Letters addressed to foreign countries ...	First oz. ...	12 cents.
		each succeeding oz. ...	6 ,,
B.	Letters addressed to places in the British Empire except those places named in *C*. ...	Per oz. ...	6 ,,
C.	Letters addressed to places in the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Johore, North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei, Trengganu and Kemaman	First two ozs. ...	5 cents.
		each succeeding ounce or fraction thereof ...	1 cent.

D. Postcards addressed to:—

(i) Foreign countries	8 cents.
(ii) Places in the British Empire except those named in *C*	4 ,,
(iii) Countries named in *C*	2 ,,

E. Printed papers, for every two ozs. ... 3 ,,

except that the rate of postage on a newspaper—

(*a*) printed and published within the Straits Settlements or in any British Possession or Protected State in Malaya; or

(*b*) registered as a newspaper at the General Post Office, London, if posted in the Straits Settlements addressed to any place in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu (including Kemaman), North Borneo, Sarawak or Brunei, is 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 4 ounces, and 2 cents for any additional weight provided that no enclosure which is not part of the newspaper or a supplement thereto is enclosed with the newspaper. If two or more copies are sent in a single packet, each newspaper shall be liable to the same postage as if posted separately, but in no case shall a packet of such newspapers be chargeable with a higher rate than that chargeable on a packet of printed papers of the same weight.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 16,189,992, an average of 18·09 per inhabitant, as against 15·56, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 12,143,922, as compared with 11,362,187 in 1922. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year 1923 was 452,426 as compared with 467,421 in 1922, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph lines was 336,778 as compared with 318,053 in 1922. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone exchanges increased from 1,069 to 1,142.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1923 was $2,202,487.08 an increase of 18 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1922. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $194.60. There was a profit on the year's working of $30,191.44. The estimated present value of the investments is $2,167,213.25.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 38 Sub-offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Kreh, Penanti, Pinang-Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley). Of these 25 are Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1923 to $5,279,543.42, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Ceylon, Great Britain, Netherlands East India and United States of America.

Ten Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5, thence to Madras	(3)
		,, ,, Colombo	(2)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	1, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1, Direct.	
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1).

There are also Government telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 616 miles of telegraph lines, 32½ miles

of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley containing 85 miles of wire and ¾ mile between Singapore and Johore containing 1½ miles of wire. There are 52,458 miles of telephone line in Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,336 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the Exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(*b*) Communication by Sea.

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India steamers *viâ* Madras and Bombay, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly services by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon; in addition there is a fortnightly service by the Steamship Company Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd; and at frequent intervals by the Holts, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines; with China and Japan a fortnightly service by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong and by Spanish packets direct; with Bangkok by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports by Netherlands India Company's steamers, with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australia Steam Navigation Company, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence of Orient Packets; with Madras (direct), and other ports on the Coromandel Coast, fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers; and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above, there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 23 to 26 days. Services are now normal.

(*c*) Railways.

A Railway traverses the Colony from Singapore to Woodlands, thence *viâ* a Causeway across the Johore Straits (which was opened for traffic in October, 1923) into the State of Johore and Federated Malay States, the main line affording direct communication to Seremban, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Prai, from the latter place connection to Penang is maintained by steam ferry.

There is a branch line from Gemas on the Southern border of the State of Negri Sembilan to Kuala Lipis in the State of Pahang, portions of this line now under construction, will, when completed, enable direct communication to be made with Singapore and the States of Kelantan and Siam.

There are feeder lines to the various ports of the Malay States connecting with the main line, and in addition a line runs from Prai in the north to Padang Besar, where connection is made with the Royal Siamese State Railways enabling passenger and goods traffic between the Federated Malay States and Siam to be conveyed direct by rail.

Ocean borne traffic is dealt with at the ports of Penang, Prai, Port Swettenham and Singapore, whilst coastwise shipping may in addition be dealt with at Port Weld, Teluk Anson, Port Dickson and Malacca.

(*d*) Roads.

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca) are Singapore 98·7 miles; Penang and Dindings 87 miles; Province Wellesley 168·2 miles; Malacca 239·8 miles; Labuan 5·8 miles.

In addition there are 176½ miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained in the various Settlements.

Of the 599½ miles of metalled road 181¼ miles are surfaced with asphalt.

During 1923 in Singapore 2¼ miles of road were improved and converted to granite surface from laterite while a further 3 miles of surface was asphalted.

In Penang the road on top of Telok Bahang Pass was improved and there is now a road with a good surface right round the island.

In Province Wellesley a further 5 miles of road was reconstructed to granite. Plans for a permanent bridge across the Krian River at Nibong Tebal were got out.

In Malacca some 6¾ miles of road were reconstructed to granite.

(*e*) Public Works.

Work in connection with the New General Hospital in Singapore made good progress while work in connection with the New Medical School and New Post Office was begun.

V.—Immigration.

(i).—Chinese.

The total number of immigrants from China arriving in the Colony during 1923 was 159,019, an increase of 16·4 per cent over the figure for 1922 but less than that for 1911, the highest year, by 110,835 or 41 per cent.

Adult males formed 72·3 per cent and adult females 14 per cent of the immigrants.

Conditions inimical to emigration from the inland districts of South China continued throughout the year under review. The land and water routes from the prefectures of Chiang Chiu, Choan Chiu and Heng Hoa in the province of Fuhkien to the sea-port of Amoy were blocked by opposing armies and Amoy itself suffered from Civil War during several months of the year. In addition during the last quarter of the year quarantine restrictions against steamers arriving from Hongkong were enforced and passage rates were raised. It is satisfactory, therefore, that the figures show an increase in immigration; any loss to Malaya from conditions preventing the arrival of intending immigrants was counterbalanced by the large excess of immigrants over emigrants, returning to China, whose numbers totalled only 78,121, thus leaving an excess of immigrants over emigrants of 80,898 or 50 per cent.

(ii).—Southern Indians.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 49,502 as compared with 58,674 in 1922.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 42,778 as against 45,733 in 1922.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1920.	*1921.*	*1922.*	*1923.*
Assisted immigrants ...	78,855	15,413	38,336	30,234
Other immigrants ...	16,365	30,260	20,338	19,268
	95,220	45,673	58,674	49,502

The assisted immigrants consisted of 26,868 adults and 3,366 minors. Of the adults 20,966 were men and 5,902 women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 12·54 per mille, and in the Dindings 8·02 per mille. The death-rate on estates in Penang was only 2 per mille.

During 1923, 242 adult and 19 minor decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The assessment rate was fixed at $1 for the 1st quarter; $1.50 for the 2nd quarter and $2 for each of the 3rd and 4th quarters.

The Fund receipts amounted to $925,195 and the expenditure was $1,098,278, the difference being met by a corresponding decrease in fixed deposits.

(iii).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,640. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force but approximately 79 local contracts for 300 days are in force in the Settlement of Penang.

VI.—Criminal and Police.

The total number of seizable offences reported to the Police during 1923 was 6,963 of which 6,687 were admitted as true. Of the admitted reports 3,756 resulted in cases which were dealt with by the Police Courts, District Courts, or Supreme Courts, convictions being obtained in 2,327 cases. In respect of serious offences against property there was a decrease of 10 in the number of murders, but an increase of 15 in the number of reports of attempted murder, while there was a decrease of 223 in the number of reports of causing hurt with dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was an increase of 64 in the number of robberies, a decrease of 13 in the number of gang-robberies, a decrease of 180 in the number of reports of housebreaking and a decrease of 154 in the number of reports of theft. Secret societies gave a good deal of trouble during the year in Singapore, and were responsible for a number of the murders and cases of wounding. They were also responsible for many cases of extortion. There were 41,146 non-seizable offences reported to the Police in 1923. The number of persons arrested in connection with reports both seizable and non-seizable was 31,423 males and 647 females.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,141 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 4,083 were admitted during the year as compared with 5,408 during 1922 and 4,030 were discharged during the year. 1,194 remained at the end of the year. There were 97 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,270 were admitted and 1,217 were discharged. Of the 1,217 vagrants discharged 67 found employment and 977 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, weaving, tile-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at husk-beating and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

(*a*) Population.

The population for 1923, is estimated on that of the census of 1921. The distribution is:—

		1922. Estimated.	*1923. Estimated.*
Singapore	...	441,458	457,571
Penang	...	307,519	310,781
Malacca	...	157,160	160,886

(*b*) Public Health.

The number of births registered during the year was 28,456 and the number of deaths was 25,995. The births this year exceed the deaths in all Settlements and the crude birth-rate was 30·43 per mille as compared with 30·59 in the previous year—a slight decrease.

The percentage of males born was 51·90, females 48·10. The highest birth-rate in any nationality was 36·65 per mille as against 37·71 in 1922, in both years Malay.

The Infantile Mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 208·96 per thousand births as against 207·52 in 1922. The increase for the last two years has been due to

the high death-rate of infants under one year in Malacca, which still shows the highest figure, 1,413 deaths amongst 5,642 births or 258·69 per thousand. It is to be expected that this rate will decrease as more Malay midwives are trained in our hospitals.

The number of deaths from infantile convulsions, mostly due to tetanus was 3,484 as against 3,146 in 1922.

The crude death-rate was 27·80 per thousand compared with 30·68 in 1922. This is the lowest on record. The highest racial death-rate for the year was 30·40 amongst "other nationalities" the lowest 8·28 amongst Europeans.

The deaths from pneumonia were 1,710 as against 1,608 and from influenza 162 as against 234 in the previous year.

Beri-beri accounted for 904 deaths as against 1,388 and 1,299 deaths in 1922 and 1921 respectively: a satisfactory decrease. Malaria and tuberculosis were responsible for 3,430 and 2,683 deaths respectively as compared with 3,977 and 2,966 in 1922. Fever unclassified was responsible for 3,064 deaths as against 3,043 in 1922.

Dysentery contributed 839 deaths and diarrhœa 411 as against 1,085 and 458 in 1922.

Infectious diseases.—There were 18 deaths from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 56 deaths from Plague, none from Cholera and 3 from Small-pox.

(*c*) Climate.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore for 1923, was 80·8° F; in Penang 81·9° F; in Province Wellesley 81·7° F; and in Malacca 82·00° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 84·4° and 76·5° F. The maximum recorded was 95° on 2nd March at Province Wellesley. The minimum was 68° F. on January 1st and September at District Hospital, Penang. The grass minimum in Singapore was 66° F. in September.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being pretty evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1912 to 1921, it is found in Singapore, that there is an annual average of 172 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period being 2,555 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest

year was 1913 with 3442·37 mm. and the driest was 1877, with 1482·7 mm. The average for the sixty-one years is 2396·5 mm. The force of the monsoons is not much left, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, viz.:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is nothing unusual to have south-east, south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1922.		*1923.*
Singapore	...	2587·25	mm.	1981·50
Labuan	...	2971·9	,,	2957·8
Penang	...	3192·0	,,	3443·0
Province Wellesley	...	2837·0	,,	2612·75
Malacca	...	2168·5	,,	2407·0

VIII.—Education.

There were 11 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 5,795 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $602,504.

There were 31 aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 13,574 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to $565,034.

The expenditure on the 204 Government Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 16,024 was $312,643.

There were 9 Aided Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 569, the grants to which for 1923 amounted to $4,324.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,143 as against 991 in 1921 and 1,092 in 1922.

Thirty-seven students passed the final examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, compared with 29 in 1922.

There were 12 student teachers in residence at Hongkong University at Government expense. All of them were boys educated at English schools in Malaya. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided schools.

The greatest educational event of the year was the restoration of the Queen's Scholarships. It was decided that two scholarships be given yearly by the Government of the Colony to boys or girls chosen at a special competitive

examination and approved by a selection board to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. The minimum amount of a scholarship will be £150 a year, but this may be increased to any sum not exceeding £500 after enquiry into the scholar's financial circumstances. In the absence of special permission, the scholars will be required to proceed to a residential College at Oxford or Cambridge so that they may have the advantage of the discipline and social life associated with those Universities. No scholarship will be tenable for more than six years.

Despite the recent improvements of the salary scheme and the unemployment in the United Kingdom, it was still very hard to recruit European officers for the Education Department. During the year two European masters appointed to the Malay Educational service were allocated to the Colony, but one of the existing staff resigned. Four new European mistresses were allocated to the Straits Settlements, but one of the four resigned before the end of the year. An Art Master for Singapore and a Physical Instructor for the Colony were recruited and have since taken up their duties.

The difficulty of recruiting European officers emphasises the fact that there must be an increasing number of openings for fully qualified local teachers as soon as Raffles College can train them. At the same time a nucleus of Europeans will be required to keep local education in touch with the latest theory and practice followed in the United Kingdom.

A new elementary school for boys at Geylang, Singapore, was opened. The conversion of the Malay College, Malacca, into a preparatory section of the English High School was completed.

The new Sultan Idris Training College for Malay vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The extension of the course from two to three years and the inclusion in the curriculum of manual training and practical lessons in rural science is providing teachers peculiarly qualified for the work of the vernacular schools.

The medical inspection of all schools and pupils is being undertaken with valuable results.

The appointment of a European Physical Instructor will stimulate still further the keen interest taken in athletics.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to meet a distinct want. Two hundred and thirty-nine students were enrolled. Twenty-one students passed the examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce. There were 36 students in the Science Classes. A class in Practical Chemistry was started and proved useful and popular.

In July a Conference was held in Singapore of representatives of the Education Department and of the Government and Aided English schools of the Colony and the Federated Malay States. Among the subjects discussed were the education in English of Malays, the development of industrial and technical education, text-books and the teaching of tropical hygiene.

Raffles College.—The accounts showed at the end of 1923 $1,394,687 to the credit of the General Fund and the funds for Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing $1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to $63,000 per annum have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years, amounting to $655,000, have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

During the year a competition for designs for the new College Buildings was opened, any architect being eligible who was a British subject and resident anywhere within the British dominions. Mr. JOHN BEGG, F.R.I.B.A., late Consulting Architect to the Government of India, was appointed Assessor. The competition closed at the end of the year. It is expected that building will be started in 1924.

Dr. R. O. WINSTEDT, M.A., D.LITT. (Oxon.) of the Malayan Civil Service, continued to act as Principal. The College is administered by an Executive Committee.

E. S. HOSE,
Colonial Secretary.

SINGAPORE, 25*th July*, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923-1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922-1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	"
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923-1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
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1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
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1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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No. 1264.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(*For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1186 and 1235 (Price 2s. and 1s. 9d. respectively)*).

PRINTED IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LONDON:
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1925.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1924.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

SITUATION AND AREA.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

PENANG.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity or entrance to the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

MALACCA.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

The Dindings.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude 4° 15′ north and longitude 100° 35′ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

Cocos or Keeling Islands.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ and 12° 45′ south, and in longitude approximately 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

The total area of the Colony with these dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

Labuan.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

Labuan has a fine port Victoria Harbour (latitude 5° 16′ north, longitude 115° 15′ east), safe, and easy of access.

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and bêche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909.

HISTORY.

MALACCA.

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In

1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of $6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased in return to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE.

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan.

At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

I.—Finances.

The revenue for the year 1924 amounted to $28,639,161 exceeding the Estimates by $1,029,566, whilst the expenditure was $26,706,316 being $861,803 less than the Estimate.

The revenue was $4,676,854 less than that of 1923, while expenditure fell short of the 1923 figure by $11,462. The excess of revenue over expenditure was $1,932,845, as compared with $6,598,237 in 1923.

The actual figures for 1923 and 1924 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE.

—	1923.	1924.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	1,662	2,027	365	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	23,493,001	20,217,871	...	3,275,130
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	973,225	1,020,382	47,157	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,723,412	1,694,732	...	28,680
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,532,744	1,522,806	[illegible]	9,938
6. Interest	2,432,528	2,611,858	179,330	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	3,033,716	1,418,742	...	1,614,974
	33,190,288	28,488,418	226,852	4,928,722
8. Land Sales	125,727	150,743	25,016	...
TOTAL ...	33,316,015	28,639,161	251,868	4,928,722
	Net	Decrease ...	...	4,676,854

The major factor in the decrease under Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue was the drop of $3¼ million in Opium Revenue while the absence of Income Tax accounted for a further decrease of $½ million. The only increase of any magnitude under this head was from Stamp Duties which brought in $350,000 more than in 1923 mainly due to increased receipts from Estate Duty.

Under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts the overpayments of Defence Contribution refunded in 1923 amounted to roughly $1,700,000 and in 1924 to $846,000 only.

The actual revenue of 1924 exceeded the corresponding estimates of revenue under the following heads:—

			$
Coral, Granite etc.	...	...	*a* 356,774
Petroleum Duty	...	...	65,652
Stamp Duties	...	...	214,986
Fees of Court	...	...	139,575
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	231,620
Rents on Government Property		...	207,438
Interest ...	...	...	948,332
Miscellaneous Receipts	...	...	1,320,292
Land Sales ...	...	...	85,642

Opium Revenue was, however, nearly $2½ million short of the estimated collection.

(*a*) Royalty on granite used on Johore Causeway paid by F.M.S. amounted to $351,866.70.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE.

—	1923.	1924.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions	920,010	981,185	61,175	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	18,807	20,695	1,888	...
4. The Governor	128,021	134,358	6,336	...
5. Civil Service	710,583	720,515	9,932	...
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	193,366	180,238	...	13,128
7. Secretary to High Commissioner	...	16,785	16,785	...
8. Government Printing Office	148,038	212,857	64,819	...
9. Land and District Offices ...	305,923	321,571	15,648	...
10. Forests	43,230	29,567	...	13,663
11. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	86,654	77,764	...	8,890
12. Treasury	210,367	200,625	...	9,742
13. Audit	86,450	92,447	5,997	...
14. Director of External Audit ...	14,549	3,815	...	10,734
15. Marine	598,035	641,066	43,031	...
16. Imports, Exports and Statistics	70,677	74,306	3,629	...
17. Legal	401,629	391,461	...	10,168
18. Police	2,377,304	2,389,542	12,238	...
19. Prisons	384,519	398,134	13,615	...
20. Medical	434,248	384,476	...	49,772
21 Health Branch, Singapore...	228,692	262,126	33,434	...
22. Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,119,612	1,363,612	244,000	...
23. Veterinary	59,913	59,737	...	176
24. Education	860,034	957,114	97,080	...
25. Ecclesiastical	25,400	24,424	...	976
26. Transport	218,224	244,709	26,485	...
27. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,857,143	3,556,188	..	300,955
II. Local Forces ...	319,423	554,380	234,957	...
28. Miscellaneous Services ...	6,662,586	4,448,766	...	2,213,820
29. Post Office	1,275,583	1,421,644	146,061	...
30. Government Monopolies ...	504,527	574,712	70,185	...
31. Fisheries Department, S. S. and F. M. S. ...	56,764	30,104	...	26,660
32. Agricultural Department ...	97,134	29,628	...	67,505
33. Botanical Gardens ...	90,471	92,479	2,008	...
34. Raffles Museum and Library	42,697	49,444	6,747	...
35. Income Tax	21,794	...	...	21,794
36. Survey Department ...	523,904	411,213	...	112,691
37. Public Works Department...	462,147	462,696	549	...
38. Public Works, Recurrent ...	602,283	631,004	28,721	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary	2,519,954	4,223,846	1,703,892	...
TOTAL ...	26,717,778	26,706,316	2,849,212	2,860,674
	Net	Decrease ...	$11,462	

The increase under Government Printing Office is to be attributed to an extension of its plant in order to undertake work for the Unfederated Malay States.

Under Military Expenditure (Local Forces) some $200,000 extra is due to special expenditure on equipment and buildings.

Under Post Office over $100,000 of the increase was caused by special expenditure and the same explanation accounts for the rise in the cost of Government Monopolies.

The decrease under Medical was due to the transfer of a number of appointments to Hospitals and Dispensaries.

The decrease under Agricultural is caused by the inclusion of a large sum in Appendix *V* for the general adjustment of joint expenses with the Federated Malay States and the decrease under Survey is accounted for partly by this explanation and partly by a drop in special expenditure.

The principal savings effected on the Estimated Expenditure of 1924 were in respect of:—

	$
Civil Service	34,398
External Audit	74,222
Marine	86,608
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	213,091
Education	311,424
Military Expenditure (Defence Contribution)	443,812
Post Office	380,167
Government Monopolies ...	82,895
Public Works Recurrent ...	78,941
Police	188,056
Health Branch	39,951
Legal	48,858
Fisheries	42,754
Survey Department	45,668

Miscellaneous Services 1924 showed an excess of nearly $1 million over the estimate. Under this head Personal Emoluments and Other Charges Annually Recurrent were well within the estimate but the Special Expenditure included more than $1 million for purchase of land and buildings which was not provided for in the Estimates.

Public Works Extraordinary exceeded the estimate in 1924 by about $¼ million but this was due to debiting the cost of works originally charged to Surplus Funds to the public works expenditure of the year.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the War, the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last seven years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

		Total Expenditure.	*Public Works Extraordinary.*
		$	$
1918	...	8,687,204	458,257
1919	...	29,111,433	892,571
1920	...	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	...	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922	...	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923	...	22,860,635	2,519,954
1924	...	23,150,128	4,223,846

The difference of 14½ millions between expenditure for 1918 and expenditure for 1924 is mainly accounted for by the following increases:—Personal Emoluments 6¼ millions and Public Works Extraordinary 3¾ millions, while Contributions to Rural Boards and Hospitals have increased by three quarters of a million dollars.

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*	$
Deposits		9,087,926	Investments	50,558,805
Drafts and Remittances ...		21,122	Advances	662,430
Suspense		2,490,294	Imprests	52,373
Investments Depreciation Account ...		102,453	Cash in Transit ..	24,814
Loans:—			Loans:—	
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921–1926 ...		20,216,300	Municipalities ...	10,956,160
			Kelantan Government ...	520,000
			Trengganu Government	700,000
			Singapore Harbour Board	2,406,207
Surplus—			Penang Harbour Board	1,116,413
Reserved for specific purposes (*a*) ...	$22,939,102		Ho Hong Steamship Co.	180,000
Unreserved ...	43,889,225		Singapore Cricket Club	42,548
		66,828,327	Brunei Government ...	18,000
			Federated Malay States Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	15,000,000
			Johore Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	800,000
			Municipality, Singapore Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan	3,500,000
			Municipality, Penang Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	916,300
			Sailors' Institute ...	200,000
			Stadium Association ...	30,000
			War Service Land Grants Scheme	95,900
			Indian Agency Account...	236,900
			Cash	10,729,572
Total ...		$98,746,422	Total ...	$98,746,422

(*a*) *Loans*:—

Loans to Municipalities ...	... $10,055,000	
Loan to Government of Trengganu ...	... 300,000	
Loan to Sailors' Institute ...	... 90,000	
Loan to Penang Harbour Board ...	... 1,078,200	
		$11,523,200

Commitments of Expenditure:—

For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital ...	... $6,616,161	
Raffles College Buildings ...	... 1,000,000	
Malacca Water Supply ...	... 1,933,725	
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply	... 1,000,000	
Development of Penang Hill ...	... 866,016	
		$11,415,902
	Total ...	$22,939,102

(iv).—Public Debt.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1924 to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...		1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	320,137
Total	...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received		3,388,205
		$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was $2,081,173 in 1924. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on 31st December, 1924, was approximately $5,800,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the 5½ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at $28,655,700, under the 5½ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at $36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The proceeds of the Straits Settlements 7 per cent Loan (1921) were lent to the following Governments and Municipalities, which pay all the interest due on the Loan and will repay the principal on redemption date:—

			$
Federated Malay States Government			15,000,000
Johore Government	...	...	800,000
Singapore Municipality	...	...	3,500,000
Penang Municipality	...	...	916,300
Total		...	$20,216,300

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1921 amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish the Loan.

(v).—Exchange.

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1924:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de l'Indo Chine.
,, International Banking Corporation.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited.
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, Banque Industrielle de Chine.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 - 5/32 and 2/3 - 7/8.

(vi).—Currency.

No change was made in the Currency legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year, consisted of $85,491,478.70 in currency notes and $6,607,346.32 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $142,082 as compared with $144,090 at the end of 1923.

At the beginning of the year 1924 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $81,123,024.70. There was a demand by the public for currency during the months of January and December, which resulted in the issue of $4,257,100 in exchange for sterling.

The net result over the whole year shows that the value of the currency notes in circulation increased to $85,491,478.70 at the end of 1924.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $47,481,929.33 consisting of £328,251 in gold, $13,470,214.18 in silver and $2,283,284.04 on deposit with the Government held locally and £773,330 in gold and £2,600,069.5.11 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $82,749,078.03, the cost price of those investments being $85,443,373.85.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $130,268,861.62 (liquid portion $47,481,929.33 investment portion $82,749,078.03 and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners Income Account $37,854.26). The excess value of the fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $44,777,382.92 as compared with an excess of $39,043,355.08 at the end of 1923.

There was a net receipt by the Treasurer of $146,363 in subsidiary silver coins during the year but there was a net increased issue by the Currency Commissioners of ten cent notes to the value of $216,730.

Subsidiary silver to the amount of $8,273,980.65 was in circulation at the end of the year and $1,539,949.70 in currency notes of values less than $1.

The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1922 was $1,621,695.70 and at the end of 1923 $1,323,219.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 28,551,362 against 23,508,315 in 1923. The increased rate of destruction is mainly due to an alteration in the methods of dealing with notes of face value below $50.

Of the notes destroyed 9,310,420 were 10-cent notes and 13,495,234 were $1 notes.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 794,071 and a further 28,157,604 were cancelled during the year, making a total of 28,951,675 for destruction. The total number destroyed

was 28,551,362 and the balance awaiting destruction at the end of the year was consequently 400,313.

(vii).—Enemy Property.

Custodian of Enemy Property.

Of the proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property in the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property a sum of $750,435.14 was transferred to the Controller of the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London, during the year 1924, making the total of the amount transferred to that Office to 31st December, 1924 $12,403,722.04.

At the end of the year the Custodian still had under his control $1,662,784.43 of which $1,618,502.67 was invested.

Local Clearing Office.

Claims by and Against Germany.

The claims by German against British Nationals dealt with during the year amounted to $42,399.88 making a total of $1,875,212.91 from the date of the establishment of the office. The admissions and contests during the year were $5,354.31 and $8,535.76 respectively, making a total of $190,146.51 for admissions and of $1,603,093.26 for contests from 1920 to 31st December, 1924. The claims withdrawn during the year by Germany amounted to $644,133.10 making a total of $1,399,724.91 to 31st December, 1924.

British claims against German Nationals forwarded to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London during the year amounted to $24,413.85 and the admissions by Germans amounted to $754.96 making totals presented and admitted from 1920 to the end of 1924 of $320,537.14 and $34,543.31 respectively.

The claims contested by Germans during the year amounted to $24,413.85 and brought the total of contested claims to 31st December, 1924 up to $190,844.75.

Of the claims contested by Germans, this Clearing Office withdrew $2,447.74 during the year and thus brought the total of withdrawn claims to 31st December, 1924, up to $11,788.55, leaving the balance in dispute

During the year this Clearing Office collected $7,088.71 from British Nationals on account of debts admitted due to Germans, and paid out $1,158.59 to British Nationals in respect of their claims against Germans admitted by the

German Clearing Office. The total collections and payments from 1920 to 31st December, 1924, are $177,121.27 and $48,794.18 respectively.

In addition to the above claims by British Nationals against German Nationals under Article 296 of the Peace Treaty, claims amounting to $1,531.83 were presented against the Treuhander for Enemy Property, Germany, in respect of property of British Nationals seized by that Office during the period of the war. The total presented under Article 297 to 31st December, 1924 is $74,615.68. During the year the Treuhander admitted $1.214.64 in respect of property seized and a further sum of $450 on account of compensation in lieu of interest on moneys released during the previous year. The total of admissions by the Treuhander to 31st December, 1924 is $26,622.43.

Claims by and against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.

The claims presented by Austrian Nationals against British Nationals to 31st December, 1924, amounted to $39,244.36. Of this amount this Clearing Office admitted $186.56 and contested the balance of $39,057.80. Of the contested amount the Austrian Clearing Office withdrew $38,163.28 leaving $894.52 in dispute on 31st December, 1924. No claims by British Nationals against Austrian Nationals have been registered with this Clearing Office to the end of the year.

Of the claims for $3,021.41 forwarded to the Hungarian Clearing Office in the year 1921 $265.02 was admitted during the year leaving the balance of $2,756.39 still in dispute.

With a view to expediting the settlement of outstanding claims under Article 296 of the Treaty of Versailles an Agreement was entered into on the 30th June, 1924 between the British and the German Clearing Offices providing for the summary settlement locally of all outstanding claims of £50 or under.

The Controller's investments on 31st December, 1924 remained at $130,000 as in the previous year.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries.

(*a*) Shipping.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 32,617,101 as compared with 29,936,949 in 1923.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1923 and 1924.

NATIONALITY.	1923.					1924.					Increase in 1924 as compared with 1923.	Decrease in 1924 as compared with 1923.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
American ...	674,349	267,330	41,898	...	983,577	767,420	469,018	19,290	203,848	1,255,728	272,151	...
Austrian ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,932	4,932	4,932	...
B. N. Borneo ...	...	...	...	7,466	7,466	...	...	...	...	...	1,115,535	...
British ...	9,646,559	5,729,320	309,806	158,475	15,844,160	10,009,261	6,405,328	348,724	...	16,967,161		...
Chinese ...	64,514	4,440	...	...	68,954	19,018	...	6,150	...	25,168	...	43,786
Danish ...	351,454	188,754	6,674	...	546,882	421,354	234,160	...	...	655,514	108,632	...
Danziz ...	...	...	...	...	...	19,632	...	...	...	19,632	19,632	...
Dutch ...	3,559,736	708,893	...	...	4,268,629	4,036,373	865,967	386	1,014	4,903,740	635,111	...
French ...	1,106,489	571,414	...	...	1,677,903	1,258,890	250,344	...	...	1,509,234	...	168,669
German ...	534,591	83,950	...	..	618,541	691,564	151,526	...	...	843,090	224,549	...
Italian ...	204,940	176,974	...	...	381,914	312,482	261,492	...	...	573,974	192,060	..
Japanese ...	3,353,709	775,650	241,346	64,818	4,435,523	3,369,853	991,828	257,424	98,352	4,717,457	281,934	...
Norwegian ...	369,101	45,775	...	...	414,876	437,212	67,716	...	1,684	506,612	91,736	...
Panama ...	...	...	...	...	...	15,980	...	...	...	15,980	15,980	...
Russian ...	74,342	...	...	...	74,342	17,512	49,246	...	...	66 758	...	7,584
Sarawak ...	108,775	...	...	996	109,771	94,110	...	...	...	94,110	...	15,661
Siamese ...	234,711	...	...	...	234,711	194,510	...	...	...	194,510	...	40,201
Spanish ...	61,752	...	...	...	61,752	69,514	...	...	...	69,514	7,762	...
Swedish ...	167,550	40,398	...	...	207,948	191,258	...	...	2,729	193,987	...	13,961
TOTALS ...	20,512,572	8,592,898	599,724	231,755	29,936,949	21,925,943	9,746,625	631,974	312,559	32,617,101	2,970,014	289,862
										Net Increase ...		2,680,152

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1920	24,027,912 tons.
1921	25,055,798 ,,
1922	26,913,256 ,,
1923	29,936,949 ,,
1924	32,617,101 ,,

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 62,921 in number and 2,281,925 in tons in 1924 as compared with 59,238 and 2,174,942, respectively, in 1923.

Two new steam-vessels and two motor-vessels with a tonnage of 3,897 tons gross and thirty-one sailing-vessels of 2,770 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 9 new sailing-vessels of 736 tons were licensed under section 424, and 742 vessels of 5,989 tons under section 425.

Harbour Boards.

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the years ended June 30, 1923, and June 30, 1924, have been as follows:—

	Income.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1923 ...	7,881,712	5,923,898
Year ended 30th June, 1924 ...	8,222,042	6,070,943

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1924, at $50,126,732 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $6,087,045 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1924, were $1,052,959 and the expenditure $965,501.

(*b*) Trade.

The value of the aggregate Trade of the Colony which was recorded in 1924 shows an increase of £16¾ million over last year, but the increase is not as pronounced as that of

1923 over 1922: Tin, Tinplates, Motor vehicles, Rice, Spices, Copra and provisions are the chief commodities responsible for the increase. The quantity of rubber exported was in excess by about 5,000 tons but the value was less by about 15 million dollars.

The exports of Tin increased both in quantity and value: the average price also showing a higher level.

The following figures show the value of the Colony trade for the last six years, the value of Coin and Bullion, and of the trade between the Settlements, being excluded:—

Year.	Imports of Merchandise.	Exports of Merchandise.	Imports Comparison with preceding year.	Exports Comparison with preceding year.
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1919 ...	96,664	99,318	+ 15,046	+ 27,396
1920 ...	124,216	102,536	+ 27,552	+ 3,218
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	– 58,425	– 46,398
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922
1923 ..	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,530
1924 ...	98,915	89,430	+ 9,913	+ 6,840

The aggregate trade for the year 1924 excluding inter-settlement trade was therefore £188.3 millions as against £171.6 millions in 1923, an increase of £16.7 millions.

The value of the inter-settlement trade for the last six years, including treasure, was as follows:—

Year.	Imports	Exports	Imports Comparison with preceding year.	Exports Comparison with preceding year.
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1919 ..	13,164	13,235	+ 3,981	+ 3,651
1920 ..	14,938	14,797	+ 1,774	+ 1,562
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	– 8,034	– 7,910
1922 ...	5,148	5,078	– 1,756	– 1,809
1923 ...	5,728	5,607	+ 580	+ 529
1924 ...	5,125	5,049	– 603	– 558

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last four years:—

		Imports.	*Exports.*
		(000's)	
		£	£
1921	...	2,335	1,887
1922	...	1,892	1,301
1923	...	1,883	616
1924	...	1,607	561

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

—	Imports.				Exports.			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	(000's)							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	26,204	25,044	26,223	28,348	21,129	19,056	19,722	21,412
II. Raw Materials	24,391	29,140	46,425	43,839	25,439	35,426	53,191	32,999
III. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles ...	15,196	12,508	16,354	26,728	9,570	7,577	9,677	35,019
Total ...	65,791	66,692	89,002	98,915	56,138	62,059	82,590	89,430

Owing to the adoption of the new classification of articles and units of quantity on the lines of the United Kingdom list, commodities have been transferred to different classes and groups, and comparisons cannot therefore very well be made this year with previous years

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported in 1924 but for the reason above stated only the increase or decrease of the value is shown.

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted 1923.	1923.		How Counted 1924.	1924.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
		(000's)	(000's) $			(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Para Rubber ...	Centals of 100 lbs.	3,850	163,273	Tons.	199,044	165,141	...	1,868	...	...
Tin Ore	Pls.	1,353	94,831	"	92,261	135,241	...	40,410	...	...
Rice	"	8,986	58,863	"	535,941	67,570	...	8,707	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterlized	Cases	709	9,763	Cases	727,701	9,611	...	...	...	152
Sugar	Pls.	1,360	16,624	Tons.	91,166	18,158	...	1,534	...	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	10,969	20,571	lbs.	12,007,605	20,680	...	109	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Pls.	841	13,167	Tons.	60,818	14,629	...	1,462	...	...
Arecanuts	"	988	9,575	"	56,626	11,013	...	1,438	...	...
Benzine (*a*)	Galls.	26,510	23,643	"	98,147	27,213	...	3,570	...	...
Petroleum (*b*) ...	Cases	2,573	14,310	"	82,034	13,019	...	...	...	1,291
Sago	Pls.	745	3,393	"	58,893	5,131	...	1,738	...	...
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Pieces	6,493	32,632	Yards.	111,542,368	29,920	...	...	...	2,712
Sarongs	Corges.	498	13,806	Nos.	9,505,640	13,128	...	...	...	678
Copra	Pls.	2,375	24,415	Tons.	154,033	28,766	...	4,351	...	...
Pepper	"	277	4,979	"	19,136	7,834	...	2,855	...	...
Rattans	"	413	3,868	"	25,749	4,046	...	178	...	...
Coal	Tons.	633	9,803	"	695,214	10,088	...	285	...	...
Machinery	Value.	...	6,810	Nos.	67,625	6,584	...	...	...	226

(*a*) Now classified under Motor Spirit. (*b*) Now classified under Petroleum "Kerosene".

N. B.—Owing to the new classification of articles and units of quantity being adopted in January, 1924 increases and decreases of quantities are not shown this year.

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted. 1923.	1923.		How Counted. 1924.	1924.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
		(000's)	(000's)			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
	Centals		$			$		$		$
Para Rubber ...	of 100 lbs.	4,588	227.893	Tons.	210,135	212,855	...	...	...	15,038
Tin	Pls.	1,174	119,717	,,	80,693	169,177	...	49,460	...	...
Rice	,,	5,372	38,182	,,	326,836	41,942	...	3,760	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterlized	Cases	332	4,674	Cases.	373,654	4,975	...	301	...	...
Sugar	Pls.	766	9,825	Tons.	46,311	9,487	...	...	...	338
Cigarettes	lbs.	8,885	15,099	lbs.	9,881,127	16,065	...	166	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted ..	Pls.	818	14,280	Tons.	59,072	16,038	...	1,758	...	...
Arecanuts	,,	1,071	12,470	,,	62,166	14,942	...	2,472	...	...
Benzine (*a*)	Galls.	26,146	23,878	,,	70,055	19,314	...	...	...	4,564
Petroleum (*b*) ...	Cases	2,023	11,300	,,	64,206	10,519	...	...	...	781
Sago	Pls.	828	4,718	,,	58,708	6,541	...	1,823	...	...
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Pieces	4,027	20,988	Yards.	79,906,401	20,818	...	...	...	170
Sarongs	Corges.	319	8,371	Nos.	6,413,742	9,040	...	669	...	...
Copra	Pls.	2,527	28,649	Tons.	151,460	31,290	...	2,641	...	...
Pepper	,,	312	6,002	,,	19,703	8,333	...	2,331	...	...
Rattans	,,	388	5,787	,,	22,921	5,607	...	...	...	180
Preserved Pineapples ...	Cases	843	5,549	,,	35,333	8,154	...	2,605	...	...
Rubber Latex ..	Galls.	46	80	Gallons.	21,133	42	...	...	...	38

(*a*) Now classified under Motor Spirit. (*b*) Now classified under Petroleum "Kerosene".

N.B.—Owing to the new classification of articles and units of quantity being adopted in January, 1924 increases and decreases of quantities are not shown this year.

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924:—

—	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs	Value.	Tons.	Value.
	(000's)	(000's) $	(000's)	(000's) $	(000's)	(000's) $		(000's) $
Malay States	1,923	47,766	2,634	70,462	2,272	107,739	90,519	88,843
Netherlands Indies ...	303	7,115	619	13,563	1,331	44,533	93,113	61,797
Other Countries ...	110	2,535	178	4,882	247	11,001	15,411	14,501
Total ...	2,336	57,416	3,431	88,907	3,850	163,273	199,043	165,141

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924:—

—	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
	(000's)	(000's) $	(000's)	(000's) $	(000's	(000's) $		(000's) $
United Kingdom ...	398	13,333	223	6,784	498	25,465	14,020	14,755
United States of America	2,268	64,264	3,681	108,504	3,247	161,238	162,465	164,197
Other Countries ...	622	16,590	730	20,857	843	41,190	33,650	33,903
Total ...	3,288	94,187	4,634	136,145	4,588	227,893	210,135	212,855

Tin and tin ore were imported in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 from the following countries:—

—	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.
			* (in thousands)					
	Pkls.	*Pkls.*	*Pkls.*	*Pkls.*	*Pkls.*	*Pkls.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Malay States ...	73	678	96	714	122	766	7,092	54,352
Netherlands Indies ...	1	169	11	334	1	369	6	24,395
Siam ...	4	104	6	139	9	160	426	10,052
Other Countries ...	...	78	...	38	...	58	14	3,462
Total ...	78	1,029	113	1,225	132	1,353	7,538	92,261

* Figures for 1921, 1922 and 1923 are shown in thousands.

The Exports of Tin in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 were as follows:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Pkls.	Value.	Pkls.	Value.	Pkls.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
			(in thousands)					(000's)
		$		$		$		$
United Kingdom	200	16,338	185	14,776	169	17,578	16,335	33,964
United States of America ..	330	27,573	752	60,768	803	81,737	46,194	97,620
Other Countries	174	14,534	176	14,403	202	20,402	18,163	37,593
Total ...	704	58,445	1,113	89,947	1,174	119,717	80,692	169,177

It will be seen that the imports of Para Rubber from the Malay States decreased by 10,909 tons, while the Netherlands East Indies and other surrounding countries sent us an increase of 38,079 tons. The Exports show that 5,325 tons more were exported but the value decreased by about 15 million dollars, or say 1¾ million sterling.

The increase in the imports of Tin Ore amounted to 11,725 tons and there was a decrease in the imports of tin of 319 tons.

The Exports of refined metal increased by 10,798 tons and the value was nearly 50 million dollars greater than 1923.

Other imported articles which show an increase in value over 1923 are Rice, Sugar, Fish Dry and Salted, Arecanuts, Motor Spirit (Benzine), Sago, Copra and Pepper, while a decrease has taken place in the value of Milk, Kerosine (Petroleum) Cotton Piece Goods, Sarongs and Machinery.

In Exports it will be found that the value of the following has increased, Rice, Fish, Arecanuts, Sago, Copra, Pepper and Preserved Pineapples, while Motor Spirit (Benzine) Rattans, Cottons Piece Goods, Kerosine and Sugar, show decreased values.

The increased exports of Preserved Pineapples should be noted. A matter of about 250,000 cases more were exported while the value of the total export increased by over 2½ million dollars over 1923.

The following table shows the value of the Merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australia; countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America and Japan:—

—		Imports.				Exports.			
		1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
					(000's)				
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		7,730	7,386	8,253	9,050	5,629	4,799	7,516	8,457
Australia and New Zealand ...		1,844	1,628	1,597	1,620	260	365	503	1,236
Belgium ...	Continent of Europe.	132	115	206	271	96	65	203	164
Denmark ...	Continent of Europe.	89	72	103	104	181	191	571	406
France ...	Continent of Europe.	389	361	509	705	1,302	1,977	2,679	3,202
Germany ...	Continent of Europe.	103	282	581	610	1,238	1,792	1,222	1 274
Holland ...	Continent of Europe.	353	398	429	582	1,142	1,033	1,314	1,891
Italy ...	Continent of Europe.	362	437	490	617	419	797	1,228	1,434
Norway ...	Continent of Europe.	4	6	225	113	...	3	11	23
Sweden ...	Continent of Europe.	26	18	28	77	...	35	66	142
Spain ...	Continent of Europe.	4	2	8	4	321	405	341	445
Russia ...	Continent of Europe.	...	55	11	3	...	...	...	...
United States of America ...		2,990	1,892	2,041	2,541	11,418	20,751	29,381	31,765
Japan ...		2,627	2,106	2,110	1,919	2,030	1,786	3,275	2,902

An examination of the above table shows that the value of the import trade with ten of the countries mentioned increased slightly while that with Japan, Norway, Spain and Russia declined. As regards exports the increase in value is recorded in all the countries shown except Japan, Belgium and Denmark.

The value of the trade with the United Kingdom, increased in the case of imports in cigars and cigarettes, coal, tin-plates and yarns, and decreased in steel, paper, stationery, cotton piece goods and machinery. In exports values increased for tin, preserved pineapples, sago and pepper and decreases in the case of Para rubber, illipinuts, tapioca, copra and gutta percha.

United States of America.—Imports therefrom of petroleum, cigars and cigarettes increased in value while that of milk decreased. Exports of tin, pepper, gambier, copra, Para rubber increased in value, and rattans, preserved pineapples and gums decreased.

Japan.—A decrease in the value of the aggregate trade is shown, but the values of cotton piece goods, dried and salted fish and matches imported increased, while coal, woodenware and hardware decreased. Exports: Tin increased, Para rubber decreased.

The total of the trade with the Netherlands Indies showed a considerable increase for this year over the previous year as follows:—

Imports.			*Exports.*		
1922.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1922.*	*1923.*	*1924.*
—	—	—	—	—	—
(000,000's).			(000,000's)		
$111	$194	$227	$80·7	$78·9	$83.6

The considerably increased value of imports is accounted for by the increased quantity of rubber imported, while rice, cotton piece goods, cigarettes and dried fish are responsible for the increase in exports.

France.—Imports of Brandy, Milk, Motor Tyres and Motor-cars show increased values while that of perfumery has declined. Increases in the export values of Tin, Tapioca, and Copra, and decreases in that of Para Rubber and Illipinuts.

Germany.—The value of cement and beer imported were greater, while milk and iron nails were lower. Exports of Tin and Pepper thereto are higher in value, Copra and Para Rubber show a decline.

Italy.—Acetic Acid and Milk imports increased, Cement decreased. Exports of Tin, Pepper and Gutta Percha show a higher value. Copra and Para Rubber are lower.

Belgium.—Imports of Glassware, Sewing Threads, Zinc Sheeting declined in value. Exports of Sago, Tapioca increased while Copra, Para Rubber and Illipinuts show decreased values.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 43 new companies were registered, with a capital of $20,527,857 of which 25 were private companies with a capital of $6,397,857.

At the end of the year 430 companies remained on the register of which 50 were in liquidation: the total subscribed capital of the 367 companies carrying on business was $160,411,207.

Four hundred and forty-seven companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 340 are British, 30 are Japanese, 24 are Dutch, 3 are German and 24 are incorporated in the United States of America and Hawaii. Apart from these, 13 companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Sixty-seven companies do Fire Insurance business.

Bankruptcies.

There were 73 trade bankruptcies of which 50 were Chinese. In 15 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In one case liabilities exceeded $500,000, in 3 cases $100,000 and 5 other cases $50,000.

Three Deeds of arrangement were registered.

(*c*) FORESTS.

The area of reserved forests was reduced by about 13½ acres due to excisions from Tanjong Burong and Lumut Reserves in the Dindings and from Ramuan China Reserve in Malacca. The total area of reserved forests is now 111,505 acres, equivalent to 11·6 per cent of the total area of the Colony.

Revenue and expenditure were $49,233 and $48,742 respectively, compared with $48,308 and $44,293 in 1923, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a surplus of $491, compared with $4,015 in 1923. Revenue rose in Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca, and fell in the Dindings.

The outturn of timber was 13,004 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 32,026 tons, compared with 10,255 and 23,516 tons in the previous year. Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of $3,517, compared with $3,898 in 1923.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 153 cases in addition to 10 which were pending at the beginning of the year. The 153 cases reported included 24 in which the offenders were undetected. Of the 129 cases dealt with 42 were dealt with departmentally, 86 were taken to court, and 1 was pending at the end of the year. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $1,821 in addition to $31 awarded as compensation for damage to the forest. In the compounded cases a sum of $837 was paid.

(*d*) Agriculture.

Rubber.—At the beginning of January the price of standard rubber sheet was 49 cents per lb. On a weak market it fell steadily to 31½ cents in May. Early in the Autumn the price began to rise until 68 cents per lb. was reached in December. Estates have been maintained in good order and, generally, with considerable profit. A pleasing result of restriction of output is economy of bark consumption. Areas of old trees, heavily tapped in the past have been rested and the incentive to tap young rubber has been removed. Further more conservative tapping systems have been introduced in practically all producing fields. The result is that there are now throughout all rubber areas in the Colony excellent reserves of good tappable bark. With stocks reduced to something like normal proportions, an anticipated healthy increase in consumption, and labour conditions strengthened by the trials of recent years there would appear to be no excuse for pessimism regarding the immediate future of the rubber producing industry.

Combined pressure from District and Agricultural Officers has effected improvement in the general maintenance of small holdings in Malacca and in Province Wellesley. It has been found possible to give increased attention to weeding and disease treatment and for this purpose, in collaboration with District Officers, a system of routine inspection has been inaugurated and is working successfully. Nevertheless there are certain areas of small holdings, notably in Malacca, where neglect of cultivation or bad tapping, or frequently the two together have so affected the trees that their productive capacity has been seriously impaired. Furthermore as a general rule it can be stated that small holders have more frequently than large holders selected unsuitable (often swampy) land for rubber cultivation during the days of high prices. The productivity of such holdings is low and may be expected to become lower.

The only disease of rubber calling for any special comment is Mouldy Rot disease.(*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*). This disease spread very considerably in Malacca during the year, outbreaks being recorded on four European-owned Estates. An outbreak on an Estate and a small holding in Singapore Island was reported and confirmed during the the month of September. This disease now occurs in various localities from Kedah to Singapore. It is not difficult to control. Adequate precautions have been taken in all cases.

Regular field instruction is given in the treatment of this disease and facilities are provided by the Department for the obtaining of the necessary disinfectants at cost price.

Coconuts.—The price of copra was $12.50 per picul (133⅓ lbs.) at the beginning of the year and remained steady until the beginning of March when a decline began. After sinking to $10.50 in April the price rose again with minor fluctuations to $13.65 in the latter half of October. In November there was another sharp fall to $11.40, followed by a rise to $13 at the close of the year. The average price for the year was $11.95 as compared with $11.30 per picul in 1923. The price of nuts varied from 4 to 6 cents each. The price has been sufficient to render the industry prosperous, as it was in 1923.

It is noticeable that a large number of the palms in Penang and the Province are very old and bear very small crops. Many die of old age every month. Attention is being given, with success, to the planting of supplies.

A new factory to be known as the Central Oil Mills is in course of erection near Butterworth.

The Black Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) and the Red Stripe weevil (*Rhincophorus schach*) still cause a considerable amount of damage in Penang, Province Wellesley and Singapore. This is due to the large accumulations of decaying coconut refuse that still remain to be destroyed. The burning of all such refuse is regularly enforced by the Inspecting Officers, but it will be some time before all the accumulations of past years are completely eliminated.

Other insect pests of coconuts have not been in evidence during the year. In Malacca squirrels cause a considerable loss of nuts. Steps are being taken to encourage the use of squirrel traps by owners of coconut holdings.

Padi.—In Malacca the crop harvested for the season 1923 - 1924 was satisfactory.. Increased yields were reported from the Southern district. In Province Wellesley the crop was a little below the average on account of dry weather during the planting season and subsequent heavy floods.

The crop for the season 1924 - 1925 promises well in Malacca, though droughts delayed planting in some localities. There is a definite increase in the area planted with padi in Malacca this season. In Province Wellesley and Penang planting in 1924 was much delayed by a severe drought which began just after the first nurseries were established in June and July. In the majority of cases the nurseries had to be replanted in August. Floods followed the drought and damaged most of the earlier planted padi. The result will be late ripening and the crop may be light. There is, however, no failure.

Pure strains of padi distributed by the Agricultural Department have given somewhat uneven results in Malacca. There is considerable difference between the padi soils of Krian, where these strains were produced, and the inland soils of Malacca. It is therefore to be expected that the pure strains may take a few seasons to become acclimatised.

Although the success of these pure strains in non-coastal areas is at present somewhat qualified, there was a large demand both in Malacca and Province Wellesley for further supplies of seed for planting in 1924, as much as 1,350 gantangs (gallons) being distributed in Malacca. Records of distribution and of yield are being maintained. Test plots under departmental supervision are maintained in Province Wellesley and at the Pulau Gadong Experiment Station in Malacca.

The soil at the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca has improved with regular cultivation. The land was found to be extremely acid when first prepared and had to be dressed with lime before use. The cultivated area of the Station is now 25 acres, a new area of 7 acres having been added to the 18 acres used in 1923. The padi looks well and promises a good crop.

Tests of selected pure line padis from Krian are in progress at this Station and indicate that certain strains may be successful. It has been found, however, that the Krian strains are less able to withstand high soil acidity than are the local Malacca padis.

Cultivation experiments have been commenced and are progressing satisfactorily. The experience of a few seasons will, however, be needed before definite conclusions can be made for instructional purposes.

Plots have been established at this Station for the selection of pure line strains of certain of the Negri Sembilan and Malacca varieties by the methods used for isolating the pure strains in Krian. It will be about 6 years before the local pure strains are ready for distribution, but this line of work can confidently be expected to give valuable results.

Manurial plots have been laid down at the Malacca Experiment Station and similar plots have been established in Province Wellesley. Valuable information will thus be obtained, as the determination of a suitable cheap manure for padi fields is a matter of the utmost importance.

Other than Stem-borers which did considerable damage to the flowering padi at the Malacca Experiment Station in December and were to be found fairly commonly in other parts of Malacca insect pests were not much in evidence. Rats have, as usual, done considerable damage. The distribution of barium carbonate is being continued and the use of other methods of rat destruction encouraged. This poison appears to give rather varying results and there is considerable difference of opinion among Malays as to its efficacy. A special campaign against rats in Krian District of Perak, organised towards the close of the year, may be expected to provide experience that can be utilised generally in the coming year.

Other Crops.

Cloves and Nutmegs.—Vigorous encouragement by the District Officer, Balik Pulau, with the co-operation of Agricultural Officers has brought about a revival of interest in these two crops which at one time provided valuable exports from Penang and Province Wellesley. As an encouragement the assessment on rubber land partly planted with cloves and nutmegs has been reduced and already a great deal of unproductive and poorly cultivated rubber has been cut out to make room for the planting of spices. The establishment of co-operative societies among spice growers is under consideration. Officers of the Department are carrying on investigations with a view to controlling the pests and diseases which have been so largely responsible for the decline of the spice industry in the past. The measures taken to restore this

useful minor industry have met with some degree of success as the following short tables show:—

The export of cloves for the last three years has been as follows:—

	Pikuls Exported.
1922	276
1923	462
1924	573

For the last two years the exports of nutmegs and mace have been:—

	NUTMEGS. *Pikuls Exported.*	MACE. *Pikuls Exported.*
1923	288	97
1924	1,632	232

Fruits.—In Penang and Province Wellesley the fruit crop was fair, in Malacca it was poor. The supply of locally grown fruit in the Colony is inadequate to meet the demand. Much of that grown in Malacca, as well as in other parts of the Peninsula, is sent to Singapore where it fetches high prices and the supply to the Malacca market is not as good as it was. Action is being taken to increase the supply of fruit planting material.

Cotton.—The plot of Egyptian Cotton planted in Malacca in 1923 failed completely, the soil being, apparently, unsuitable. During the last quarter of this year six small trial plots were planted in different parts of Province Wellesley with a strain of Egyptian cotton. The plants have grown fairly well and give promise of a crop, but considerable damage has been done by a leaf-roller (*Sylepta derogata*) which, though easily controlled by hand picking on these small plots, might prove very difficult to control on a large area.

Fodder grasses.—Towards the end of the year, on the suggestion of the Superintendent of Prisons, Penang, experimental plots of fodder and pasture grasses were planted in the Gaol grounds Penang, where labour is easily obtained. The object is to discover which grasses give the best crops and can be easily and cheaply established. Results from these plots are not yet available.

Miscellaneous.—Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is becoming very prevalent in drains and waterways in Province Wellesley and is spreading in Malacca. The

advisability of introducing legislation to enforce its destruction is under consideration.

The Exhibits prepared for the Agricultural Section of the Malaya Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition arrived in good order. These were representative of existing agricultural products and of other products which might be successfully cultivated in this country.

(*e*) Land.

(i).—Land tenure.

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town were issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under these titles, which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent, the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but it has now been decided to restrict in future the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases and Statutory Grants are being substituted for Permits and Expired Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for alienation of foreshore.

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber land, and of mukim assessment on land held under customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE.

The Revenue in 1924 was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1923	344,161	15,787	58,845	418,793
	1924	335,918	20,613	43,145	399,676
Penang ...	1923	239,059	37,041	19,489	295,589
	1924	229,996	21,147	10,486	261,629
Malacca ...	1923	671,900	10,023	51,511	733,434
	1924	655,650	9,200	98,797	763,647
Labuan ...	1923	4,788	1,723	49	6,560
	1924	4,209	1,226	209	5,644
Total ...	1923	1,259,908	64,574	129,894	1,454,376
	1924	1,225,773	52,186	152,637	1,430,596

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Singapore.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	340 3 34	454 2 17	731 1 07	1,7 3 0 04	1,355 0 27
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	131,908	49,766	84,822	123,743	46,139
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	88	30	114	64	57
Premia paid ...	$1,780,736	$92,308	$188,476	$131,476.00	$70,399.00
Penang.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	556 3 00	824 1 05	2,689 1 28	525 3 24	1,284 1 22
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq ft.
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	12,357	Nil.	Nil.	155
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	83	84	394	127	146 S. Grants (& 5,99 years' Leases.)
Premia paid ...	$15,422.00	$11,061.50	$26,555.50	$12,978.16	$18,464.00
Malacca.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,919 2 38	1,590 1 32	1,124 0 31	2,348 0 16.96	2,712 2 18.64
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ..	15,957	6,522	21,600	Nil.	59,350½
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	108	39	116	273	127 & 1 Lease
Premia paid ...	$50,170	$42,790	$52,843.00	$72,345.00	$202,830 00
Labuan.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,403 1 26	185 0 16	228 3 09	59 2 35	135 0 20
,, Town Lots ...	...	5 0 00	Nil.	Nil.	0 0 24¾
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	290	221	Nil.	91	50
		(190 new Grants, 15 in exchange for old titles & 16 sub-division grants.)		(55 new Grants. 17 sub-division Grants. 19 in exchange for old grants.)	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)
Premia paid ...	$1,027.64	$422.60	$114.90	$49.40	$209.20

(*f*) Fisheries.

It was decided to order a new experimental fisheries vessel designed to meet Malayan local requirements rather than purchase a second-hand trawler and have it modified. The new vessel should commence work before the close of 1925. Some buildings of a temporary nature have been taken over by the fishery department and are being adapted for use as an experimental station. It is proposed to test therein the suitability and adaptability of the methods employed in other countries in the cure and preservation of fish and other products of marine commerce. An experiment in canning on a very small scale of the tiny anchovy (Stolephorus) which is so abundant in these waters, proved that it canned well and was of good flavour.

An attempt to compare the prices as obtained in auction at Billingsgate (London) and Clyde Terrace (Singapore), of fish of an equivalent nature, showed that as far as fish so dissimilar can be considered to be equivalent, twice as much is paid in Singapore as London for fish and half as much for prawns, shrimps, etc.

III.—Legislation.

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed during the year 1924. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and thirteen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Cinematograph Films Ordinance (No. 4) which provides for the control of the exhibition of undesirable cinematograph films, public or private, and of undesirable pictures advertising such films.

(ii) The Explosives Substances Ordinance (No. 6) which for the purpose of suppressing crimes of violence imposes an adequate penalty for manufacturing, keeping or using explosives with intent to endanger life or property.

(iii) The Savings Certificates Ordinance (No. 7) which provides for the issue of Savings Certificates as a facility for savings.

(iv) The Fisheries Ordinance (No. 11) which provides for the conservation of fish in the waters of the Colony by establishing close times for fishing, by prohibiting certain methods of fishing, and by prohibiting the capture of immature fish.

(v) The Dentists' Registration Ordinance (No. 13) which is designed to provide for the control of the practice of dentistry in the Colony. It is based upon the English Acts 1878 to 1923.

(vi) The Co-operative Societies Ordinance (No. 21) which provides for the constitution, registration and management of Co-operative Societies. It is based upon the Federated Malay States Enactment No. 7 of 1922 which in turn was based upon the Indian Co-operative Societies Act of 1912.

The principal Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which limits the liability of the fund to cases of personal negligence or inefficiency of an officer and revises the procedure for recovery of monies.

(ii) The Agricultural Pests (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which gives power to Agricultural Inspectors to sanction prosecution in order to avoid unnecessary delay.

(iii) The Traction Engine and Motor Cars (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which relieves motor car dealers of the necessity of taking out a licence for every car held by them merely for sale.

(iv) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which provides that every British and foreign local-trade steamer over 125 tons should have in addition a third class gunner on board.

(v) The Ports (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8) which allows certain officers of the Harbour Boards to participate fully in the Harbour Boards' Provident Fund.

(vi) The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which allows certain officers to retire at 45 instead of at 50 years of age.

(vii) The Theatres (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which empowers the Governor in Council to decide by notification in the *Gazette* which side-shows should come within the definition of the word "theatre".

(viii) The Vagrancy (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12) which is designed to exclude from the Colony vagrants who have been repatriated from any of the Federated Malay States.

(ix) The Inventions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) which gives a patentee in the United Kingdom the right to have his patent registered in the Colony and to have all the privileges which attach to a patent originally obtained in the Colony.

(x) The Rubber Dealers (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which allows the Governor to exempt from the operation of the principal Ordinance certain persons who were never really intended to come within the operation of the principal Ordinance.

(xi) The Federated Malay States Export Duties (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18) which allows a charge for goods stored for over 48 hours to be collected in the Colony as a part of export duty by the Federated Malay States Government.

(xii) The Fire Insurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 20) which permits a representative of a firm which is a member of Lloyds doing business in fire insurance in the Colony.

IV.—Communications.

(*a*) Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

A.	Letters addressed to foreign countries ...	First oz. ...	12 cents.
		each succeeding oz. ...	6 ,,
B.	Letters addressed to places in the British Empire except those places named in *C*. ...	Per oz. ...	6 ,,
C.	Letters addressed to places in the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Johore, North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei, Trengganu and Kemaman	First two ozs. ...	5 cents.
		each succeeding ounce or fraction thereof ...	1 cent.

D. Postcards addressed to:—

(i) Foreign countries ... ... 8 cents.

(ii) Places in the British Empire except those named in *C* ... ... 4 ,,

(iii) Countries named in *C* ... ... 2 ,,

E. Printed papers, for every two ozs. ... 3 ,,

except that the rate of postage on a newspaper—

(*a*) printed and published within the Straits Settlements or in any British Possession or Protected State in Malaya; or

(*b*) registered as a newspaper at the General Post Office, London, if posted in the Straits Settlements addressed to any place in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu (including Kemaman), North Borneo, Sarawak or Brunei, is 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 4 ounces, and 2 cents for any additional weight provided that no enclosure which is not part of the newspaper or a supplement thereto is enclosed with the newspaper. If two or more copies are sent in a single packet, each newspaper shall be liable to the same postage as if posted separately, but in no case shall a packet of such newspapers be chargeable with a higher rate than that chargeable on a packet of printed papers of the same weight.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 14,797,000, an average of 15.82 per inhabitant, as against 18.09, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 11,723,497, as compared with 12,143,922 in 1923. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year 1924 was 451,366 as compared with 453,859 in 1923, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph lines was 356,415 as compared with 336,778 in 1923. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges increased from 1,069 to 1,142.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1924, was $2,524,467.94 an increase of 15 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1923. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $201.15. There was a profit on the year's working of $45,395.37. The estimated present value of the investments is $2,581,531.61 (these figures are subject to revision after audit).

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices, at Penang, Malacca, and Labuan, there are 41 Sub-offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tassek Glugor, Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley), Tebong (Malacca). Of these 25 are Telegraph Offices.

The operation of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1924 to $5,273,469.09, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands East India, United States of America and Ceylon.

Ten Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5, thence to Madras	(3)
		,, ,, Colombo	(2)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	1, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1, Direct.	
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1).

There are also Government telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca, and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 616 miles of telegraph lines, 34 miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley containing 89 miles of wire and ¾ mile between Singapore and Johore containing 1½ miles of wire. There are 2,129¼ miles of Telephone Line in Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,318 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(*b*) Communication by Sea.

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India Steamers *viâ* Madras and Bombay, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly services by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon; in addition there is a weekly service by the Steamship Company Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and at frequent intervals by the Holts, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese

and other lines; with China and Japan a fortnightly service by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong and by Spanish Packets and British Packets direct; with Bangkok by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Nederlands India ports by Nederlands India Company's steamers; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australia Steam Navigation Company, Austral East Indies Line, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence of Orient Packets; with Madras (direct), and other ports on the Coromandel Coasts fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above, there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 23 to 26 days. Services are now normal.

(*c*) Railways.

A Railway traverses the Colony from Singapore to Woodlands, thence *viâ* a Causeway across the Johore Straits (which was opened for traffic in October, 1923) into the State of Johore and Federated Malay States, the main line affording direct communication to Seremban, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Prai. From the latter place connection to Penang is maintained by steam ferry.

There is a branch line from Gemas on the Southern border of the State of Negri Sembilan to Chigar Perah in the State of Pahang, portions of this line now under construction, will, when completed, enable direct communication to be made with Singapore and the States of Kelantan and Siam

There are feeder lines to the various ports of the Malay States connecting with the main line, and in addition a line runs from Prai in the north to Padang Besar, where connection is made with the Royal State Railways of Siam enabling passenger and goods traffic between the Federated Malay States and Siam to be conveyed direct by rail.

Ocean borne traffic is dealt with at the ports of Penang, Prai, Port Swettenham and Singapore, whilst coastwise shipping may in addition be dealt with at Port Weld, Teluk Anson, Port Dickson and Malacca.

(*d*) Roads.

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) total 513·2 miles distributed as follows:—Singapore 99·6 miles; Penang and Dindings 88·6 miles; Province Wellesley 171 miles; Malacca 147·2 miles and Labuan 6·9 miles.

In addition there are 266·8 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained in the various Settlements.

Of the 513·2 miles of metalled road 216 miles are surfaced with asphalt.

During 1924 in Singapore about 1¾ miles of road were converted from laterite to granite surface and a further 5 miles of surface asphalted.

In Penang the road from Tanjong Tokong to Tanjong Bungah was widened and the road to Sungei Nibong was remetalled and asphalted.

In Province Wellesley 5¼ miles of road were reconstructed and 23½ miles asphalted.

In Malacca close on 11 miles were reconstructed in granite.

(*e*) Public Works.

In Singapore good progress was made with the construction of the New General Hospital and Medical College and with the foundations for the New Post Office.

Designs for Raffles College on the Economic Gardens site were considered and the work of construction was placed in the hands of the author of the design, which gained the first award.

In Penang land for a new secondary school to accommodate 600 pupils at Green Lane was cleared and houses for the European staff nearly completed.

In Province Wellesley land was cleared for a new English School at Bukit Mertajam to provide for 480 pupils.

Plans were completed for an additional water supply of one million gallons per day for Malacca. The water is to be conveyed 37 miles from a reservoir site on the western slopes of Mount Ophir in Johore.

V.—Immigration.

(i).—Chinese.

The total number of immigrants from China arriving in the Colony during 1924 was 181,430, an increase of 14 per cent over the figure for 1923 but less than that for 1911, the highest year, by 88,424 or 32.7 per cent.

Adult males formed 69.8 per cent and adult females 15.3 per cent of the immigrants.

The number of emigrants returning to China during 1924 was 87,749 thus leaving an excess of immigrants over emigrants of 93,681 or 51.6 per cent.

The increase is to be ascribed partly to the improvement in the tin and rubber industries in Malaya, but chiefly to the continuation of disturbed conditions resulting from civil war in the two Kwang provinces and the province of Hokkien, which are the chief sources of emigration; where means permitted emigrants have brought their whole families with them to the "South Seas", and during the year under review 54,720 women and children arrived in the Colony, this figure constituting a record.

(ii).—Southern Indians.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 62,052 as compared with 49,502 in 1923.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 37,326 as against 42,778 in 1923.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1921.	*1922.*	*1923.*	*1924.*
Assisted immigrants	15,413	38,336	30,234	43,147
Other immigrants ...	30,260	20,338	19,268	18,905
	45,673	58,674	49,502	62,052

The assisted immigrants consisted of 37,109 adults and 6,038 minors. Of the adults 27,944 were men and 9,165 were women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 14.26 per mille, and in the

Dindings 6·87 per mille. The death-rate on estates in Penang was only 3.29 per mille.

During 1924, 1,699 adult and 333 minor decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The assessment rate was fixed at $2 for the first quarter; $2 for the second quarter; 50 cents for the third quarter and $2 for the fourth quarter.

The Indian Immigration Fund receipts amounted to $1,318,551.77 and the expenditure was $1,355,764.35, the difference being met by a corresponding decrease in Cash balances.

(iii).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,256. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force.

VI.—Criminal and Police.

The total number of seizable offences reported to the Police during 1924 was 6,813 of which 6,465 were admitted as true. Of the admitted reports 3,489 resulted in cases which were dealt with by the Police Courts, District Courts, or Supreme Courts, convictions being obtained in 2,250 cases. In respect of serious offences against property there was a decrease of 12 in the number of murders, and a decrease of 9 in the number of reports of attempted murder. There was also a decrease of 72 in the number of reports of causing hurt with dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was a decrease of 10 in the number of robberies, a decrease of 22 in the number of gang robberies, a decrease of 38 in the number of reports of housebreaking and a decrease of 3 in the number of reports of theft. There were 44,896 non-seizable offences reported to the Police in 1924. The number of persons arrested in connection with reports both seizable and non-seizable was 29,014 males and 625 females. There was an increase of 8 cases in the number of Extortion.

Secret Societies.—During the past year the Secret Societies were not so conspicuous as they have been in the past owing to the preventive action which was taken against the leaders and important members by the Chinese Protectorate and the Police Department. Systematic patrols prevented any outbreaks on a large scale. Retaliation occurred in some cases by murders of individuals, this being particularly noticeable in the case of hostilities between the members of two Tiechiu factions.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,194 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 4,404 were admitted during the year as compared with 4,083 during 1923 and 4,289 were discharged during the year. 1,309 remained at the end of the year. There were 150 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 948 were admitted and 1,025 were discharged. Of the 1,025 vagrants discharged 59 found employment and 844 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, weaving, tile-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at husk-beating, and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Medical Department.

A. VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The population for 1924 is estimated on that of the census of 1921. The distribution is:—

	1923. Estimated.	*1924. Estimated.*
Singapore ...	457,571	474,817
Penang ...	310,781	315,841
Malacca ...	160,886	170,294

Public Health.

The number of births registered during the year was 31,028 and the number of deaths was 26,358. The births this year exceed the deaths in all Settlements; the crude birth-rate 32.29 per thousand, as compared with 30.59 in the previous year, is the highest on record.

The percentage of males born was 52.24, females 47.76. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 40.33 per thousand amongst Malays.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 204.76 per thousand births as against 208.96 in the previous year.

The training of midwives of all nationalities is being actively continued.

The number of deaths returned as due to infantile convulsions, was 3,832 as against 3,484 in the previous year. Dietetic errors, Tetanus and Malaria are the common causes of convulsions.

The crude death-rate, 27.42 per thousand of population, as against 27.80 in the year 1923, is the lowest on record.

The highest racial death-rate was 29.45 amongst Malays; the lowest 7.82 amongst Europeans as against 8.82 in the previous year.

Pneumonia accounted for 1,669 deaths as against 1,710 in the previous year: only 162 deaths were registered as due to Influenza.

The actual population in 1911 was 711,951 and deaths from Beri-beri 2,056. The estimated population in 1918 was 827,719, and deaths from Beri-beri 1,958. The deaths from Beri-beri in the following three years, when food control was in operation, and the use of overmilled rice as a staple article of diets was diminished, were 1,430, 1,025 and 1,299 respectively.

In the latter year the census population was 881,939.

The deaths from Beri-beri in the last three years, 1922, 1923 and 1924 were 1,388, 904 and 910 respectively. The estimated population in 1924 is 960,952. The diminution is probably due in part to the spread of knowledge as to the necessity for a varied diet.

Malaria and tuberculosis were responsible for 3,462 and 2,389 deaths respectively as compared with 3,430 and 2,683 deaths in 1923. Fever unclassified was responsible for 2,706 deaths as against 3,064 deaths in 1923.

Dysentery caused 842 deaths classified as follows:—

Dysentery,	Amoebic	...	211
,,	Bacillary	...	197
,,	Unclassified	...	434
			842

against 839 deaths in the previous year.

Diarrhœa contributed 532 deaths as compared with 411 in 1923.

Infectious Disease—there were 8 deaths from Small-pox, 8 deaths from Cholera and 19 deaths from Plague, excluding deaths in Maritime quarantine stations.

CLIMATE.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore for 1924, was 79.7° F; in Penang 80.9° F; in Province Wellesley 82.3° F; and in Malacca 82.8° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 84.4° and 76.5° F. The maximum recorded was 92° on 6th March at Singapore. The minimum was 70° F. on December 10th. The grass minimum in Singapore was 67° F. in December.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rain-fall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1912 to 1921, it is found in Singapore, that there is an annual average of 172 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 2,555 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1913 with 3442.37 m.m. and the driest was 1877, with 1482.7 m.m. The average for the sixty-one years is 2396.5 m.m. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, viz:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1923.	*1924.*
Singapore	...	1981.50	2588.78
Penang	...	3443.00	2954.00
Malacca	...	2407.00	2323.00
Province Wellesley	...	2612.75	2317.75
Labuan	...	2957.80	2946.50

B. HEALTH BRANCH.

Port Health.

One thousand four hundred and thirty-three visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 461 visits to ships in Penang, by Port Health Officers, who examined 623,355 persons. 67,754 persons were retained under observation in the two quarantine stations, mostly for short periods.

Nearly 11,000,000 tons of shipping entered Singapore, which is at present the sixth port in the world. The number of persons from ships treated for dangerous infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 29, treatment in all cases being for Small-pox.

In the Penang Quarantine Station 151 cases of Cholera from ships were treated with 68 deaths. No cases of Plague or Cerebro-spinal Fever were admitted to either Station from ships.

Rural Conservancy.

The sanitation of rural areas was continued in all parts of the Colony, and the result is reflected in the reduced death-rate.

An arrangement was concluded with the Rockefeller Foundation for a preliminary hook-worm survey of the Straits Settlements, with a view to commencing a joint three years Hook-worm and Rural Sanitation Campaign in 1925. The expenses of this work are to be shared by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Government of the Straits Settlements.

Anti-malarial Work.

The sum of $108,396.78 was expended on anti-mosquito and anti-malarial measures, mostly permanent drainage and filling, in the Settlements of Singapore and Penang.

Mosquito surveys were carried out in various parts of the Settlement of Malacca with a view to undertaking permanent works there in the coming year.

C. KING EDWARD THE VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE.

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 173, and the number of students 122.

The course of instruction laid down by the General Medical Council of Great Britain in 1923 has been introduced

and the medical curriculum now extends over a period of six years. The standard of instruction and examination is in accordance with the requirements of the General Medical Council, and the licence of the School can be registered in Great Britain.

A Hostel for the accommodation of Senior Medical Students has been erected at Tan Tock Seng Hospital and it is intended that in future every student shall, in addition to his clinical and surgical clerkships, and maternity course, spend one year as a resident pupil in this hospital, before he is admitted to the final examinations.

Dr. A. L. Hoops, Principal Civil Medical Officer, was the guest of the Rockefeller Foundation during the month of September, 1924, when he visited Johns Hopkins and Harvard Medical Schools, and also the headquarters of the United States Public Health Service at Washington, and inspected various public health activities in the United States of America.

During this visit preliminary arrangements were made in connection with the grant by the Rockefeller Foundation, of an endowment of $350,000 for the institution of Chairs of Bacteriology and Bio-chemistry in the College of Medicine. An agreement has now been concluded in accordance with the terms of which the Government of the Straits Settlements will provide the additional sum necessary to bring the salaries of the Professors appointed to these Chairs up to the same scale as that of the other professors of the College and will institute a Chair of Biology.

The Rockefeller Foundation makes no claim to a voice in the appointment of lecturers, or in the future direction of the College.

The Singapore Medical College will be the first College in the continent of Asia to possess an independent professor of Bio-chemistry, a subject which has now grown too vast for the professor of Physiology to handle.

D. HOSPITALS.

Forty-one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six in-patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony, the death-rate being the lowest recorded in the past 5 years, 9·62 per cent.

Five thousand one hundred and thirty-five cases of Malaria with 312 deaths, and 4,362 cases of venereal diseases with 145 deaths, were received as in patients. In both cases the percentage mortality shows an improvement.

E. DISPENSARIES.

Out-patients numbered 91,585 and attendances 152,456, more than double the figures for the year 1921. Out-patients treated for venereal disease numbered 18,994 against 6,476 in the previous year.

Out-patient injections for Yaws numbered 14,812.

There were 24,115 attendances at the Women's and Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, under the direction of Lady Medical Officer Mrs. L. S. O'May.

In March, a travelling motor dispensary was provided in Malacca and treated 10,562 patients to the end of the year, including 2,950 cases of Yaws, 343 cases of Syphilis, and 1,314 of Scabies.

F. LEPERS.

The total number of lepers treated in our Leper Asylums was 891 and the total deaths 150.

Modern treatment is now generally accepted. The result since 1921 has been a steady fall in the death-rate, and a continuous increase in the numbers.

Over 5 per cent of the Lepers appear outwardly free of the disease, and one half per cent are bacteriologically negative.

Provision is being continued for the better housing of lepers, and for their occupation in healthy out-door pursuits chiefly agricultural.

Under conditions which will eliminate any risk of their being a source of infection to others, lepers, whose means permit, are now allowed to remain in their own homes under treatment.

G. MENTAL DISEASES HOSPITALS.

The number of patients treated in these institutions during the year was 746 males and 135 females, and the number remaining at the end of the year was 496 males and 97 females. The present buildings are unsuited for modern treatment and considerably over-crowded.

The building of a modern mental diseases settlement on Trafalgar Estate where a large area has been acquired is to be commenced in the coming year.

VIII.—Education.

There were 14 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 6,250 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $662,081.

There were 30 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 14,222 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to $595,484.

The expenditure on the 209 Government Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 16,890 was $422,439.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 9 Aided Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 765. the grants to which for 1924 amounted to $7,963.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,344 as against 1,092 in 1922 and 1,143 in 1923.

Thirty-six students passed the final examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, compared with 37 in 1923.

There were 12 student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools.

Eleven candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholar ships, revived last year for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang passed as fit in the opinion of the examining body to study for an honours' degree at Oxford or Cambridge. One proposes to study Law and one Engineering.

The recent improvement of the salary scheme at last began to attract European recruits for the Education Department. During the year seven European masters appointed to the Malay Educational service were allocated to the Colony, but the agreement of one of the existing staff was terminated. Three new European mistresses were allocated to the Straits Settlements.

The appointment of an Art Master for Singapore and of a Physical Instructor for the Colony has led to marked improvements in those branches of the school curriculum.

A new elementary school for boys at Rangoon Road, Singapore, was opened. Two buildings were rented for English schools in Penang.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils was extended with results, whose value can hardly yet be estimated.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to make good progress. A good type of student attended, most of them from business houses and offices. 322 enrolled as against 239 in 1923. Eleven students passed the May examination of the London Chamber of Commerce. Forty-seven sat for the November examination but the result is as yet unknown. There were 30 students in the advanced classes in Chemistry and Physics.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of $31,183.

At the beginning of the year two new posts were created in the Malayan Civil Service, Assistant Director of Education for Chinese Schools, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States (Class III) and Inspector of Chinese Schools, Straits Settlements (Class V), to take over the work of registration and inspection of Chinese Schools from the Chinese Protectorate.

The Colony's total expenditure on this branch of the Education Department was $10,144.

Ninety-seven Certificates for Chinese schools and 384 Certificates for Chinese Teachers were issued during the year and 51 Chinese schools struck off the Register as having ceased to exist. At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 292 with 732 teachers and 15,301 pupils.

Four Chinese schools in Singapore received grants-in-aid during 1924 amounting to $2,508; in Penang two received grants amounting to $3,716.

Raffles College.—The accounts showed at the end of 1924 $1,460,870 to the credit of the General Fund and the funds for Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing $1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to $63,000 per annum have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years, amounting to $655,000, have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

During the year the competition for designs for the new College Buildings closed. Mr. JOHN BEGG, F.R.I.B.A., late Consulting Architect to the Government of India, was Assessor and awarded the first premium to Messrs. C. A. FAREY and G. A. DAWBARN, of London. Mr. DAWBARN visited Singapore and consulted the Acting Principal and the Committee as to his design. The building of administrative and science blocks, a hostel and quarters for the staff has been authorised and should commence in 1925.

Mr. R. O. WINSTEDT, M.A., D. LITT. (OXON.), Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, continued to act as Principal. The College is administered by an Executive Committee.

IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year under review may be considered on the whole satisfactory and the Colony continues to remain in a sound financial position. The effects of the disastrous slump are wearing off and the Colony is on the high road to complete recovery. There was a fall in the price of rubber during the months of March, April, May and June and this was regarded by many as an indication of a return to the depression prevailing during the slump. Towards the end of the year however there was a recovery and at the time of writing the price exceeds $1 a pound.

The restriction of the production of rubber remained in force and in spite of the criticisms of its opponents this policy appears to have amply justified itself, though there were not lacking those who during the period March—June considered that it had definitely failed.

Tin the other staple product of Malaya maintained a price which afforded ample profit, though in common with rubber the price fell during the second quarter of the year.

The year was noteworthy on account of the introduction into the Colony for the first time in a practical form of the principle of representative Government. Under the Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet dated 18th August, 1924, the right was given to the Chambers of Commerce of Singapore and Penang each to elect a member to serve on the Legislative Council of the Colony.

Sir FREDERICK SETON JAMES, K.B.E., C.M.G., who was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Colony in 1916, departed from the Colony in March to take up his appointment as Governor of the Windward Islands. Sir FREDERICK assumed his duties in the Colony during the Great War and during its continuance and during the post-war period had

problems of exceptional difficulty to face. His record is one of capable, sympathetic and fearless administration, and his departure is a great loss to the Colony.

Mr. EDWARD SHAW HOSE, C.M.G., was appointed Colonial Secretary in succession to Sir FREDERICK JAMES.

Mr. F. M. BADDELEY, Under Secretary, Straits Settlements was appointed Chief Secretary of Nigeria and proceeded from the Colony in September to take up his appointment.

An event of exceptional interest was the visit to Malaya in February of the Special Service Squadron. The ships were visited by thousands of sight-seers of all nationalities. It was unfortunate that the visit was somewhat marred by a spell of exceptionally wet weather which however did not seriously interfere with the programme of entertainment.

In September HIS MAJESTY THE KING of Siam honoured the Colony with a visit.

Work on the roadway over the Johore Causeway was completed and the Causeway was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 28th June.

H. MARRIOTT,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

25th June, 1925.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

SITUATION AND AREA.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

PENANG.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

MALACCA.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

The Dindings.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude 4° 15′ north and longitude 100° 35′ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

Cocos or Keeling Islands.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ and 12° 45′ south, and in longitude approximately 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

In 1923 a wireless station was installed by the Christmas Island Phosphale Company and the island is now in direct communication with Singapore.

Labuan.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

Labuan has a fine port Victoria Harbour (latitude 5° 16′ north, longitude 115° 15′ east), safe, and easy of access

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and bêche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909

Total Area.

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

Climate.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore during 1925, was 79·4° F; in Penang 80·9° F; in Province Wellesley 81·1° F; and in Malacca 82·4° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 86·8° and 74·4° F. The maximum recorded was 92·2° on 14th May at Singapore. The minimum was 70° F on January 11th. The gross minimum in Singapore was 66° F. in February.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of

10 years, from 1912 to 1921, it is found in Singapore, that there is an annual average of 172 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 2,555 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1913 with 3,442·37 m.m. and the driest was 1877, with 1,482·7 m.m. The average for the sixty-one years is 2,396·5 m.m. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, *viz*:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1924.	*1925.*
Singapore ...	2,588·78	2,959·32
Penang ...	2,954·00	3,744·00
Malacca ...	2,323·00	2,726·05
Province Wellesley	2,317·75	2,876·68
Labuan ...	2,946·50	3,150·03

HISTORY.

MALACCA.

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting

centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of $6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE.

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

I.—Finances.

The revenue for the year 1925 amounted to $53,850,960 exceeding the Estimates by $26,653,505, whilst the expenditure was $57,593,959 being $23,264,076 more than the Estimate.

The revenue was $25,211,799 more than that of 1924, while expenditure was more than the 1924 figure by $30,887,643. The excess of expenditure over revenue was $3,742,999 as compared with an excess of revenue over expenditure of $1,932,845 in 1924.

The revenue for 1925 was increased by $20 millions transferred to the Colony from the Currency Commissioners' funds. The expenditure includes $30 millions paid into the Opium Revenue Reserve Replacement Fund under the Head of Miscellaneous Services, the $30 millions being made up of the $20 millions from the Currency Commissioners and $10 millions from the Colony's Surplus Funds.

The actual figures for 1924 and 1925 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE.

—	1924.	1925.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	2,027	2,357	330	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	20,217,871	24,764,770	4,546,899	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	1,020,382	1,082,323	61,941	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,694,732	1,972,011	277,279	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,522,806	1,543,066	20,260	...
6. Interest	2,611,858	3,234,370	622,512	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,418,742	20,709,385	19,290,643	...
	28,488,418	53,308,282	24,819,864	...
8. Land Sales	150,743	542,678	391,935	...
TOTAL ...	28,639,161	53,850,960	25,211,799	...
	Net	Increase ...	25,211,799	...

As compared with 1924, the increase of 4½ millions under Licences is due to the increases under the following items of revenue:—

	$
Opium	1,680,000
Stamp Duties	1,660,000
Liquors	690,000
Tobacco	690,000

The Estate Duty collected in 1925 amounted to $1,991,297 as against $709,238 in 1924.

The increase under Miscellaneous Receipts is due to the payment of the sum of $20 millions from Currency Commissioners' funds for credit of the Opium Revenue Reserve Replacement Fund.

The actual revenue of 1925 exceeded the corresponding estimates of revenue under the following heads:—

	$
Liquors	806,131
Opium Revenue	216,892
Petroleum Duty	182,781
Stamp Duties	1,922,169
Tobacco Duties	740,455
Fees of Court	62,901
Posts and Telegraphs	512,864
Rents on Government Property ...	229,209
Interest	918,042
Miscellaneous Receipts	20,492,613
Land Sales	505,678

(ii).—EXPENDITURE.

—	1924.	1925.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	981,185	1,069,440	88,255	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	20,695	19,724	...	971
4. The Governor	134,358	128,363	...	5,995
5. Civil Service	720,515	704,263	...	16,252
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	180,238	198,579	18,341	...
7. Secretary to High Commissioner	16,785	16,689	...	96
8. Agricultural Department ...	29,628	32,906	3,278	...
9. Audit	92,447	102,373	9,926	...
10. Audit, External ...	3,815	11,130	7,315	...
11. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	77,764	79,053	1,289	...
12. Ecclesiastical	24,424	25,124	700	...
13. Education	957,114	1,063,978	106,864	...
14. Fisheries	30,104	140,257	110,153	...
15. Forests	29,567	36,913	7,346	...
16. Gardens, Botanical ...	92,479	91,298	...	1,181
17. Imports, Exports and Statistics	74,306	82,976	8,670	...
18. Land and District Offices ...	321,571	332,676	11,105	...
19. Legal	391,461	382,840	...	8,621
20. Marine	641,066	760,046	118,980	...
21. Medical	384,476	436,980	52,504	...
22. Medical, Health Branch ...	262,126	393,458	131,332	...
23. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	1,363,612	1,585,702	222,090	...
24. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,556,188	3,279,881	...	276,307
II. Local Forces ...	554,380	355,708	..	198,672
25. Miscellaneous Services ...	4,448,766	33,589,748	29,140,982	...
26. Monopolies	574,712	836,656	261,944	...
27. Museum and Library Raffles	49,444	51,093	1,649	...
28. Police	2,389,542	2,467,555	78,013	...
29. Post Office	1,421,644	1,488,832	67,188	...
30. Printing Office ...	212,857	177,650	...	35,207
31. Prisons	398,134	380,683	...	17,451
32. Public Works Department...	462,696	481,885	19,189	...
33. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	631,004	633,938	2,934	...
34. Public Works, Extraordinary	4,223,846	5,142,549	918,703	...
35. Survey Department ...	411,213	414,557	3,344	...
36. Transport	244,709	299,190	54,481	...
37. Treasury	200,625	203,143	2,518	..
38. Veterinary	59,737	59,040	...	697
TOTAL ...	26,706,316	57,593,959	31,449,093	561,450
	Nett	Increase ...	$30,887,643	

The increase in the Fisheries Department is due to the purchase of an experimental vessel and over $100,000 of the increase in the Marine Department is due to the purchase of new launches for Singapore and Penang.

The increase under Medical, Health Branch, is due to the transfer of the votes for anti-mosquito works from Miscellaneous Services to this head while the increase under Hospitals and Dispensaries is largely due to increased Government contribution.

The principal savings effected on the Estimated Expenditure of 1925 were in respect of:—

	$
Civil Service	55,823
Audit, External	57,054
Education	111,576
Fisheries	193,596
Legal	58,249
Medical, Health Branch	65,850
Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	548,688
Military Expenditure (Defence Contribution)	320,119
Police	245,694
Post Office	367,498
Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	94,082
Public Works Extraordinary	3,374,235
Survey Department	61,763

Miscellaneous Services 1925 showed an excess of nearly $29 millions over the estimate, but this is due to the payment of $30 millions to the Opium Revenue Reserve Replacement Fund.

Monopolies Department exceeded the Estimates by $210,000 due to the special expenditure on Government Opium Shops of $291,000 which was not estimated for.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the War, the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last eight years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

	Total Expenditure.	*Public Works Extraordinary.*
	$	$
1918	8,687,204	458,257
1919	29,111,433	892,571
1920	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923	22,860,635	2,519,954
1924	23,150,128	4,223,846
1925	54,314,078	5,142,549

The difference of 45½ millions between expenditure for 1918 and expenditure for 1925 is mainly accounted for by the following increases:—Personal Emoluments 6¾ millions and Public Works Extraordinary 4½ millions, while Contributions to Rural Boards and Hospitals have increased by more than three quarters of a million dollars. The special contribution to the Opium Revenue Reserve Replacement Fund amounted to 30 millions.

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, were as follows:—

Liabilities.		$	*Assets.*		$
Deposits—			Investments—		
Opium Revenue Reserve Replacement Fund ...	$30,009,021		Colony ...	$29,712,271	
Other Deposits ...	10,447,501		Opium Revenue Reserve Replacement Fund ...	30,009,021	
		40,456,522	Other investments	4,803,710	64,525,002
Drafts and Remittances ...		4,382	Advances		746,794
Suspense		2,705,162	Imprests		53,150
			Cash in Transit		30,089
Loans:—			Loans:—		
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921-1926		20,216,300	Municipalities ...		20,583,645
			Kelantan Government ...		520,000
			Trengganu Government ...		850,000
			Singapore Harbour Board ...		4,977,635
Surplus—			Penang Harbour Board ...		1,457,410
Reserved for specific purposes (*a*) ...	$12,028,551		Ho Hong Steamship Co. ...		170,000
			Singapore Cricket Club ...		38,419
Unreserved ...	51,056,778		Brunei Government ...		16,000
		63,085,329	Federated Malay States Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...		15,000,000
			Johore Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan		800,000
			Municipality, Singapore Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan		3,500,000
			Municipality, Penang Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan		916,300
			Sailors' Institute		200 000
			Stadium Association ...		30,000
			War Service Land Grants Scheme		143,702
			Indian Agency Account ...		247,728
			Cash		11,661,821
Total ...		126,467,695	Total ...		126,467,695

(*a*) *Loans*:—

Loans to Municipalities	$1,130,000	
Loan to Government of Trengganu	1,150,000	
Loan to Penang Harbour Board	572,376	
War Service Land Grants Scheme	181,298	
		$3,033,674

Commitments of Expenditure:—

For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital	$4,536,603	
Raffles College Buildings	1,000,000	
Malacca Water Supply	1,784,679	
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply	1,000,000	
Development of Penang Hill	673,595	
		$8,994,877
Total ...		$12,028,551

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1925, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ...		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	320,137
Total	...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	...	3,388,205
		$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was $2,080,082 in 1925. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on 31st December, 1925, was approximately $7,514,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the 5½ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at $28,655,700 under the 5½ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at $36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The proceeds of the Straits Settlements 7 per cent Loan (1921) were lent to the following Governments and Municipalities, which pay all the interest due on the Loan and will repay the principal on redemption date:—

		$
Federated Malay States Government ...		15,000,000
Johore Government ...	...	800,000
Singapore Municipality ...	...	3,500,000
Penang Municipality ...	...	916,300
Total	...	$20,216,300

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1921 amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay State Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish the Loan.

(v).—Exchange.

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1925:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers) Limited.
,, Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de l'Indo Chine.
,, International Banking Corporation.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited.
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 $\frac{5}{32}$ and 2/3 $\frac{15}{16}$.

(vi).—Currency.

No change was made in the Currency legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year, consisted of $161,432,313.70 in currency notes and $6,913,074.40 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $140,958 as compared with $142,082 at the end of 1924.

At the end of the year 1924 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $85,491,478.70. There was a heavy demand by the public for currency during the months of January and May to December, which resulted in the issue of $76,212,784 in exchange for sterling. The value of the currency notes in circulation at the end of 1925 was $161,432,313.70.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $111,574,148.29 consisting of £328,251 in gold, $14,317,635.10 in silver and $2,245,721.29 on deposit with the Government held locally and £173,330 in gold and £10,583,011.7.9 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $83,328,795.66, the cost price of those investments being $86,967,441.06.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $194,950,265.24 (liquid portion $111,574,148.29, investment portion $83,328,795.66 and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners Income Account $47,321.29). The excess value of the fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $33,517,951.54 as compared with an excess of $44,777,382.92 at the end of 1924.

There was a net issue by the Treasurer of $168,951 in subsidiary silver coins during the year and there was also a net increased issue by the Currency Commissioners of ten cent notes to the value of $871,855.

Subsidiary silver to the amount of $8,442,931.65 was in circulation at the end of the year and $2,411,804.70 in currency notes of values less than $1.

The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1923 was $1,323,219.70 and at the end of 1924 $1,539,949.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 20,411,186 against 28,551,362 in 1924.

Of the notes destroyed 10,651,890 were 10 cent notes and 7,278,585 were $1 notes.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 400,313 and a further 20,296,837 were cancelled during the year, making a total of 20,697,150 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 20,411,186 and the balance awaiting destruction at the end of the year was consequently 285,964.

(vii).—Enemy Property.

Custodian of Enemy Property.

A net sum of $2,422.18 was transferred to the Controller of the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts), London, during the year 1925. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property transferred to that office up to 31st December, 1925, was $12,406,144.22.

At the end of the year the Custodian still had under his control $1,566,134.82 of which $1,537,934.83 was invested.

Local Clearing Office.

German Claims.

The total amount of claims by German nationals against British nationals registered since the establishment of the office is $1,881,086.65. Claims to the value of $1,570,361.67 have been withdrawn. The value of claims admitted is $201,399.31. The latter figure includes $17,827.97 which was the total value of small claims of £50 (or $500 - Straits) and under, which were dealt with under an agreement dated the 30th June, 1924, between the British and the German Clearing Offices which provided for the summary settlement of such small claims as were outstanding without further discussion. A considerable proportion of the amount credited to Germany under this agreement has proved to be irrecoverable for various reasons. In some cases the persons against whom the claims were made have died or disappeared since the 10th January, 1920, and in other cases the claims, which are, of course, in respect of debts alleged to have been incurred prior to August, 1914, are practically impossible to prove after the lapse of so many years. The value of the claims not finally disposed of is $109,325.67. This sum includes claims of the value of $55,855.71 referred to the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal. The total amount collected during the year from British nationals on account of debts due to German nationals was $1,624.45 of which $189.13 was in respect of interest.

British Claims.

The total amount of the claims by British nationals against German nationals registered since the office was established is $217,155.67. The position in regard to these claims is as follows:—

Claims of a value of $102,467.33 have been withdrawn; Claims of a value of $34,835.60 have been admitted. Included in this amount is $4,733.11 the value of small claims

dealt with under the agreement of 30th June, 1924, already mentioned. Claims still unsettled amounted to $80,063.47 including claims of the value of $54,870.69 referred to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal. The total amount paid to British nationals in respect of debts due by Germans during the year was $6,579.25.

British Claims under Article 297.

The total value of these claims registered since the establishment of the office is $77,615.68; of this amount $49,951.45 has been withdrawn and $27,664.23 admitted. In addition to the above admission the German Treuhander for Enemy Property gave credit for $1,784.28 as compensation payable to British nationals for the loss of the use of their money. The total amount paid to British claimants under Articles 296 and 297 since the establishment of the office is $55,373.43.

Claims by Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.

The total value of the claims registered was $39,244.36; of this amount $39,216.04 has been withdrawn and $186.56 admitted leaving a balance of $28.32 still unsettled. The total amount collected in respect of these claims since the establishment of the office is $270.57 which includes a sum of $84.01 on account of interest.

Claims Against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.

The total value of the claims registered is $3,021.41 which is wholly admitted. Dividends amounting to 4*s.*/6*d.* in the £ on the above admission have been paid to the claimants.

Controller's Investments.

The amount invested at the end of the year was $130,000.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries.

(*a*) Shipping.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 35,032,127 as compared with 32,617,101 in 1924.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1924 and 1925.

NATIONALITY.	1924.					1925.					Increase in 1925 as compared with 1924.	Decrease in 1925 as compared with 1924.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christmas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).		
Finnish ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,726	...	...	...	4,726	4,726	...
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	...	7,354	7,354	...	...	14,708	14,708	...
American ...	767,420	469,018	19,290	203,848	1,255,728	727,987	457,410	...	...	1,185,397	...	70,331
Austrian ...	...	...	...	4,932	4,932	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.932
Portuguese ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,162	...	...	...	4,162	4,162	...
British ...	10,009,261	6,405,328	348,724	...	16,967,161	10,716,681	6,702,889	323,198	227,796	17,970,564	1,003,403	...
Chinese ...	19,018	...	6,150	...	25,168	69,372	3,176	11,562	...	84,110	58,942	...
Danish ...	421,354	234,160	...	...	655,514	428,251	154,245	...	...	582,496	...	73,018
Danziz ...	19,632	...	...	...	19,632	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,632
Dutch ...	4,036,373	865,967	386	1,014	4,903,740	4,610,403	844,256	...	4,828	5,459,487	555,747	...
French ...	1,258,890	250,344	...	...	1,509,234	1,446,564	223,676	...	...	1,670,240	161,006	...
German ...	691,564	151,526	...	...	843,090	846,984	373,234	...	...	1,220,218	377,128	...
Italian ...	312,482	261,492	...	...	573,974	327,696	222,546	...	...	550,242	...	23,732
Japanese ...	3,369,853	991,828	257,424	98,352	4,717,457	3,708,036	1,062,522	251,422	82,418	5,104,398	386,941	...
Norwegian ...	437,212	67,716	...	1,684	506,612	536,506	38,292	...	1,874	576,672	70,060	...
Panama ...	15,980	...	...	...	15,980	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,980
Russian ...	17,512	49,246	...	...	66.758	22,058	6,254	...	...	28,312	...	38,446
Sarawak ...	94,110	...	...	...	94,110	100,181	94	...	5,360	105,635	11,525	...
Siamese ...	194,510	...	...	...	194,510	187,297	...	812	...	188,109	...	6,401
Spanish ...	69,514	...	...	...	69,514	66,812	...	...	...	66,812	...	2,702
Swedish ...	191,258	...	...	2,729	193,987	193,656	9,002	...	13,181	215,839	21,852	...
TOTALS ...	21,925,943	9,746,625	631,974	312,559	32,617,101	24,004,726	10,104,950	586,994	335,457	35,032,127	2,670,200	255,174
										Net Increase ...		2,415,026

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1921	25,055,798 tons.
1922	26,913,256 ,,
1923	29,936,949 ,,
1924	32,617,101 ,,
1925	35,032,127 ,,

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 64,913 in number and 2,250,486 in tons in 1925 as compared with 62,921 and 2,281,925, respectively, in 1924.

One new steam-vessel and seven motor-vessels with a tonnage of 447 tons gross and thirty sailing-vessels of 2,533 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 10 new sailing-vessels of 862 tons were licensed under section 424, and 869 vessels of 7,757 tons under section 425.

Harbour Boards.

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the year ended June 30, 1924, and June 30, 1925, have been as follows:—

	Income.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1924 ..	8,222,042	6,070,943
Year ended 30th June, 1925 ...	9,827,256	7,110,249

The capital debt due to Government stood on 30th June, 1925, at $50,126,732 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $6,155,041 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1925, were $1,174,505 and the expenditure $967,427.

The capital debt due to Government stood on 30th June, 1925, at $3,404,551 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent on $2,460,876, 5 per cent on $937,675 and 5½ per cent on $6,000.

(*b*) Trade.

The aggregate value of the reco-ded trade of the Colo in 1925 constitutes a record in its trade annals, being less than 295½ million Sterling or about 57 per cent mo than in 1924. This exceeds the figure of 1920 which was t previous highest recorded, by no less than 69 million Sterli or an increase of over 30 per cent. The commoditi responsible for this huge increase were rubber, tin, ri motor spirit, petroleum and spices.

The total quantity of rubber exported was 248,000 to this being 38,000 tons more than in 1924, but the value w 568½ million Dollars, an increase of no less than 355½ milli Dollars. In conjunction with this large increase, it shou be noted that the total imports were 260,000 tons valued 470 million Dollars, an increase over last year of 60,000 to and 305 million Dollars. The quantity of rubber import during 1925 was therefore more by 12,000 tons than th exported during 1924, but it should be remembered that t impurities in the rubber imported for reconditioning ha increased.

The difference in the value between the rubber import and exported amounts to 98½ million Dollars.

The quantity of tin exported was 1,600 tons less th in 1924, but 6 million Dollars more was received for it.

The following figures show the value of the Colo trade for the last six years, the value of Coin and Bullio and of the trade between the Settlements, being excluded:

Year.	Imports of Merchandise.	Exports of Merchandise.	Imports Comparison with precedin year.	Exports Comparison with precedin year.
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1920 ...	124,216	102,536	+ 27,552	+ 3,21
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	– 58,425	– 46,39
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,92
1923 ..	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,53
1924 ...	98,915	89,430	+ 9,913	+ 6,84
1925 ...	152,338	143,137	+ 53,423	+ 53,70

The value of the inter-settlement trade for the last six years, including treasure, was as follows:—

Year.	Imports	Exports	Imports Comparison with preceding year.	Exports Comparison with preceding year.
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1920 ...	14,938	14,797	+ 1,774	+ 1,562
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	– 8,034	– 7,910
1922 ...	5,148	5,078	– 1,756	– 1,809
1923 ...	5,728	5,607	+ 580	+ 529
1924 ...	5,125	5,049	– 603	- 558
1925 ..	7,584	7,665	+ 2,459	+ 2,616

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last four years:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
1922	1,892	1,301
1923	1,883	616
1924	1,607	561
1925	4,732	1,423

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

—	Imports.				Exports.			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	(In thousands)							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	25,044	26,223	28,348	32,412	19,056	19,722	21,412	24,031
II. Raw Materials	29,140	46,425	43,839	80,922	35,426	53,191	32,999	74,379
III. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles ...	12,508	16,354	26,728	39,004	7,577	9,677	35,019	44,727
TOTAL ...	66 692	89,002	98,915	152,338	62,059	82,590	89,430	143,137

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported:—

Details of Certain Articles Imported.

Articles.	How Stated.	1924.		1925.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber	Tons.	199,044	165,141	259,587	470,253	60,543	305,112	...	...
Tin Ore	"	92,261	135,241	95,759	148,369	3,498	13,128	...	...
Rice	"	535,941	67,570	612,820	75,875	76,879	8,305	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases	727,701	9,611	991,012	12,632	263,311	3,021	...	...
Sugar	Tons.	91,166	18,158	112,962	15,813	21,796	...	...	2,345
Cigarettes	lbs.	12,007,605	20,680	14,308,093	26,377	2,300,488	5,697	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	60,818	14,629	67,100	15,804	6,282	1,175	...	...
Arecanuts	"	56,626	11,013	55,310	14,145	...	3,132	1,316	...
Motor Spirit ("Benzine") ...	"	98,147	27,213	211,445	59,335	113,298	32,122	...	...
Petroleum ("Kerosene") ...	"	82,034	13,019	98,401	16,157	16,367	3,138	...	...
Sago	"	58,893	5,131	48,357	4,284	...	...	10,536	847
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	111,542,368	29,920	167,829,749	45,359	56,287,381	15,439	...	...
Sarongs	Nos.	9,505,640	13,128	12,491,223	17,200	2,985,583	4,072	...	...
Copra	Tons.	154,033	28,766	150,573	28,921	...	155	3,460	...
Pepper	"	19,136	7,834	14,236	9,400	...	1,566	4,900	...
Rattans	"	25,749	4,046	23,094	3,873	...	...	2,655	173
Coal	"	695,214	10,088	649,573	8,219	...	...	45,641	1,869
Machinery	Nos.	67,625	6,584	88,502	8,938	20,877	2,354	...	...

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED.

Articles.	How Stated.	1924.		1925.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values	Quantities.	Values.
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber	Tons.	210,135	212,855	248,138	568,523	38,003	355,668	...	...
Tin	,,	80,693	169,177	79,094	175,229	...	6,052	1,599	...
Rice	,,	326,336	41,942	405,412	51,748	78,576	9,806	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases.	373,654	4,975	491,453	6,325	117,799	1,350	...	...
Sugar	Tons.	46,311	9,487	54,505	7,367	8,194	...	...	1,620
Cigarettes	lbs.	9,881,127	16,065	10,925,283	18,979	1,044,156	2,914	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	59,072	16,038	64,335	16,166	5,263	128	...	...
Arecanuts	,,	62,166	14,942	58,787	18,208	...	3,266	3,379	...
Benzine ("Motor Spirit") ...	,,	70,055	19,314	201,413	56,161	131,358	36,847	...	...
Petroleum ("Kerosene") ...	,,	64,206	10,519	79,418	12,575	15,212	2,056	...	...
Sago	,,	58,708	6,541	51,240	5,651	...	...	7,468	890
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	79,906,401	20,818	101,667,282	27,852	21,760,881	7,034	...	...
Sarongs	Nos.	6,413,742	9,040	7,110,022	10,417	696,280	1,377	...	...
Copra	Tons.	151,460	31,290	142,833	30,064	...	...	8,627	1,226
Pepper	,,	19,703	8,333	15,820	10,186	...	1,853	3,883	...
Rattans	,,	22,921	5,607	18,627	4,878	...	...	4,294	729
Preserved Pineapples	,,	35,333	8,154	38,320	7,423	2,987	...	...	731
Rubber Latex	Gals.	21,133	42	21,157	62	24	20	...	...

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925:—

—	1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
	(000's)	(000's) $	(000's)	(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Malay States	2,634	70,462	2,272	107,739	90,519	88,843	100,656	232,636
Netherlands Indies ...	619	13,563	1,331	44,533	93,113	61,797	138,870	195,881
Other Countries	178	4,882	247	11,001	15,411	14,501	20,061	41,736
Total ...	3,431	88,907	3,850	163,273	199,043	165,141	259,587	470,253

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925:—

—	1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.	
	Centals of 100 lbs	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
	(000's)	(000's) $	(000's	(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
United Kingdom	223	6,784	498	25,465	14,020	14,755	20,540	54,170
United States of America	3,681	108,504	3,247	161,238	162,465	164,197	190,683	427,543
Other Countries	730	20,857	843	41,190	33,650	33,903	36,915	86,810
Total ...	4,634	136,145	4,588	227,893	210,135	212,855	248,138	568,523

Tin and Tin-ore were imported in 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925 from the following countries:—

—	1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.	
	Tin.	Tin-ore.	Tin.	Tin-ore.	Tin.	Tin-ore.	Tin.	Tin-ore.
	* (in thousands)							
	Pkls.	*Pkls.*	*Pkls.*	*Pkls.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Malay States ...	96	714	122	766	7,092	54,352	7,310	56,280
Netherlands Indies ...	11	334	1	369	6	24,395	3	25,342
Siam ...	6	139	9	160	426	10,052	304	10,200
Other Countries ...	...	38	...	58	14	3,462	4	3,937
Total ...	113	1,225	132	1,353	7,538	92,261	7,621	95,759

* Figures for 1922 and 1923 are shown in thousands.

The exports of Tin in 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925 were as follows:—

—	1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.	
	Pkls.	Value.	Pkls.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		(in thousands)				(in thousands)		(in thousands)
		$		$		$		$
United Kingdom	185	14,776	169	17,578	16,335	33,964	13,970	30,815
United States of America ..	752	60,768	803	81,737	46,194	97,620	45,120	99,895
Other Countries	176	14,403	202	20,402	18,163	37,593	20,004	44,519
Total ...	1,113	89,947	1,174	119,717	80,692	169,177	79,094	175,229

The imports of Para Rubber amounted to about 260,000 tons. Of this quantity the Malay States contributed over 100,000 tons which was 10,000 tons more than in 1924, the value being 233 million Dollars or 144 million Dollars more than last year. The Netherlands East Indies and other Foreign Countries sent us about 160,000 tons. This is an increase of over 50,000 tons, and the total value of the rubber imported therefrom was 161 million Dollars more than last year.

The increase in the imports of Tin Ore amounted to 3,500 tons, and Tin 83 tons.

The exports of refined metal decreased by about 1,600 tons and the value increased by 6 million Dollars.

Other imported articles which show an increase in value are Rice, Fish Dry and Salted, Arecanuts, Milk, Cigarettes, Cotton Piece Goods, Sarongs, Machinery, Petroleum, Motor Spirit, Motor-cars, Copra and Pepper; while Sago, Coal, Rattans, and Sugar decreased in value.

In exports the value of the following has increased: Para Rubber, Rice, Milk, Arecanuts, Pepper, Cigarettes, Tin, Cotton Piece Goods, Gunnies, Motor Spirit; while the value of Sugar, Copra, Rattans and Gambier has decreased.

The quantity of preserved Pineapples exported increased by nearly 3,000 tons, but the value decreased.

The following table shows the value of the Merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australia; countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America, and Japan:—

—		Imports.				Exports.			
		1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
					(000's)				
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom*		7,386	8,253	9,050	12,346	4,799	7,516	8,457	12,700
Australia and New Zealand ...		1,628	1,597	1,620	1,990	365	503	1,236	3,077
Belgium ...	Continent of Europe.	115	206	271	313	65	203	164	278
Denmark ...	Continent of Europe.	72	103	104	71	191	571	406	224
France ...	Continent of Europe.	361	509	705	848	1,977	2,679	3,202	4,339
Germany ...	Continent of Europe.	282	581	610	923	1,792	1,222	1,274	2,764
Holland ...	Continent of Europe.	398	429	582	895	1,033	1,314	1,891	3,189
Italy ...	Continent of Europe.	437	490	617	1,100	797	1,228	1,434	2,046
Norway ...	Continent of Europe.	6	225	113	88	3	11	23	19
Sweden ...	Continent of Europe.	18	28	77	68	35	66	142	180
Spain ...	Continent of Europe.	2	8	4	9	405	341	445	440
Russia ...	Continent of Europe.	55	11	3	1	...	...	...	17
United States of America ...		1,892	2,041	2,541	3,324	20,751	29,381	31,765	63,084
Japan ...		2,106	2,110	1,919	3,471	1,786	3,275	2,902	4,100

From the above table it will be seen that the value of the Import Trade with ten of the countries mentioned increased; in the case of Japan the increase was over 80 per cent, cotton piece goods being mainly responsible. The trade of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Russia show decreases. In exports increase in values is recorded in all the countries shown except Denmark, Norway and Spain.

The value of the trade with the United Kingdom shows an increase in the case of Imports in Cigarettes, Tubes, Pipes and Fittings, Cotton Piece Goods, Sewing Thread, Motor-cars and Machinery; and decreases in Steel, Coal, Tin-plates and Yarn. The export value increased in Para Rubber, Pepper, Gutta Percha and Raw Hides, and decreased in Tin, Sago, Tapioca and Pineapples.

United States of America.—In imports increases are shown in Motor-cars, Cigarettes, Sardines; imports of Petroleum and Liquid Fuel decreased. In exports the values of Para Rubber, Tin, Pepper, Copra, and Jelutong increased; while decreases appear in Gambier, Rattans and Gutta Percha.

Japan.—The value of the import trade increased considerably in Cotton Piece Goods, Fish Dry and Salted, and Coal; while a decrease is shown in Matches. The value of the exports of Para Rubber and Kerosene increased. Sago, Phosphate of Lime, and Motor Spirit show a decrease.

The value of the Trade with Netherlands East Indies again shows a considerable increase this year over previous years.

Imports.				*Exports.*			
1922.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1922.*	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(000,000's).				(000,000's)			
$111	$194	$227	$397	$80·7	$78·9	$83·6	$113·2

The increase in the value of the imports is almost entirely due to the rubber imported; while in exports Rice, Milk, Cigarettes, Coconut Oil, Crockery, Cotton Piece Goods, Sarongs, Motor Spirit, and Motor-cars are the commodities responsible for the increase.

France.—The imports of Brandy, Perfumery, Motor Tyres, and Motor-cars show increased values, but Milk decreased. The export values of Para Rubber and Shells increased, and decreased in the case Tin, Tapioca, and Copra.

Germany.—The value of the import trade increased in nearly all articles, but the increase in Perfumery, Beer, Fancy Goods, and Cycles and Accessories has been most pronounced. In exports Para Rubber, and Tin show higher values; and Tapioca and Copra lower.

Italy.—The value of the imports of Milk and Cotton Piece Goods increased; while acetic acid decreased. Exports of Para Rubber and Tin show higher values; and Sago and Copra lower.

Belgium.—Imports of Steel and Glass (plate and sheet) show increases in value. Exports of Para Rubber, and Copra increased in value; while Sago, Tapioca, and Preserved Pineapples decreased.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 36 new companies were registered, with a capital of $14,480,300 of which 31 were private companies with a capital of $11,380,300.

At the end of the year 437 companies remained on the register of which 48 were in liquidation: the total subscribed capital of the 376 companies carrying on business was $165,048,883.

Four hundred and seventy-nine companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 359 are British, 32 are Japanese, 28 are Dutch, 4 are German and 28 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 15 companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Sixty-eight companies do Fire Insurance business.

Bankruptcies.

There were 42 trade bankruptcies of which 28 were Chinese. In 13 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In two cases liabilities exceeded $500,000, in 1 case $100,000 and 3 other cases $50,000.

Two Deeds of arrangement were registered.

(*c*) Forests.

The area of reserved forests was reduced by about 337 acres excised from Tasek Glugor Reserve in Province Wellesley. The total area of reserved forests is now 111,171 acres, equivalent to 11·5 per cent of the total area of the Colony. It is becoming extremely doubtful whether, in view of the increasing demand for land for vegetable gardens and other purposes, and of the inferior quality of the Singapore reserves, these reservations are worth the expense of their maintenance.

Revenue and expenditure were $47,982 and $56,318 respectively, compared with $49,233 and $48,742 in 1924, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a deficit of $8,336, compared with a surplus of $491 in 1924. Revenue rose in Penang, Province Wellesley, and the Dindings, and fell in Singapore and Malacca.

The outturn of timber was 25,016 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 28,441 tons, compared with 13,004 and 32,026 tons

in the previous year. Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of $4,059, compared with $3,517 in 1924.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 86 cases. The 86 cases reported included 40 in which the offenders were undetected. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $706 and compensation to the amount of $235 was awarded for damage to the forests.

(*d*) Agriculture.

Rubber.—The rubber market made the recovery predicted in the last report. The price of rubber opened in 1925 at 67 cents per lb. and was maintained at about this figure until the end of March, when a steady rise commenced which, half way through July, culminated in a price of $1.74 per lb. The price then dropped somewhat suddenly to a figure between $1.35 and $1.20, but rose again in October and reached $1.80 in November. It then dropped 30 cents, finally recovering to $1.58 per lb. at the end of the year. The comparatively high price of rubber has resulted in general prosperity among all owners of rubber land. The larger European and Asiatic estates have all been maintained in good order, while small holdings have been cleaned and better cultivated. In the Dindings, many of these holdings were formerly in a deplorable condition of neglect, but the greater prosperity of the owners had effected a considerable improvement by the end of the year.

The excessive tapping, particularly on small holdings, that would otherwise almost certainly have formed one of the more immediate results of the rapid rise in the price of rubber, was prevented by the continued restriction of output. Another anticipated, but unwholesome, result of the rise in price has been the concentration of all agricultural interest in rubber and the consequent tendency to the neglect of padi planting, a tendency that was only partly overcome by the combined efforts of District and Agricultural Officers.

Diseases and Pests of rubber were not more in evidence than usual and received regular attention from the inspecting officers. Mouldy Rot disease (*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*) in Malacca was much less prevalent during dry weather in the first half of the year, but later, when unusually heavy rains fell, it showed a rapid recrudescence accompanied by a slight spread to new areas. Such dependance on climatic conditions is typical of the disease. At the end of the year a new outbreak was reported on certain small holdings on both sides of the eastern boundary between Kedah and Province Wellesley. Treatment and control of this disease

continued to receive careful attention. Among other diseases, Pink Disease continues to occur and to receive regular attention on the eastern boundary of Province Wellesley, while a few severe cases of Patch Canker and a few attacks of Black Stripe disease were recorded in Malacca.

Coconuts.—At the beginning of the year the price of copra was $13 per picul, but it fell to between $11.50 and $11.70 at the end of April. Subsequently it rose again and remained steady at a figure between $12 and $12.40. The average price for the year was $12.15 as compared with $11.30 in 1923 and $11.95 in 1924. In Province Wellesley and Penang a good crop of nuts is reported to have been obtained on estates and the same is probably also true of small holdings. In the same Settlement an improvement has taken place in the condition of small holdings planted with coconuts, many neglected holdings having been cleared and cultivated, while many more small holders are paying attention, whenever possible, to manuring their palms. The coconut industry generally is in a satisfactory condition and may be expected to remain so, as the demand for copra appears to be steady.

In Penang and Province Wellesley, good progress was made with the destruction of accumulations of rubbish forming breeding grounds for the Black Beetle of coconuts (*Oryctes rhinoceros*). In Malacca, routine inspection is successful in keeping this pest under adequate control.

A new disease of coconut palms has been reported from various parts of the Peninsula during the last two years and is under investigation by the Mycologist. Its symptoms indicate interference with the supply of water to the leaves through damage, either to the roots, or to the water conducting tissues of the stem. Its cause is unknown at present and its treatment is purely experimental. It was discovered for the first time in Province Wellesley during April on a European owned Estate and subsequent enquiries from Managers led to its discovery on certain other Estates.

Padi.—The crop obtained in Province Wellesley for the season 1924—1925 was only fair, about a quarter being lost owing to wet weather and storms at the end of the late harvest, which was delayed by drought during the usual planting season. Some very high yields were, however, recorded from certain localities. In Malacca, the crop for the same season was good. Pests were not in evidence, though rats did considerable damage to the crop in some localities both in Province Wellesley and Malacca.

The 1925—1926 season was unfavourable to padi in Penang and Province Wellesley. Very dry weather at the commencement from July to October caused much delay in establishing the crop. Heavy rains and floods then followed. In the Dindings, these destroyed most of the nurseries, so that the crop there will be very late and probably poor. In December, a Fulgorid bug attacked the padi in Penang and the Province in all localities where the plants were weakened by late planting, or where they had stood for some time in deep water resulting from the floods. This pest, which has not previously been definitely recorded in the Peninsula, was responsible, in combination with the adverse conditions, for much damage, the padi in a few localities being totally destroyed. It decreased, however, at the close of the year, with the same rapidity with which it had at first increased, and some of the badly attacked areas subsequently showed improvement. In Malacca the floods destroyed about 1,500 acres of padi, more especially along the Malacca river. There is, however, promise of a satisfactory crop from most of the undamaged area.

In addition to the Fulgorid bug already mentioned, grasshoppers severely damaged nurseries in Province Wellesley during the dry weather and had to be caught with nets, while other nurseries were damaged by large numbers of army worms (*Spodoptera sp.*) which were subsequently destroyed by the floods. Caterpillars of *Nymphula stagnalis*, a small moth, did some damage early in the season in most of the padi growing areas of the Colony.

Owing to the damage done by rats to the 1924—1925 crop, special efforts were made in Province Wellesley to arouse greater interest in rat destruction during 1925.

A large increase in the area planted with pure strains of selected padi is reported from Province Wellesley, but in Malacca the pure strains have only attracted attention in one or two localities. Selected strains of the local padi, when these are available at the Pulau Gadong Experiment Station, will probably arouse greater interest in Malacca.

In Malacca, during the 1924—1925 season good progress was made with the rice experiments at Pulau Gadong. A number of pure strains of padi were grown for the purpose of eventually selecting those that showed superior cropping powers under local conditions. Experiments in methods of cultivation and the use of various kinds of manures were continued. The Agricultural Field Officer, Malacca, considers that the results are very gratifying, especially as the local padi growers are now showing interest in the work in progress.

Planting of the 1925—1926 crop proceeded normally, but the crop will not be so good as that of the previous season and the experimental results may be somewhat interfered with owing to the damage done by rats, which entered in large numbers at a time when the station was deeply flooded.

At Pekan Darat, in Province Wellesley, extensive experiments along similar lines and with the same object as those conducted in Malacca were carried out, but the results for the season 1924—1925 were rather disappointing, owing to damage done to the padi by flood water. In the experiments designed to test the effect of ploughing the soil of certain plots before planting, it was demonstrated that this method of cultivation led in every case to largely increased crops.

In both Settlements the experimental work as outlined will need some years of continuous effort but there is no reason why valuable results similar to those obtained in Krian, Perak, should not be obtained.

Other Crops.

Nutmegs.—As a consequence of bad cultivation and neglect, nutmeg trees are often much damaged by two species of mistletoe (*Elytranthe globosa* and *Loranthus ferrugineus.*) The work of clearing and cultivating neglected areas has continued throughout the year. Pruning of diseased trees has been demonstrated and recommended by inspecting officers.

The production of nutmegs and mace for the last three years have been:—

Year.			Nutmegs.	Mace.
			Pikuls.	*Pikuls.*
1923	...	...	288	97
1924	...	...	1,632	232
1925	...	...	788	196

The principal pest responsible for damage to mature clove trees is a Cerambycid stem borer. Preliminary experiments on a method of control gave promising results of which it is proposed to make use in the coming year.

The exports of cloves for the last four years have been:—

Year.				*Pikuls.*
1922	...	...	...	276
1923	...	...	...	462
1924	...	...	...	573
1925	...	...	...	284

The small supplies of spices obtainable in Penang are sold almost entirely to India. The Penang spices are still the standard for the market.

Fruit.—In Penang and Province Wellesley the fruit crops were satisfactory, fruit being plentiful in season. In Malacca the mid-year crop was poor, except that of mangosteens, other fruits being sparsely represented on the local markets.

Cotton.—The crop from the experimental plots in Province Wellesley was destroyed by the cotton stainer (*Dysdercus cingulatus*). The extent to which the plants on these plots were attacked, first by the leaf roller (*Sylepta derogata*) and then by the cotton stainer, indicates that cotton cultivation in the Province is almost certain to be rendered unremunerative by the attacks of insect pests.

Fodder Grasses.—On the experimental plots at Penang Gaol, Dallis, Mauritius and Guinea Grass have done well, though they appear to be unsuitable for horses, Guinea grass causing colic and the other two being too coarse to be eaten readily. Cattle owners have taken an interest in this experiment and wish to obtain supplies of planting material when the wet weather arrives, to start areas of fodder grass on their own land.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Water Hyacinth.—Owing to the considerable increase in the quantity of this pest in Province Wellesley and Malacca, Ordinance No. 16 of 1925 (Noxious Plants) was passed during the year and was brought into effect in both Settlements.

Agricultural Shows.—A successful show was held at Bukit Mertajam on June 1st under the auspices of the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association. Exhibits were numerous and of good quality. The Malacca branch of the same Association held an Exhibition in Malacca on September 12th and 13th.

(*e*) LAND.

(i).—LAND TENURE.

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the present policy is to restrict the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by Ordinance No. 39 (Malacca Lands Customary Rights). Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber land, and of mukim assessment on land held under customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE.

The Revenue in 1924 and 1925 was thus distributed:—

——		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1924	335,918	20,613	43,145	399,676
	1925	349,337	26,079	56,514	431,930
Penang ...	1924	229,996	21,147	10,486	261,629
	1925	227,089	26,835	416,341	670,265
Malacca ...	1924	655,650	9,200	98,797	763,647
	1925	610,997	8,014	70,488	689,499
Labuan ...	1924	4,209	1,226	209	5,644
	1925	4,377	1,293	217	5,887
Total ...	1924	1,225,773	52,186	152,637	1,430,596
	1925	1,191,800	62,221	543,560	1,797,581

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Singapore.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	454 2 17	731 1 07	1,730 0 04	1,355 0 27	1,059 1 29
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	49,766	84,822	123,743	46,139	12,183
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	30	114	64	57	41
Premia paid ...	$92,308	$188,476	$131,476.00	$70,399.00	$87,631.00
Penang.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	824 1 05	2,689 1 28	525 3 24	1,284 1 22	1,120 3 6 45
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	12,357	Nil.	Nil.	155	19,901
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	84	394	127	146 S. Grants (& 5-99 years Leases.)	171 S. Grants (27-99 years' Leases.) 4-30 do.
Premia paid ...	$11,061.50	$26,555.50	$12,978.16	$18,464.00	$410,795.00
Malacca.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,590 1 32	1,124 0 31	2,348 0 16.96	2,712 2 18.64	3,686 3 11.02
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ..	6,522	21,600	Nil.	59,350½	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	39	116	273	127 & 1 Lease	80 & 1 Lease
Premia paid ...	$42,790	$52,843.00	$72,345.00	$202,830 00	$254,040.10
Labuan.	A. R. P	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	185 0 16	228 3 09	59 2 35	135 0 20	146 3 00
,, Town Lots ...	5 0 00	Nil.	Nil.	0 0 24¾	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	221	Nil.	91	50	52
	(190 new Grants, 15 in exchange for old titles & 16 sub-division grants.)		(55 new Grants. 17 sub-division Grants 19 in exchange for old grants.	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)	(22 new Grants, 24 Sub-division Grants and 6 in exchange for old grants).
Premia paid ...	$422 60	$114.90	$49.40	$209.20	$217.20

(*f*) Fisheries.

The construction in England of an experimental vessel of the trawler type for Malaya was nearing completion by the end of the year. She will test the fishing value of the otter-board trawl, the Danish seine and the American purse seine in and to the north of the Straits of Malacca and in the large area of shallow sea between the 110° longitude east and the east coast of the Malay Peninsula.

A marine motor was fitted in the Chinese type of fishing boat known locally as the "Sampan Kotak". The boat was then lent to a Chinese fisherman for testing purposes. It is hoped, that, eventually, this craft will prove to be the harbinger of a general change of the Malayan fisheries from sail and manual labour to power. The "Sampan" type of craft appears very suited for small motor engines, whether in or out-board type.

The extended use of the Japanese method of fishing know as "muro ami" was responsible in 1925 for an increase by nearly one third of the Japanese fishermen resident in Singapore.

Of the 6,633 tons of fish sold during the year in the Singapore fish markets no less than 1,559·45 tons were caught in "muro ami".

III.—Legislation.

Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed during the year 1925. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and fifteen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, Incorporation Ordinance (No.1) which constitutes the officer for the time being discharging the office of Colonial Secretary a body corporate.

(ii) The Singapore Traction Ordinance (No. 7) which grants powers to the Singapore Traction Company or the Municipal Commissioners or other body nominated by the Commissioners, as the case may be, to institute a system of trolley buses in Singapore.

(iii) The Singapore Traction (Transfer) Ordinance (No. 8) which authorises the transfer by The Singapore Electric Tramways Limited of the undertaking at present controlled by them in order to ensure the maintenance of the tramway system until the new trolley-bus system is started.

(iv) The Police Force Ordinance (No. 9) which consolidates and amends the law relating to the Police Force providing *inter alia* for the constitution of a Police Reserve.

(v) The Rubber Restriction Ordinance (No. 10) which consolidates and amends the law relating to the restriction of the export of rubber.

(vi) The Alien Enemy Property (Removal of Restriction) Ordinance (No. 12) which withdraws restrictions on the acquisition of former enemy-owned immoveable property by ex-enemy nationals.

(vii) The Noxious Plants Ordinance (No. 16) which prohibits the importation or possession of the water-hyacinth or other plants to which the Ordinance may be extended by the Colonial Secretary by Notification in the *Gazette*.

(viii) The Female Domestic Servants Ordinance (No. 23) which regulates and controls the employment of female domestic servants.

(ix) The Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance (No. 25) which provides for the preparation and publication of a revised edition of the laws of the Colony as on the 31st December, 1925, or such later date as the Governor may fix by notification in the *Gazette*.

The principal amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Chandu Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which imposes much higher penalties both in regard to fines and terms of imprisonment and confers larger powers of search and seizure in regard to books and documents.

(ii) The Malacca Titles (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which places certain restrictions, already in force in Singapore and Penang, on registration of mutations of title to land in Malacca.

(iii) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 4) which makes it an offence under Ordinance No. 96 (Minor Offences) for a person to be found persistently soliciting or importuning for immoral purposes in a public place and makes other minor alterations in that Ordinance.

(iv) The Ports (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which provides that payments or allowances on death, retirement, etc., from the Superannuation or Provident Fund shall not be assignable or liable to attachment.

(v) The Deleterious Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which provides for increased restrictions upon the sale of deleterious drugs and syringes, power to seize books and documents and increases in the fines prescribed.

(vi) The Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 11) which makes certain minor alterations in the Civil Procedure Code.

(vii) The Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) which amends the law in accordance with the various recommendations suggested by the Municipal Commissioners of Singapore, simplifying procedure in certain cases and bringing the principal Ordinance into line with modern requirements.

(viii) The Registration of Schools (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) extending the power to close schools used for unlawful purposes to any school irrespective of the number of pupils and empowering the Director of Education to refuse a teacher a certificate of registration. Penalties are imposed on unregistered teachers.

(ix) The Municipal (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance (No. 17) constituting Rural Boards bodies corporate with power to enter into contracts and sue and be sued in their corporate name.

(x) The Telegraphs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) which includes the word "reception" in the definition of "telegraph" in order to remove doubts as to whether separate licences are required for "reception" as distinct from "transmission" of messages.

The Governor in Council is empowered to make rules regulating the use of wireless by foreign warships or service aircraft whilst in the harbours of the Colony.

(xi) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 22) which prevents persons from boarding or disembarking from any ship within the waters of the Colony, which has arrived from an infected or suspected port or on which there is or has been a case of dangerous infectious disease, since the ship left its last port, except with the permission of the Port Health Officer. Duties are also imposed on the Master of such ship.

(xii) The Women and Girls Protection (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 24) which incorporates in the law relating to the protection of women and girls the provisions of Ordinance No. 23 (Female Domestic Servants). It also empowers the Protector of Chinese to arrest a person reasonably suspected of trafficking in women or girls and to seize and detain books or documents relating to such offence and extends the scope of certain penal sections of the principal Ordinance.

IV.—Communications.

(a) Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

The work of the Postal and Telegraph Sections of the Post Office was normal during the first half of the year but from July to the end of the year a very marked increase took place. This increase coincided with the improvement in local trade. The increase in telegraph traffic was very marked.

Hitherto the parcel post service had been confined to parcels up to 11 lbs. in weight. During the year arrangements were made with all Malayan countries and Great Britain for the limit to be raised to 22 lbs. This extension was appreciated by the public and has been well supported. Negotiations are in progress to extend the arrangement to other countries.

The Post Office Savings Bank continues to be very popular and its business materially increased during the year.

There were no changes in the postal rates which were as follows:—

—	Letters.		Postcards.		Printed Papers.
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single.	Reply.	For every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	8 cts.	16 cts.	3 cts.
Imperial ...	6 „	6 „	4 „	8 „	3 „
Local ...	2 ozs. / 5 cts.	1 ct.	2 „	4 „	3 „

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 17,779,000 an average of 19·13 per inhabitant, as against 15·82 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 13,314,000 as compared with 11,723,000 in 1924. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year 1925 was 570,740 as compared with 451,366 in 1924 whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph Lines was 438,143 as compared with 356,415 in 1924. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges increased from 1,142 to 1,445.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1925, was $3,067,800.88 an increase of 21 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1924. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $212.23. There was a profit on the year's working of $38,749.02. The estimated present value of the investments is $3,136,541.89 (these figures are subject to revision after audit).

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices, at Penang, Malacca, and Labuan, there are 40 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tasek Glugor, Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley), Tebong (Malacca). Of these 25 are Telegraph Offices.

The operation of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1925 to $6,132,523.32 the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands East India, Ceylon and United States.

Eleven Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5, thence to Madras	(3)
		,, ,, Colombo	(2)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	2, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1, Direct thence to Manila	(1)
		,, North China	(1)
		,, Macao	(1)
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)

There are also Government Telegraph Lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 225⅞ miles of Telegraph Lines, 25¼ miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley containing 112¾ miles of wire and ¾ mile between Singapore and Johore containing 2¼ miles of wire. There are 2,077¾ miles of Telephone Line in Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,384 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(*b*) Communication by Sea.

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communications with Europe weekly alternately by British India Steamers *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards, *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly services by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon, in addition there is a weekly service by the Steamship Company Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and at frequent intervals by the Holts, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines; with China and Japan a fortnightly service by the P. & O. and M. M. lines and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and the Societe des Affreteurs Indo-Chinois and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong

and by Spanish Packets and British Packets direct; with Bangkok by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports by Netherlands India Company's steamers; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australian Steam Navigation Company, Austral East Indies Line, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence of Orient Packets; with Madras (direct) and other ports on the Coromandel Coasts fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days. Services are now normal.

(*c*) Railways.

A Railway traverses the Colony from Singapore to Woodlands, thence *viâ* a Causeway across the Johore Straits (which was opened for traffic in October, 1923) into the State of Johore and the Federated Malay States, the main line affording direct communication to Seremban, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Prai. From the latter place connection to Penang is maintained by steam ferry.

There is a branch line from Gemas on the Southern border of the State of Negri Sembilan to Chigar Perah in the State of Pahang, portions of this line now under construction, will, when completed, enable direct communication to be made with Singapore and the States of Kelantan and Siam.

There are feeder lines to the various ports of the Malay States connecting with the main line, and in addition a line runs from Prai in the north to Padang Besar, where connection is made with the Royal State Railways of Siam enabling passenger and goods traffic between the Federated Malay States and Siam to be conveyed direct by rail.

Ocean borne traffic is dealt with at the ports of Penang, Prai, Port Swettenham and Singapore, whilst coastwise shipping may in addition be dealt with at Port Weld, Teluk Anson, Port Dickson and Malacca.

(*d*) Roads.

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) total 517·5 miles distributed as follows:—

Singapore	... ...	102 miles.
Penang and Dindings	...	88·6 ,,
Province Wellesley	...	172·6 ,,
Malacca	... ...	147·2 ,,
Labuan	... ...	7·1 ,,

Of the 517·5 miles of metalled road 247·2 miles are now surfaced with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads there are 266 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained in the various Settlements.

During 1925 the roads converted to granite metal were Singapore 4·15 miles, Province Wellesley 6 miles, and Malacca 6·75 miles. These roads were in most cases surfaced with asphalt.

The construction of a steel girder bridge over the Krian River at Nibong Tebal in Province Wellesley was begun.

(*e*) Public Works.

In Singapore the new Medical College and an extension to Raffles Library were completed. A further 31 quarters for clerks were finished and 165 rooms for subordinates together with 9 shops for rent to the public were opened in Mosque Street.

The new Raffles School for girls was begun in Singapore, quarters for teachers at the new Green Lane School in Penang were finished, good progress was made with the new English School at Bukit Mertajam, Province Wellesley, and a similar new School was completed in Malacca Town.

Good progress was made with the additions to the Leper Camp, Pulau Jerejak, Penang.

In Malacca a new hospital at Alor Gajah was finished and another at Jasin nearly so.

In Pulo Kuraman, Labuan, 57 acres of coconut and other trees were removed to improve the visibility of the lighthouse.

V.—Immigration.

(i) Chinese.

In 1925 the number of immigrants arriving from China in the Colony totalled 214,692, an increase of 18·3 per cent over the figure for 1924, but less than that for 1911, the highest year, by 55,162 or 20·4 per cent.

Adult males formed 71 per cent and adult females 14 per cent of the immigrants.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 77,920 and the excess of immigrants over emigrants was 136,772 or 63·7 per cent.

The pressure of unsettled conditions in South China had a favourable effect upon immigration and up to the end of June the immigrant traffic bid fair to equal or surpass the previous record. Political events in China about the middle of the year disastrously affected the figures for the third quarter, but helped no doubt by the rubber boom, there was a good recovery in the last quarter of the year. Whole families continued to arrive and women and children arriving numbered 62,286, which again constitutes a record.

(ii).—Southern Indians.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 90,708 as compared with 62,052 in 1924.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 43,144 as against 37,326 in 1924.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1922.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*
Assisted immigrants ...	38,336	30,234	43,147	70,198
Other immigrants ...	20,338	19,268	18,905	20,510
	58,674	49,502	62,052	90,708

The assisted immigrants consisted of 60,335 adults and 9,863 minors. Of the adults 46,285 were men and 14,050 were women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 11·26 per mille and

in the Dindings 12·93 per mille. The death-rate on estates in Penang was only 2·84 per mille.

During 1925, 1,883 adult and 388 minor decrepits and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage pack to India.

The assessment rate was fixed at $2 for the whole year, 1925.

The Indian Immigration Fund receipts amounted to $1,656,236.60 and the expenditure was $1,886,027.95 the difference being met by a corresponding decrease in cash balances.

(iii).—Netherlands Indian.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,436. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force.

VI.—Criminal and Police.

The total number of seizable offences reported to the Police during 1925 was 6,081 of which 5,812 were admitted as true. Of the admitted reports 3,135 resulted in cases which were dealt with by the Police Courts, District Courts or Supreme Courts convictions being obtained in 1,965 cases. In addition in 101 cases the decision of the Courts is still pending. In respect of serious offences against property there was an increase of 6 in the number of murders, and an increase of 5 in the number of reports of attempted murder. There was also an increase of 25 in the number of reports of causing hurt with dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was a decrease of 64 in the number of robberies, a decrease of 8 in the number of gang robberies a decrease of 127 in the number of reports of housebreaking and a decrease of 343 in the number of reports of theft. There were 47,052 non-seizable offences reported to the Police in 1925. The number of persons arrested in connection with both seizable and non-seizable was 29,531 males and 584 females. There was a decrease of 18 cases in the number of extortion.

Secret Societies.—Society activity has not been abnormal. Mass fighting, characteristic of the tactics adopted by the Hokkien and Tiu Chiu societies in 1922 and 1923 has been abandoned for the time being at any rate. In its place all dialects of Chinese have taken to newer and

more deadly methods. Throughout the year firearms have been used with considerable frequency and audacity and so indiscriminately that on several occasions innocent persons have been injured or killed.

At intervals during the year Cantonese gangs attacked their enemies viciously and treacherously. Most cases were the outcome of small disputes. In one case they murdered an informer and in another case a detective.

In May Hokkien and Tiu Chiu trouble over some small dispute led to a number of individual attacks with the result that twakow traffic in the Singapore river was obliged to cease.

In December friction between Tiu Chiu parties resulted in a fierce outbreak which lasted for several weeks. The tactics adopted made preventive work extremely difficult. New and unknown fighting men were employed for isolated attacks on individuals merely suspected of belonging to the opposing faction.

The detective branch was able to give considerable information to the Chinese Protectorate and has made great progress in its investigation of these Society troubles.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,309 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 3,474 were admitted during the year as compared with 4,404 during 1924 and 3,631 were discharged during the year. 1,152 remained at the end of the year. There were 73 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 703 were admitted and 642 were discharged. Of the 642 vagrants discharged 124 found employment and 394 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, weaving, tile-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at husk-beating, and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Medical Department.

A. VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of 1925 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is:—

	1924 Estimated.	1925 Estimated.
Singapore ...	474,817	497,277
Penang ...	315,841	319,979
Malacca ...	170,294	177,010

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The number of births registered during the year was 31,665 and the number of deaths was 27,106. The births this year exceed the deaths in all Settlements; the crude birth-rate was 31·84 as against 32·29 in the previous year.

The percentage of males born was 52·93, females 47·07. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 57·72 per thousand amongst Chinese.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 184·62 per thousand births as against 204·76 in the previous year.

The number of deaths registered on account of infantile convulsions, was 3,648 as against 3,832 in the previous year. Dietetic errors, tetanus and malaria are common causes of convulsions.

The crude death-rate, 27·26 per thousand of population, as compared with 27·42 in the previous year, is the lowest on record.

The highest racial death-rate was 28·41 amongst Chinese.

Pneumonia accounted for 2,009 deaths as against 1,669 in the previous year: only 171 deaths were recorded as due to influenza.

Beri-beri accounted for 957 deaths as against 910, 904 and 1,388 for the years 1924, 1923 and 1922, respectively.

The population for these years was:—

1922	906,137
1923	929,238
1924	960,952

and the population for 1925 is 994,266.

Malaria and tuberculosis recorded 4,209 and 2,624 deaths respectively, as against 3,462 and 2,389 deaths in the previous year. Fever unclassified accounted for 2,276 as against 2,706 in 1924.

Dysentery caused 855 deaths classified as follows:—

Dysentery,	Amœbic	...	174
,,	Bacillary	...	235
,,	Unclassified	...	446
	Total	...	855

as against 842 deaths in 1924.

Infectious disease.—There were 9 deaths from small-pox, 2 deaths from Cholera, 52 deaths from Plague and 39 deaths from Cerebro-Spinal Fever, excluding deaths in Maritime Quarantine Stations.

B. HEALTH BRANCH.

Port Health.

One thousand and eighteen visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 417 visits to ships in Penang, by Port Health Officers, who examined 480,346 persons—65,923 persons were retained under observation in the two quarantine stations, mostly for short periods.

The number of persons from ships treated for dangerous infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 1 for Cholera, 7 for Small-pox and 8 for Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Rural Conservancy.

The sanitation of rural areas was progressively carried on in all the Colonies. The rural death-rate is steadily decreasing.

Anti-malarial Work.

The sum of $128,890.13 was spent on anti-mosquito and anti-malarial measures, permanent drainage, filling and oiling being the chief items of expenditure.

C. KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE.

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 189, and the number of students 98.

D. HOSPITALS.

58,490 in-patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony, as against 41,886 in 1924, the death-rate being 7·26.

7,166 cases of malaria with 431 deaths and 6,499 cases of venereal diseases with 117 deaths were recorded as in-patients. The death-rates in both cases show a steady improvement.

E. DISPENSARIES.

Out-patients numbered 140,830 and attendances 239,889 as against 91,585 out-patients and 152,456 attendances in the previous year. Out-patients treated for venereal diseases were 20,089 as compared with 18,994 in the previous year.

The number of out-patients treated for Yaws were 15,133 as against 14,812.

The attendances at the Women's and Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, under the direction of Mrs. C. H. DUKE, Lady Medical Officer, were 26,904 as compared with 24,115 in 1924.

A travelling motor dispensary was started in Province Wellesley in the beginning of July, 1925, under the direction of an Assistant Surgeon. The number of cases treated to the end of the year 1925, was 8,639.

The Malacca travelling motor dispensary was in charge of a Senior dresser. During the 301 days that the motor dispensary worked the patients treated totalled 9,417 and the attendances 9,993.

F. LEPERS.

The total number of lepers treated in the Leper Asylums was 1,085 and the total deaths 143 as against 891 treated and 150 deaths in 1924.

It will be seen that there was a progressive increase in the number treated and a steady decrease in the death-rate.

Modern treatment is being actively continued.

G. MENTAL DISEASES HOSPITALS.

787 male and 194 female lunatics were treated during year, in these institutions. The number remaining at the end of the year was 544 males and 117 females.

The building of the new Lunatic Asylum on Trafalgar Estate where an area of 400 acres has been acquired, is in progress.

VIII.—Education.

There were 15 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 6,993 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $691,687.

There were 30 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 14,728 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to $682,480.

The expenditure on the 209 Government Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 17,687 was $394,977.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 10 Aided Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 1,321, the grants to which for 1925 amounted to $14,177

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,499 as against 1,143 in 1923 and 1,344 in 1924.

Thirty-two students passed the final examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, compared with 36 in 1924.

There were 15 student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools.

Seventeen candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang passed as fit in the opinion of the examining body to study for an honours' degree at Oxford or Cambridge. One proposes to study Law and the other Medicine.

The European Staff was short of officers throughout the year, chiefly due to the secondment of European Masters to the Malay States of Johore and Kedah. New appointments have been created this year to provide for such secondment.

During the year four European Masters, appointed to the Malay Educational service, were allocated to the Colony. One officer retired on the grounds of ill-health. One new European Mistress was allocated to the Straits Settlements

The appointment of an Art Master for Singapore and of a Physical Instructor for the Colony has led to continued improvements in those branches of the school curriculum.

A new elementary school for boys at Tranquerah, Malacca, was opened. Three buildings were rented for English schools in Penang.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils was extended with satisfactory results.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to make good progress. A good type of student attended, most of them from business houses and offices. 396 enrolled as against 322 in 1924. Twenty-three students passed the examination of the London Chamber of Commerce held in November, 1924, and twenty-one passed the examination of May, 1925. A special class in Electricity and Magnetism for Telegraph Clerks was started towards the end of the year, with good prospects of success.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of $33,646.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was $17,301.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 313 with 18,253 pupils.

Two Chinese schools in Singapore received grants-in-aid during 1925 amounting to $2,820; in Penang three received grants amounting to $9,822.

In July an Educational Conference was held in Singapore, which was attended by representatives of the Education Departments of the Colony, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States and of Aided English Schools in Malaya. Among the subjects discussed were text-books for English Schools, trade schools and technical education, and medical inspection of schools.

Raffles College.—The accounts showed at the end of 1925 $1,536,528 to the credit of the General Fund and the funds of Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing $1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to $63,000 per annum have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years, amounting to $655,000 have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

Towards the end of the year details of the designs of the quarters for the College Staff and of a Students' Hostel were received from the London Architects and a beginning was made at once on those buildings.

Mr. R. O. WINSTEDT, M.A., D.LITT. (Oxon.), Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, continued to act as Principal. The College is administered by an Executive Committee.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year under review witnessed the complete revival of trade. A rubber boom and a steady tin market resulted in trade figures for the year of a magnitude never surpassed in the Colony.

Restriction of the production of rubber remained in force throughout the year and the policy can be said to have fully and completely justified itself.

Prosperity in the two great Malayan industries resulted in a temporary shortage of labour and a considerable increase in wages.

The financial position of the Colony is eminently satisfactory and the year witnessed the establishment of the Opium Reserve Fund.

His Excellency the Governor proceeded to England on leave in May and returned to the Colony in November.

Mr. EDWARD SHAW HOSE, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who officiated as Officer Administering the Government during the absence of His Excellency the Governor retired in December leaving behind him a record of courteous and sympathetic administration. I was appointed to succeed him as Colonial Secretary.

SIR WALTER SYDNEY SHAW, Kt. Bach., retired from the office of Chief Justice and was succeeded by SIR JAMES WILLIAM MURISON, Kt. Bach.

Mr. ARTHUR SELBOURNE JELF, Director of the Political Intelligence Bureau was appointed Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, and left the Colony in July, to take up his appointment.

The Triennial Conference of the Naval Commanders-in-Chief of the China, East Indies and Australian Squadrons was held at Singapore in March.

H. MARRIOTT,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

22nd June, 1926.

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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1926.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

SITUATION AND AREA

Singapore

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

Penang

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

Malacca

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

The Dindings

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude 4° 15′ north and longitude 100° 35′ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

Cocos or Keeling Islands

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ and 12° 45′ south, and in longitude approximately 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employees of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

In 1923 a wireless station was installed by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company and the island is now in direct communication with Singapore.

Labuan

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

Labuan has a fine port, Victoria Harbour (latitude 55° 16′ north, longitude 115° 15′ east), safe, and easy of access.

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and bêche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909.

Total Area

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

Climate

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore during 1926 was 80·1° F; in Penang 82·2° F; in Province Wellesley 81·4° F; and in Malacca 83·0° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 87·7° and 74·8° F. The maximum recorded was 93·5° F. on 23rd April at Singapore. The minimum was 70·7° F. on 6th February. The gross minimum in Singapore was 68·5° F. in May and June.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of

10 years, from 1916 to 1925, it is found in Singapore, that there is an annual average of 173 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 2526·7 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1913 with 3,442·37 m.m. and the driest was 1877, with 1,482·7 m.m. The average for the sixty-four years is 2,248·5 m.m. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, *viz*:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1925	*1926*
Singapore	...	2,959·32	2,172·38
Penang	...	3,744·00	3,033·00
Malacca	...	2,726·05	1,945·08
Province Wellesley	...	2,876·68	2,612·00
Labuan	...	3,150·03	3,182·00
Dindings	...	—	1,559·00

HISTORY

Malacca

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by Napoleon the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of $6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

Singapore

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint Francis Xavier despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

Labuan

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

I.—Finances

The revenue for the year 1926 amounted to $36,465,213 exceeding the estimate by $8,334,473, whilst the expenditure was $36,955,640, being $1,799,505 more than the estimate.

The revenue was $17,385,747 less than that of 1925, while expenditure was less than the 1925 figure by $20,638,319. The excess of expenditure over revenue was $490,428 as compared with $3,742,999 in 1925.

The revenue for 1925 was inflated by $20 millions transferred to the Colony from the Currency Commissioners' funds, and the expenditure for that year included $30 millions paid into the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund under the heading Miscellaneous Services.

The actual figures for 1925 and 1926 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE

—	1925	1926	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	2,357	2,715	358	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	24,764,770	27,682,559	2,917,789	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	1,082,323	1,191,514	109,191	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,972,011	2,120,394	148,383	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,543,066	1,662,692	119,626	...
6. Interest	3,234,370	2,737,371	...	496,999
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	20,709,385	544,198	...	20,165,187
	53,308,282	35,941,443	3,295,347	20,662,186
. Land Sales	542,678	523,770	...	18,908
TOTAL ...	53,850,960	36,465,213	3,295,347	20,681,094
	Net	Decrease ...	$17,385,747	

There was a decrease of $255,000 in opium revenue, but the total receipts under "Licences" exceeded the 1925 figure by nearly three millions owing to the following increases:—

	$
Stamp Duties and Estate Duties ...	635,000
Liquors	1,025,000
Tobacco	756,000
Pawnbrokers Ordinance ...	352,000
Petroleum Duty Ordinance 115 ...	349,000

The Estate Duty collected in 1926 amounted to $2,420,759 as against $1,991,297 in 1925.

The actual revenue of 1926 exceeded the estimate under the following heads:—

	$
Liquors	1,143,435
Petroleum Duty Ordinance 115 ...	284,395
Stamp Duties and Estate Duties ...	1,824,636
Tobacco Duties	486,221
Fees of Court	178,123
Posts and Telegraphs	374,712
Rents on Government Property ...	262,802
Interest	452,351
Miscellaneous Receipts	321,744
Land Sales	468,470

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

—	1925	1926	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,069,440	1,422,411	352,971	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	19,724	20,175	451	...
4. The Governor	128,363	155,337	26,974	...
5. Civil Service	704,263	667,060	...	37,203
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	198,579	199,150	571	...
7. Secretary to High Commissioner	16,689	21,507	4,818	...
8. Agricultural Department ...	32,906	35,256	2,350	...
9. Audit	102,373	103,623	1,250	...
10. Audit, External ...	11,130	11,501	371	...
11. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	79,053	90,819	11,766	...
12. Ecclesiastical	25,124	25,234	110	...
13. Education	1,063,978	1,106,086	42,108	...
14. Fisheries	140,257	218,841	78,584	...
15. Forests	36,913	27,078	...	9,835
16. Gardens, Botanical ...	91,298	97,310	6,012	...
17. Imports, Exports and Statistics ...	82,976	92,027	9,051	...
18. Land and District Offices ...	332,676	354,494	21,818	...
19. Legal	382,840	422,269	39,429	...
20. Marine	760,046	639,753	...	120,293
21. Marine Surveys ...	...	76,065	76,065	...
22. Medical	436,980	462,081	25,101	...
23. Medical, Health Branch ...	393,458	511,289	117,831	...
24. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	1,585,702	1,973,157	387,455	...
25. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,279,881	3,630,388	350,507	...
II. Local Forces ...	355,708	335,081	..	20,627
26. Miscellaneous Services ...	33,589,748	10,323,772	...	23,265,976
27. Monopolies	836,656	1,970,547	1,133,891	...
28. Museum and Library Raffles	51,093	59,877	8,784	...
29. Police	2,467,555	2,501,737	34,182	...
30. Political Intelligence Bureau	...	3,870	3,870	...
31. Post Office	1,488,832	1,486,783	...	2,049
32. Printing Office ...	177,650	205,603	27,953	...
33. Prisons	380,683	363,229	...	17,454
34. Public Works Department...	481,885	509,123	27,238	...
35. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	633,938	701,612	67,674	...
36. Public Works, Extraordinary	5,142,549	5,145,540	2,991	...
37. Survey Department ...	414,557	415,664	1,107	...
38. Transport	299,190	256,461	...	42,729
39. Treasury	203,143	215,772	12,629	...
40. Veterinary	59,040	60,975	1,935	...
TOTAL ...	57,593,959	36,955,640	2,877,847	23,516,166
	Nett	Decrease ...	$20,638,319	

The increase under Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities etc., is due to commutation of pensions under the Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance 1926.

The larger Defence Contribution is attributable to enhanced cost of the Garrison.

The increase under Medical, Health Branch, is caused by an extension of anti-mosquito work, while the higher figure under Hospitals and Dispensaries is largely due to augmented Government contributions.

The increase under Monopolies is explained below.

The principal items on which expenditure fell short of the estimate were:—

	$
Civil Service	116,702
Audit, External	60,110
Education	182,114
Medical, Health Branch	107,353
Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	414,356
Police	325,867
Post Office	120,773
Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	75,183
Public Works Extraordinary	1,213,008
Survey Department	88,530

An excess of nearly $3¼ million over the estimate for Miscellaneous Services was due to the payment of $1,235,000 to the Singapore Town Improvement Scheme, $500,000 to the Penang Water Supply Scheme and to various other unestimated services.

The Monopolies Department exceeded its Estimates by $937,420 in consequence of special expenditure on Government Opium Shops and Opium Packing Plant.

The following table shows the Colony's expenditure, excluding Defence Contribution and Special Expenditure connected with the War, for the last eight years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary:—

	Total Expenditure	*Public Works Extraordinary*
	—	—
	$	$
1919	29,111,433	892,571
1920	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923	22,860,635	2,519,954
1924	23,150,128	4,223,846
1925	54,314,078	5,142,549
1926	33,325,253	5,145,540

The difference of $4\frac{1}{4}$ millions between expenditure for 1919 and expenditure for 1926 is mainly due to the increase in Public Works Extraordinary.

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1926, were as follows:—

Liabilities		$	*Assets*		$
Deposits—			Investments—		
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	$35,260,658		Colony ...	$30,360,129	
Other Deposits ...	12,531,130		Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	34,400,699	
		47,791,788	Other investments	4,830,397	
					69,591,225
Drafts and Remittances ...		45,587			
Suspense		2,871,410	Advances		608,027
			Imprests		74,159
			Cash in Transit		34,980
Loans:—					
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921–1926		14,900	Loans:—		
			Municipalities ...		18,020,322
			Kelantan Government ...		4,407,541
Surplus—			Trengganu Government ...		1,000,000
			Singapore Harbour Board ...		4,965,604
Reserved for specific purposes (*a*) ...	$21,639,797		Penang Harbour Board ...		1,443,026
			Ho Hong Steamship Co. ...		170,000
Unreserved ...	40,955,104		Singapore Cricket Club ...		33,996
			Brunei Government ...		14,000
		62,594,901	Sailors' Institute		155,000
			Stadium Association ...		25,000
			War Service Land Grants Scheme		160,824
			Indian Agency Account ...		271,995
			Cash		12,342,887
Total ...		113,318,586	Total ...		113,318,586

(*a*) *Loans*:—

Loans to Municipalities	$3,354,857	
Loan to Government of Trengganu	1,000,000	
Loan to Penang Harbour Board	1,173,500	
Loan to Kelantan Government	362,459	
War Service Land Grants Scheme	130,225	
		$6,021,041

Commitments of Expenditure:—

For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital	$2,582,672	
Raffles College Buildings	729,360	
Malacca Water Supply	507,279	
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply	500,000	
Development of Penang Hill	606,792	
Singapore Town Improvement Scheme ...	8,764,422	
New Mental Hospital	1,928,231	
		$15,618,756
Total ...		$21,639,797

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1926 to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ...		4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	320,137
Total	...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	...	3,388,205
		$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was $2,079,902 in 1926. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the sinking fund of this loan on 31st December, 1926, was approximately $8,450,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the 5½ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at $28,655,700, under the 5½ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at $36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal of, and the major portion of the interest on, all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1921 amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the loan and of sinking fund contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Exchange

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1926:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China

,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited

,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited

,, Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited

,, Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)

,, Banque de l'Indo Chine

,, International Banking Corporation

,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)

,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited

,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited

,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited

,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited

,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited

,, China and Southern Bank, Limited

,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited

,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 5/32 and 2/3 11/16.

(vi).—Currency

No change was made in the Currency legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year,

consisted of $163,279,713.70 in currency notes and $6,594,417 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $140,165 as compared with $140,958 at the end of 1925.

At the end of the year 1925 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $161,432,313.70. There was a demand by the public for currency during the month of January, which resulted in the issue of $2,108,560 in exchange for sterling. The value of the currency notes in circulation at the end of 1926 was $163,279,713.70.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $101,720,378.01 consisting of £328,251 in gold, $15,685,610.50 in silver and $1,720,416.44 on deposit with the Government held locally and £73,330 in gold and £9,435,093.5.10 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $100,461,777.51; the cost price of those investments having been $103,776,579.49.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $202,231,498.13 (liquid portion $101,720,378.01, investment portion $100,461,777.51, and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners Income Account $49,342.61). The excess value of the fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $38,951,784.43 as compared with an excess of $33,517,951.54 at the end of 1925.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of $1,122,055.30 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a net decrease of $169,147 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Nine million five hundred and sixty-four thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and ninety-five cents was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $1,923,607.70 in current notes of values less than $1.

The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1924 was $1,539,949.70 and at the end of 1925 $2,092,754.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year was 31,148,533 against 20,411,186 in 1925.

Of the notes destroyed 14,583,345 were 10 cent notes and 9,356,102 were $1 notes.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 285,964, and a further 31,488,986 were cancelled during the year, making a total of 31,774,950 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 31,148,533 and the balance awaiting destruction at the end of the year was consequently 626,417.

(vii) Enemy Property

During the year a sum of $353,365.11 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property so transferred, to the end of 1926, amounted to $12,759,509.33. On 31st December, 1926, $1,050,971.75 was still held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and $110,398 by the Local Custodian in investments, while the latter also had a cash balance of $22,477.32, making a total of $1,183,847.07.

Local Clearing Office

The position at the end of 1926, in regard to the different classes of claims was as follows:—

German claims.—The total value of all claims registered was $1,893,509.93: claims for $1,582,643.52 have been withdrawn and claims for $193,287.13 admitted. Claims to the extent of $66,932.83 were under reference to the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and in addition there were claims amounting to $50,646.45 still undecided.

The total amount due on the admitted claims referred to above together with interest—$30,870.38—comes to $224,157.51. Of this $179,083.85 has been recovered. Of the outstanding balance of $45,073.66, about $17,200 will probably prove, for various reasons, to be irrecoverable. The remaining amount of $27,800 is almost entirely in respect of one claim which will be settled as soon as a decision is arrived at in regard to a contra claim now before the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal.

The amount collected from British nationals on account of German claims during 1926, was $2,947.98 of which $1,512.10 was in respect of interest.

British claims.—The total value of all claims registered was $217,366.37. Of this $106,443.48 has been withdrawn and $40,142.01 admitted. Claims of a value of $49,341.28 were under reference to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and in addition there were claims amounting to $21,439.60 still undecided.

British claims under Article 297.—Claims under this Article to a total value of $77,615.68 have been registered, and of this $49,951.45 has been withdrawn and $27,664.23 admitted. In addition credit has been given by Germany for $1,784.28 as compensation to British nationals for the loss of the use of their money.

The total amount paid to British claimants under Articles 296 and 297 since the establishment of the office is $60,854.81.

Claims by Austrian and Hungarian nationals.—The total value of all claims registered was $39,244.36, but claims to $39,057.80 have been withdrawn. The whole of the balance of $186.56, admitted, has been collected together with $84.27 in respect of interest.

Claims against Austrian and Hungarian nationals.—The claims registered were of a total value of $3,021.41 and have been wholly admitted. Dividends to the extent of 9/- in the £ have been credited and distributed to the claimants.

Local Controller's Investments.—These amounted to $130,000 at the end of 1926 and there was also a cash balance of $4,495.67.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries

(*a*) Shipping

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 38,028,630 as compared with 35,032,127 in 1925.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1925 and 1926

NATIONALITY	1925					1926					Increase in 1926 as compared with 1925	Decrease in 1926 as compared with 1925
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)		
Finnish ...	4,726	...	...	...	4,726	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,726
Greek ...	7,354	7,354	...	...	14,708	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,708
American ...	727,987	457,410	...	...	1,185,397	637,294	440,588	...	...	1,077,882	...	107,515
Brazilian ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,046	...	...	...	2,046	2,046	...
Portuguese ...	4,162	...	...	...	4,162	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,162
British ...	10,716,681	6,702,889	323,198	227,796	17,970,564	10,977,421	7,412,642	360,294	280,368	19,030,725	1,060,161	..
Chinese ...	69,372	3,176	11,562	...	84,110	87,484	22,104	...	...	109,588	25,478	...
Danish ...	428,251	154,245	...	...	582,496	454,584	249,492	...	...	704,076	121,580	...
Dutch ...	4,610,403	844,256	...	4,828	5,459,487	5,280,403	1,322,971	644	7,750	6,611,768	1,152,281	...
French ...	1,446,564	223,676	...	...	1,670,240	1,624,699	65,554	...	...	1,690,253	20,013	...
German ...	846,984	373,234	...	...	1,220,218	928,778	355,594	...	...	1,284,372	64,154	...
Italian ...	327,696	222,546	...	...	550,242	326,456	183,440	...	...	509,896	...	40,346
Japanese ...	3,708,036	1,062,522	251,422	82,418	5,104,398	3,918,010	1,193,962	235,714	93,700	5,441,386	336,988	...
Norwegian ...	536,506	38,292	...	1,874	576,672	777,221	98,080	4,566	6,924	886,791	310,119	...
Panama ...	...	...	...	...	...	15,980	...	...	...	15,980	15,980	...
Russian ...	22,058	6,254	...	...	28,312	31,606	...	...	...	31,606	3,294	...
Sarawak ...	100,181	94	...	5,360	105,635	118,802	...	...	2,038	120,840	15,205	...
Siamese ...	187,297	...	812	...	188,109	192,659	...	...	...	192,659	4,550	...
Spanish ...	66,812	...	...	...	66,812	59,900	...	...	...	59,900	...	6,912
Swedish ...	193,656	9,002	...	13,181	215,839	194,986	63,876	...	...	258,862	43,023	...
TOTALS ...	24,004,726	10,104,950	586,994	335,457	35,032,127	25,628,329	11,408,303	601,218	390,780	38,028,630	3,174,872	178,369
										Net Increase ...		2,996,503

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1922 ...	...	...	26,913,256 tons.
1923 ...	...	...	29,936,949 ,,
1924 ...	...	...	32,617,101 ,,
1925 ...	...	...	35,032,127 ,,
1926 ...	...	...	38,028,630 ,,

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 62,980 in number and 2,239,590 in tons as compared with 64,913 and 2,250,486, respectively, in 1925.

Three new steam-vessels and four motor-vessels, with a tonnage of 1,741 tons gross, and twenty-six sailing-vessels (2,196 tons) were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 11 new sailing-vessels (800 tons) were licensed under section 424, and 886 vessels (10,187 tons) under section 425.

Harbour Boards

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the years ended June 30, 1925, and June 30, 1926, have been as follows:—

	Income	*Expenditure*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1925 ...	9,827,256	7,110,249
Year ended 30th June, 1926 ...	12,055,233	8,354,278

The Capital debt due to Government amounted to $52,698,161 at June 30th, 1926, in respect of which sum the Board pay interest half yearly, at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on $50,126,733 and on the balance of $2,571,428 at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In addition to this capital the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $6,160,648 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1926, were $1,614,824 and the expenditure $1,276,889.

The capital debt due to Government stood on 30th June, 1926, at $3,457,964.

(*b*) Trade

The aggregate value of the recorded trade of the Colony in 1926 amounted to 295 million Sterling which is only ·17% less than in the record year, 1925. It is worthy of note that the total remains so high, as the decrease in the aggregate value of the trade in Rubber was no less than 155 million Dollars, or 18 million Sterling; but the increase in the value of the trade in many other commodities, the principal being Rice, Tin, Motor Spirit, Pepper and Copra, more or less balanced the decrease in the value of Rubber.

The total quantity of Rubber exported was about 273,000 tons, or some 24,000 tons more than in 1925; but its value amounted only to 493 million Dollars which was a decrease of 75 million.

The quantity of Rubber imported increased by 20,000 tons, from 260,000 to 280,000, but the value decreased by 80 million Dollars. The quantity imported during 1926 was again more than that exported by 7,000 tons. The value of the imported Rubber was 103 million Dollars less than that exported. It should be noted that in the case of Rubber imported the weight declared includes moisture and impurities, while in the case of exports the dry weight was recorded.

The quantity of tin exported was 2,754 tons less than in 1925, but 10 million Dollars more was received for it.

The following figures show the value of the Colony's trade for the last six years, the value of Coin and Bullion and of the trade between the Settlements being excluded:—

Year	Imports of Merchandise	Exports of Merchandise	Imports Comparison with preceding year	Exports Comparison with preceding year
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	− 58,425	− 46,398
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922
1923 ...	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,530
1924 ...	98,915	89,430	+ 9,913	+ 6,840
1925 ...	152,338	143,137	+ 53,423	+ 53,707
1926 ...	154,026	140,966	+ 1,688	− 2,171

The value of the inter-Settlement trade, including treasure, for the last six years was as follows:—

Year	Imports	Exports	Imports Comparison with preceding year	Exports Comparison with preceding year
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	– 8,034	– 7,910
1922 ...	5,148	5,078	– 1,756	– 1,809
1923 ...	5,728	5,607	+ 580	+ 529
1924 ...	5,125	5,049	– 603	– 558
1925 ...	7,584	7,665	+ 2,459	+ 2,616
1926 ...	8,133	8,042	+ 549	+ 377

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last four years:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
1923	1,883	616
1924	1,607	561
1925	4,732	1,423
1926	5,450	1,729.

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

—	Imports				Exports			
	1923	1924	1925	1926	1923	1924	1925	1926
	(In thousands)							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	26,223	28,348	32,412	35,581	19,722	21,412	24,031	26,524
II. Raw Materials	46,425	43,839	80,922	74,270	53,191	32,999	74,379	66,359
III. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles ...	16,354	26,728	39,004	44,175	9,677	35,019	44,727	48,083
TOTAL ...	89,002	98,915	152,338	154,026	82,590	89,430	143,137	140,966

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported:—

Details of Certain Articles Imported

Articles	How Stated	1925		1926		Increase		Decrease	
		Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber	Tons.	2[illegible],587	470,253	279,641	389,951	20,054	...	...	80,302
Tin Ore	"	95,759	148,369	93,888	160,715	...	12,346	1,871	...
Rice	"	612,820	75,875	679,293	87,813	66,473	11,938	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases	991,012	12,632	1,136,393	14,166	145,381	1,534	...	...
Sugar	Tons.	112,962	15,813	108,827	15,168	...	...	4,135	645
Cigarettes	lbs.	14,308,093	26,377	11,092,078	23,463	...	...	3,216,015	2,914
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	67,100	15,804	67,566	17,868	466	2,064	...	...
Arecanuts	"	55,310	14,145	58,202	13,914	2,892	...	...	231
Motor Spirit ("Benzine") ...	"	211,445	59,335	255,853	70,503	44,408	11,168	...	...
Petroleum ("Kerosene") ...	"	98,401	16,157	79,684	13,308	...	...	18,717	2,849
Sago	"	48,357	4,284	38,225	3,291	...	...	10,132	993
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	167,8[illegible]9,7[illegible]9	45,359	147,876,310	40,396	...	...	19,953,439	4,963
Sarongs	Nos.	12,491,223	17,200	12,310,809	17,304	...	104	180,414	...
Copra	Tons.	150,573	28,921	170,495	32,094	19,922	3,173	...	...
Pepper	"	14,236	9,400	14,357	12,228	121	2,828	...	...
Rattans	"	23,094	3,873	23,466	4,785	372	912	...	...
Coal	"	649,573	8,219	799,094	9,581	149,521	1,362	...	...
Machinery	Nos.	88,50[illegible]	8,938	123,404	12,854	34,902	3,916	...	...

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED

Articles	How Stated	1925		1926		INCREASE		DECREASE	
		Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber	Tons.	248,138	568.523	272,546	493,314	24,408	...	...	75,209
Tin	,,	79,094	175,229	76,340	185,541	...	10,312	2,754	...
Rice	,,	405,412	51,748	461,821	61,531	56,409	9,783	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases.	491,453	6,325	616,105	7,751	124,652	1,426	...	...
Sugar	Tons	54,505	7,867	56,208	8,248	1,703	381	...	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	10,925,283	18,979	8,956,879	18,999	...	20	1,968,404	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	64,335	16,166	66,459	17,810	2,124	1,644	...	...
Arecanuts	,,	58,787	18,208	62,885	17,248	4,098	...	...	960
Benzine ("Motor Spirit") ...	,,	201,413	56,161	224,468	62,448	23,055	6,287	...	...
Petroleum ("Kerosene") ...	,,	79,418	12,575	82,739	12,420	3,321	...	...	155
Sago	,,	51,240	5,651	41,757	4,508	...	...	9,483	1,143
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	101,667,282	27,852	94,372,564	25,718	...	...	7,294,718	2,134
Sarongs	Nos.	7,110,022	10,417	6,977,555	10,265	...	...	132,467	152
Copra	Tons.	142,833	30,064	168,083	33,653	25,250	3,589	...	...
Pepper	,,	15,820	10,187	14,584	13,386	...	3,199	1,236	...
Rattans	,,	18,627	4,878	16,993	4,797	...	...	1,634	81
Preserved Pineapples	,,	38,320	7,423	36,916	7,012	...	...	1,404	411
Rubber Latex	Gals.	21,157	62	28,331	84	7,174	22	...	...

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926:—

—	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	(000's)	(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Malay States ...	2,272	107,739	90,519	88,843	100,656	232,636	128,130	219,454
Netherlands Indies ...	1,331	44,533	93,113	61,797	138,870	195,881	132,986	141,587
Other Countries ...	247	11,001	15,411	14,501	20,061	41,736	18,525	28,910
Total ...	3,850	163,273	199,043	165,141	259,587	470,253	279,641	389,951

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926:—

—	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	(000's)	(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
United Kingdom ...	498	25,465	14,020	14,755	20,540	54,170	34 260	64,262
United States of America ...	3,247	161,238	162,465	164,197	190,683	427,543	195,894	354,320
Other Countries ...	843	41,190	33,650	33,903	36,915	86,810	42,392	74,732
Total ...	4,588	227,893	210,135	212,855	248,138	568,523	272,546	493,314

Tin and Tin Ore were imported in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 from the following countries:—

—	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore
	* (in thousands)							
	Pkls	*Pkls*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*
Malay States ...	122	766	7,092	54,352	7,310	56,280	5,547	57,009
Netherlands Indies ...	1	369	6	24,395	3	25,342	...	23,429
Siam	9	160	426	10,052	304	10,200	195	9,694
Other Countries ...	...	58	14	3,462	4	3,937	3	3,756
Total ...	132	1,353	7,538	92,261	7,621	95,759	5,745	93,888

* Figures for 1923 are shown in thousands.

The exports of Tin in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 were as follows: —

—	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Pkls	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	(000's)	(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
United Kingdom ...	169	17,578	16,335	33,964	13,970	30,815	11,101	26,785
United States of America ..	803	81,737	46,194	97,620	45,120	99,895	44,513	108,013
Other Countries ...	202	20,402	18,163	37,593	20,004	44,519	20,726	50,743
Total ...	1,174	119,717	80,692	169,177	79,094	175,229	76,340	185,541

The imports of Para Rubber amounted to nearly 280,000 tons. Of this quantity 128,000 tons came from the Malay States, an increase of 28,000 tons, the value of which however was 219 million Dollars, or 13 million Dollars less than the corresponding figure for 1925. The Netherlands East Indies and other foreign countries contributed about 151,000 tons, a decrease of about 8,000, the value of which was nearly 68 million Dollars less than that of the 1925 imports from this source.

Out of the total quantity of Para Rubber exported, the United States of America took nearly 196,000 tons, being 6,000 tons more than in 1925, but they paid over 73 million Dollars less for it. The United Kingdom took about 14,000 tons more than in 1925, or an increase of about 75 per cent, the value being 10 million Dollars above the figure for the preceding year. Other countries also took collectively about 5,000 tons more, but paid 12 million Dollars less.

The imports of Tin Ore decreased by 1,870 tons and Tin by a similar quantity.

The exports of refined metal decreased by 2,750 tons in quantity but advanced by 10 million Dollars in value.

Imports of Cotton Piece Goods dropped by 20 million yards or, in value, by $5,000,000.

Other imported articles which showed an increase in value are Rice, Fish dried and salted, Milk, Motor Cars, Motor Spirit, Copra, Pepper and Rattans; but decreases were recorded in the value of Cigarettes, Arecanuts, Sugar, Kerosene, Sago and Gunnies.

The re-export trade in the above commodities was similiarly affected.

The export of canned pineapples decreased by 1,400 tons in quantity and by 411,000 Dollars in value.

The following table shows the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australia, countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America, and Japan:—

—	Imports				Exports			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
				(000's)				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	8,253	9,050	12,346	13,338	7,516	8,457	12,700	13,130
Australia and New Zealand ...	1,597	1,620	1,990	1,679	503	1,236	3,077	4,705
Continent of Europe.								
Austria ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Belgium ...	206	271	313	497	203	164	278	250
Denmark ...	103	104	71	108	571	406	224	298
Fiume ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
France ...	509	705	848	1,388	2,679	3,202	4,339	3,797
Germany ...	581	610	923	1,454	1,222	1 274	2,764	1,797
Holland ...	429	582	895	1,004	1,314	1,891	3,189	3,186
Italy ...	490	617	1,100	1,725	1,228	1,434	2,046	1,650
Norway ...	225	113	88	53	11	23	19	17
Sweden ...	28	77	68	60	66	142	180	268
Spain ...	8	4	9	15	341	445	440	414
Russia ...	11	3	1	...	...	...	17	6
Other European countries ...	...	...	4	25	...	..	...	8
United States of America ...	2,041	2,541	3,324	3,616	29,381	31,765	63,084	56,397
Japan ...	2,110	1,919	3,471	4,036	3,275	2,902	4,100	4,420

From the above table it will be seen that the value of the Import Trade from twelve of the countries mentioned increased. In the case of Japan the increase is accounted for by the value of coal imported. Imports from Norway and Sweden show a decrease. The exports to nearly all countries were less than in 1925.

United Kingdom.—The value of a number of articles imported from the United Kingdom increased, the principal being motor vehicles, malt liquors, woollen cloth, motor vehicle tyres, agricultural implements, and biscuits.

The export value of Para Rubber, Pepper and Illipinuts increased; but decreases are shown in nearly all the other principal articles of produce.

United States of America.—The principal imports from the United States of America which showed increases in value were Petroleum and Galvanised Iron; Motor Cars and Cigarettes showed a decrease.

There was a rise in the export value of Copra, Tin and Gutta Inferior, but a decline in that of Para Rubber.

Japan.—The principal articles of import which showed an increase were Coal, Rubber Cases and Dried Fish; and among exports Rubber and Tin.

Netherlands East Indies.—A diminution in the value of trade with the Netherlands East Indies was accountable to the variation in the quantity and value of rubber received from there:—

Imports				*Exports*			
1923	*1924*	*1925*	*1926*	*1923*	*1924*	*1925*	*1926*
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(000,000's)				(000,000's)			
$194	$227	$397	$361	$78·9	$83·6	$113·2	$112·3

Among imports Pepper, Coal, Timber, Copra, Illipinuts, Motor Spirit showed increased value; and among exports Rice, Dried Fish and Milk.

Continent of Europe.—A slight increase was registered in aggregate trade with the Continental nations.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 61 new Companies were registered, with a capital of $30,085,600 of which 46 were private Companies, with a capital of $13,085,600.

At the end of the year 456 Companies remained on the register of which 53 were in liquidation; the total subscribed capital of the 390 Companies carrying on business was $177,294,095.

Five hundred and one Companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 387 are British, 27 are Japanese, 30 are Dutch, 2 are German and 28 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 15 Companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign Companies. Sixty-eight Companies do Fire Insurance business.

Bankruptcies

There were 51 trade bankruptcies of which 44 were Chinese. In 26 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In three cases liabilities exceeded $100,000, in 7 cases $50,000 and 12 other cases $10,000.

One Deed of Arrangement was registered.

(*c*) FORESTS

The area of reserved forests was increased by about 306 acres on a resurvey of Bukit Sedanan Reserve in Malacca. The total area of reserved forests is now 111,477 acres, equivalent to 11·55 per cent of the total area of the Colony. As a result of an examination of the Singapore forests it was decided not to abolish the reserved forests, but to develop the mangrove areas, and to utilise the non-mangrove areas for the growing of food products by squatters under arrangements to be made by the Conservator of Forests and the Commissioner of Lands, Singapore. It was also agreed that a Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests should be appointed to Singapore.

Revenue and expenditure were $58,259 and $53,400 respectively, compared with $47,982 and $56,318 in 1925, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was, therefore, a surplus of $4,859 compared with a deficit of $8,336 in 1925. Revenue rose in Malacca and fell in Singapore, Penang and Dindings.

The out-turn of timber was 10,819 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 35,870 tons, compared with 25,016 and 28,441 tons in the previous year.

Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of $3,804, compared with $4,059 in 1925.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 125, but in 44 cases the offenders were undetected. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $748 and compensation to the amount of $276 was awarded for damage to the forests.

(*d*) Agriculture

Rubber.—When the year opened, the shortage of supplies of rubber was continuing to keep the price at the unusually high figure to which it had risen at the close of the previous year, so that Standard Smoked sheet on the Singapore market stood at $1.54 per lb. The price declined steadily, however, during the first two months of the year and had fallen to 85 cents per lb. by the end of February. During March it rose again to $1.08 per lb. in the third week, but thereafter declined steadily to 65 cents per lb. at the beginning of May. It subsequently continued steady between 65 and 73 cents per lb. until the middle of November when there was a further slight decline of about 5 cents per lb., the price closing at 65 cents per lb. at the end of the year. The exportable allowance of standard production was increased from 85 to 100 per cent on the 1st February. It remained at 100 per cent until the end of October, but, since the average price for the Restriction quarter ending with that month was below 1s. 9d. in London, it was reduced to 80 per cent for the quarter commencing on the 1st November.

The average price realised for rubber during the year was sufficient to maintain all properties in good order and to yield a profit to owners or shareholders. Many of the smaller holdings are now reasonably tidy and free from excess of undergrowth; there has been a further considerable improvement in the condition of those in the Dindings.

The first four months of the year were remarkably hot and dry, causing the most thorough and simultaneous "wintering" (annual leaf fall) of the rubber trees throughout the Peninsula that has been seen for several years. This had a beneficial effect in checking Mouldy Rot Disease (*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*), both in Malacca, and

in the two localities where it had recently appeared in Province Wellesley. In August there was an outbreak of this disease in a new locality in Singapore Island. It spread rapidly during wet weather at the end of the year, so that inspections made in December showed that many properties in the centre and east of the Island had recently become infected. This outbreak is receiving attention. Persistent enforcement of control measures has prevented any further spread of the disease in Malacca. In Province Wellesley it disappeared entirely from one of the infected areas, but in the other, during wet weather in the last quarter of the year, it spread gradually in all directions, in spite of the activities of the Inspecting Officers. Out-breaks of Black Stripe disease (*Phytophthora sp.*) were reported from three estates in Malacca, one of which was somewhat severe. These were all successfully controlled. No other diseases of rubber trees call for comment.

Coconuts.—At the beginning of January the price of copra was $12 per pikul (133⅓ lb.) on the Singapore market, but it then fell rapidly to $11.10 at the end of the month. By the end of February it had risen again steadily to $12.30 and it subsequently varied slightly between $11.60 and $12.30 until the end of July. During the remainder of the year the price showed a slow downward tendency with occasional recoveries, resulting in a closing price of $10.10 at the end of December. The average price for the year was about $11.80 as compared with $11.95 in 1924 and $12.15 in 1925. The industry has continued in the same satisfactory condition in which it has been during the last four years.

Records of yields from individual palms show the value of selection work on this crop. Palms selected as high yielders have continued to demonstrate this character convincingly.

The Black Coconut Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) has been kept well under control by routine inspections in Malacca. Similar action has resulted in a further reduction in the number of breeding grounds suitable to this insect in Province Wellesley and Penang.

On one estate in the Province there was a further outbreak of the new disease of coconuts referred to in last year's report, which is now known as the Salmon-pink Disease. The Mycologist has continued his examinations of infected palms, both from this estate and from various parts of the Peninsula and has found certain fungi associated with the somewhat variable symptoms recorded. Further

work is still necessary for the full elucidation of the cause and development of this disease, or combination of diseases, the clue to which is proving unusually elusive.

Padi.—In Penang and Province Wellesley the yield from the 1925 - 26 crop was well below the average, owing to the damage done by unfavourable weather conditions and to a less extent by pests. The Fulgorid insect, *Sogata pallescens*, which appeared so suddenly in December, 1925, disappeared as quickly in the following month, but in the interval it considerably augmented the damage already done to the late planted crop by flooding. In Malacca the 1925 - 26 crop gave a fair average return over the whole Settlement, but approximately 1,500 acres of padi were entirely destroyed by floods.

Planting operations for the 1926 - 27 season in Province Wellesley and Penang were again delayed by lack of water, the whole year having been unusually dry. Even up to the end of the first week of December, there was insufficient water in the rice fields and the plants had in consequence not made good growth. Continuous, but not unduly heavy, rains experienced for 3 or 4 days in the latter half of December caused a marked improvement, as a result of which an average crop was expected for the season. Areas totalling about 500 acres in the Northern District of the Province were flooded with water from swollen rivers and were inundated at the close of the year. It was feared that most of the padi in these areas would be destroyed. In Malacca the padi planted during the year was in a very forward condition throughout the Settlement, the water supply having been plentiful. A good average crop was expected, though about 400 acres of padi had been destroyed by floods.

In Malacca during the 1926 - 27 season caterpillars of *Nymphula depunctalis* in nurseries and newly planted fields, and the padi fly, *Leptocorisa spp*, on young grain have been the only two insect pests of any importance. Both in Malacca and the Province rats have been very numerous and have done extensive damage. These animals have occurred in unusually large numbers this year throughout the west of the Peninsula, possibly owing to the dry weather that occurred during their main breeding season early in the year.

As was anticipated, the crop obtained at the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca for the season 1925 - 26 was below that of the previous season, mainly owing to damage done by floods and by rats which appeared

in large numbers at a time when the depth of the water rendered trapping and poisoning impracticable. The results of the experiments in progress were carefully recorded. During the 1926-27 season caterpillars of *Nymphula depunctalis* attacked nurseries and newly planted plots, necessitating the employment of suitable measures to destroy them and to stimulate the attacked plants to recover from their effects. Subsequently the padi throughout the Station looked well, until rats invaded it in very large numbers from surrounding rushes and jungle and did considerable damage, in spite of the various methods used to destroy them. All the experiments are being continued, including the selection, commenced in the previous season, of pure lines of local varieties.

The results of the manuring experiments at Pekan Darat Test Station in Province Wellesley for the season 1925-26 were carefully recorded. The crop reaped was fairly satisfactory. A portion of it, amounting to 2,425 gallons of the successful pure strain Radin 7, was disturbed for seed purposes to growers in the Province, the Dindings and parts of the Federated Malay States.

During the 1926-27 season the prevailing dry weather in the Province affected this Station equally with other padi land. Planting was late and earlier growth was poor, there being no water on the land. Rain at the end of the year saved the situation and caused a marked improvement in growth and general appearance of the padi.

Cloves.—Young clove bushes are being planted in existing gardens and several new gardens are being established in Balik Pulau district of Penang. Damage by Cerambycid borers continues.

Fruit.—In Malacca there was a heavy, mid-year crop of fruit of which considerable quantities were exported to Singapore.

Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes).—The destruction of Water Hyacinth on Crown Lands was started in Province Wellesley during the year. It was found that small streams forming the sources of the Prai river were full of this weed and, in consequence, operations were commenced in one of these streams. In Malacca clumps of the weed on alienated land were destroyed, in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 16 of 1925 (Noxious Plants).

Agricultural Show.—A successful Agricultural Show, to which was attached a Trades Section, was held in Malacca on June 26th and 27th.

School Gardens.—Good progress is being made, both teachers and pupils evincing a keen interest in their gardens.

(*e*) Land

(i).—Land tenure

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the present policy is to restrict the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In

Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99 years but there are a few leases of 999 years and a few Statutory Grants.

Occupied land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99 year leases from the Crown in the case of Estates but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for the alienation of foreshore.

Land is obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure. Land to be held under Grant or Lease is generally sold by auction. The principal land Revenue consists of rents on Grants or Leases and of Mukim Assessment on land held under Customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE

The Revenue in 1925 and 1926 was thus distributed:—

——		Land Revenue.	Reimbursements.	Land Sales.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1925	349,337	26,079	56,514	431,930
	1926	376,364	43,800	70,673	490,837
Penang ...	1925	227,089	26,835	416,341	670,265
	1926	243,882	29,030	12,453	285,365
Malacca ...	1925	610,997	8,014	70,488	689,499
	1926	663,685	9,213	439,407	1,112,305
Labuan ...	1925	4,377	1,293	217	5,887
	1926	5,164	2,793	936	8,893
Total ...	1925	1,191,800	62,221	543,560	1.797,581
	1926	1,289,095	84,836	523,469	1,897,400

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table;—

—	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Singapore	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	731 1 07	1,730 0 04	1,355 0 27	1,059 1 29	441 1 00
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	84,822	123,743	46,139	12,183	13,738
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	114	64	57	41	60
Premia paid ...	$188,476	$131,476.00	$70,399.00	$87,631.00	$71,241
Penang	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,689 1 28	525 3 24	1,284 1 22	1,120 3 6.45	2,134 1 11
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	Nil.	155	19,901	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	394	127	146 S. Grants (& 5-99 years' Leases.)	171 S. Grants (27-99 years' Leases.) 4-30 do.	391 Statutory Grants, 10 Penang Hill Leases 25-99 years' Leases 1 10 years' Lease
Premia paid ...	$26,555.50	$12,978.16	$18,464.00	$410,795.00	$14,165.72
Malacca	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,124 0 31	2,348 0 16.96	2,712 2 18.64	3,686 3 11.02	737 1 03.75
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	
,, Town Lots ..	21,600	Nil.	59,350½	Nil.	6 3 35
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	116	273	127 & 1 Lease	80 & 1 Lease	48 & 34 Leases
Premia paid ...	$52,843.00	$72,345.00	$202,830.00	$254,040.10	$57,927
Labuan	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	228 3 09	59 2 35	135 0 20	146 3 00	457 3 24
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	Nil.	0 0 24¾	Nil.	0 2 01
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	Nil.	91	50	52	124
		(55 new Grants. 17 Sub-division Grants. 19 in exchange for old grants.)	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)	(22 new Grants, 24 Sub-division Grants and 6 in exchange for old grants),	(87 new Grants 34 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants.
Premia paid ...	$114.90	$49.40	$209.20	$217.20	$936.75

(*f*) Fisheries

The Government trawler *Tongkol* arrived in Singapore on the 2nd May, 1926. On the 28th of the same month trawling operations were commenced. Grounds have been found, where a ton of fish per day's absence from port can be caught. The average price obtained per ton of such fish has been $336 or 20 cents per kati. Only a small portion of the vast trawlable area has as yet been tested.

The local fisheries have been troubled by unusual weather conditions, which have affected many of the fisheries of the Straits of Malacca adversely. Crustacea and shell-fish have generally been scarce and many fish, such as the pomfrets, have not been on their usual grounds in their usual abundance. The winds have not blown with their accustomed regularity and the result has often been seas unsuited to the frail craft used by the Straits fishermen. The use of power in fish-carriers is on the increase and is now no longer confined to the Japanese. A number of Chinese dealers have adopted this means of conveyance of catch from the sea to convenient markets.

III.—Legislation

Thirty-five Ordinances were passed during the year 1926. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and twenty-five were purely Amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance (No. 1) which provides for the granting of gratuities with reduced pensions to persons who have been in the public service. It also provides for granting death gratuities to the estates of pensionable officers who die while in the service.

(ii) The Postal Department Titles Ordinance (No. 7) which alters the titles of the Postmaster-General and the Assistant Postmaster-General, on account of the co-ordination of the Postal services of the Colony and of the Federated Malay States.

(iii) The Boy Scouts Association Ordinance (No. 10) which prohibits the sale and use by unauthorised persons of badges adopted by the Association.

(iv) The Registration of Schools Ordinance (No. 8) which consolidates and amends the law relating to the registration of schools.

(v) The Land Officers (Powers) Ordinance (No. 11) which removes doubts as to the powers of certain Land Officers and validates the past acts of officers who, although appointed to be Collectors of Land Revenue, have not been appointed to the particular offices contemplated by certain of the Ordinances which they have administered.

(vi) The Architects Ordinance (No. 12) which provides for the registration of architects in the Colony.

(vii) The Emergency Regulations Ordinance (No. 22) which enables the Government to take extraordinary powers in the event of a grave local emergency arising.

(viii) The Trust Companies Ordinance (No. 31) which provides for the registration and regulation of Trust Companies.

The Principal Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Census (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which empowers the taking of a census of the inhabitants of any Settlement or of any area in any Settlement, as distinct from the whole Colony.

(ii) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which requires children who have attained the age of seven years to be re-vaccinated. It also provides for compulsory mass vaccination upon the occurrence of an epidemic of small-pox in any administrative area.

(iii) The Statute Laws (Revised Edition) Operation Ordinance (No. 6) which amends the Revised Edition of the Laws of the Colony prepared under the provisions of the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1925.

(iv) The Fisheries (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which provides for making rules for the better control of turtle fisheries.

(v) The Second-hand Dealers (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which enables conditions to be attached to grants of exemption from the provisions of the principal Ordinance.

(vi) The Volunteer Force (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) which enables the Colour Service of a volunteer to be extended for any period not

exceeding four years provided that it shall not continue after the volunteer attains to forty years of age.

(vii) The Sale of Food and Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) which permits the importation under licence of separated or skimmed milk.

(viii) The Agricultural Pests (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18) which gives inspecting officers increased powers for the purpose of preventing and eradicating disease among plants.

(ix) The Former Enemy Aliens (Disabilities Removal) Ordinance (No. 20) which removes the disabilities imposed by legislation upon former enemy aliens.

(x) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) which includes modern engines of war in the list of articles the exportation of which may be prohibited, and gives powers of entry and search to the Chief Police Officers and to licensing officers.

(xi) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 24) which imposes upon persons in charge of vehicles a duty to obey directive signs placed on public roads by order of the Chief Police Officer for the purpose of controlling traffic.

(xii) The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 27) which limits the registration of criminals to those who are convicted of offences punishable with rigorous imprisonment for not less than two years or of such other offences as the Governor in Council may from time to time declare to be registrable.

(xiii) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 28) which requires pilgrims journeying between the Colony and the Hedjaz to provide themselves with certificates of identity.

(xiv) The Hospitals Board (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 29) which enlarges the Hospitals Board.

(xv) The Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 32) which gives effect to the resolution passed by the International Convention for the suppression of the circulation of, and traffic in, obscene publications. This Ordinance adopts other amendments which have been made to the Indian Penal Code.

(xvi) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 33) which provides for the continuance of the principal Ordinance which otherwise would have expired on the 31st December, 1926.

(xvii) The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 34) which was passed in order that the law relating to labour in the two Administrations may be assimilated as far as possible.

IV.—Communications

(*a*) Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services

The work of the Postal and Telegraph Sections of the Post Office during the year 1926 showed a marked increase over the preceding year. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges continue to increase.

Good progress has been made with the building of the new General Post Office at Singapore.

Experiments with short wave wireless telegraphy were made during the year and the results have been satisfactory. The wireless station at Penaga (Penang) receives press telegrams daily from the station at Rugby. These telegrams are published in the leading newspapers throughout the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

The postal rates are as follows:—

—	Letters.		Postcards.		Printed Papers.
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single.	Reply.	For every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 „	6 „	4 „	8 „	„
Local ...	2 ozs. / 4 cts.	Each succeeding 2 ozs. / 2 cts.	2 „	4 „	2 „

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 20,978,000, an average of 21·83 per inhabitant, as against 19·13, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 16,274,000 as compared with 13,314,000 in 1925. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year

1926 was 626,561 as compared with 570,740 in 1925 whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph Lines was 486,005 as compared with 438,143 in 1925. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges increased from 1445 to 1707.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1926 was $3,462,435.09, an increase of 13 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1925. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $217.61. There was a profit on the year's working of $41,755.39. The estimated present value of the investments is $3,641,434.16. These figures are subject to revision after audit.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices, at Penang, Malacca, and Labuan, there are 42 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tasek Glugor, Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley), Tebong (Malacca). Of these 28 are Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1926 to $7,934,342.95, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands East India, Ceylon, and the United States.

Eleven Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5, thence to Madras	(3)
		,, ,, Colombo	(2)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	2, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1, Direct thence to Manila	(1)
		,, North China	(1)
		,, Macao	(1)
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)

There are also Government Telegraph Lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 228$\frac{5}{8}$ miles of Telegraph Lines, 25$\frac{1}{4}$ miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley containing 112$\frac{3}{4}$ miles of wire and 1$\frac{1}{2}$ miles between Singapore and Johore containing 7$\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire. There are 2,326 miles of Telephone Line in

Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,656 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office. There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony situated at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Penang) respectively. The station at Paya Lebar communicates with fixed stations at Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island and with ships. The Penaga Station communicates with Rangoon and with ships.

(*b*) Communication by Sea

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India Steamers *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards, *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon. In addition there is a weekly service to Europe by the Steamship Company Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and a service at frequent intervals by Holt, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines. With China and Japan there is fortnightly communication by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and the Societe des Affreteurs Indo-Chinois, and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong frequently, and direct by Spanish Packets, Steamship Co. Nederland, and British Packets occasionally; with Bangkok frequently by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports frequently by steamers of the Netherlands India Company's Steamship Co., and of the Nederland's and Rotherdam Lloyd Co.; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australian Steam Navigation Company, Austral East Indies Line, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence by Orient Packets: with Madras (direct) and other ports on the Coromandel Coast fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days.

(c) Railways

A railway traverses the island of Singapore and connects, by a causeway across the Johore Straits which was opened for traffic in October, 1923, with the peninsular system, thus affording rail communication with Johore, the Federated Malay States, Malacca, Province Wellesley, Penang, Kedah, Perlis and Siam.

(d) Roads

The metalled Roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) measure 529·5 miles, distributed as follows:—

Singapore	100·2
Penang and the Dindings ...	96·2
Province Wellesley	172·9
Malacca	152·2
Labuan	8·0

Of the 529·5 miles of metalled road 293 miles are now treated with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads there are 257 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained in the various Settlements.

The resurfacing of all metalled roads with granite was continued a further 4 miles in Singapore, 3·5 miles in the Dindings, 0·3 miles in Province Wellesley, 9·9 miles in Malacca and 0·9 miles in Labuan.

(e) Public Works

No large works were finished in Singapore during the year but good progress was made with the New Post Office and New General Hospital, and a New Mental Asylum was commenced some five miles beyond the outskirts of the town.

In Penang the New English School at Green Lane was finished, and that at Bukit Mertajam, Province Wellesley was also completed. The Water Supply Works for the Penang Hill are well in hand.

In Malacca a New Rest House is nearly complete, substantial improvements to ten Vernacular Schools have been effected and the New Hospital at Jasin finished. Additional Water Works for the supply of Malacca Town have made excellent progress.

A second bucket dredger was obtained during the year and did good work in deepening the channels leading to the Singapore and Malacca Rivers.

V.—Immigration

(i) Chinese

The number of immigrants arriving in the Colony from China reached the record figure of 348,593, an increase of 62·3 per cent over the number for 1925 and exceeding that for 1911, the previous highest year, by 78,739 or 29·1 per cent.

Adult males formed 72.5 per cent and adult females 14.3 per cent of the immigrants.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 120,308 and the excess of immigrants over emigrants was 228,285 or 65.4 per cent.

The increase was due to the continued prosperity of Malaya's major industries, the consequent strong demand for labour, and the unsettled conditions in South China.

Women and children arriving numbered 95,715 which again constitutes a record.

(ii) Southern Indians

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 174,795 as compared with 90,708 in 1925.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 66,164 as against 43,144 in 1925.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*
Assisted Immigrants	30,234	43,147	70,198	149,414
Other Immigrants ...	19,268	18,905	20,510	25,381
	49,502	62,052	90,708	174,795

The assisted immigrants consisted of 127,792 adults and 21,622 minors. Of the adults 98,136 were men and 29,656 were women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was satisfactory, the death rate in Province Wellesley being 13·56 per mille and in the Dindings 13·57 per mille. There were no deaths on the few estates in Penang.

During 1926, 2,642 adult and 563 minor decrepit or destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The assessment rate was fixed at $4 for the whole year.

The Indian Immigration Fund receipts amounted to $3,042,986.09 and the expenditure was $3,624,057.64, the difference being met by a corresponding decrease in cash balances.

(iii).—Netherlands Indian

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 3,165. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force.

VI.—Criminal and Police

Statistics

The total number of seizable offences reported to the Police during 1926, was 5,497 of which 5,331 were admitted as true.

Of the admitted reports convictions were obtained in 1,609 cases, and 135 cases awaited trial in 1927. Under the heading of "serious offences against the person" there was a decrease of 11 in the number of murders, but an increase of 134 reports of hurt caused by dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was an increase of 41 in the number of robberies, an increase of 2 in the number of gang robberies, a decrease of 57 in the number of reports of housebreaking and a decrease of 360 in the number of reports of theft.

There were 48,429 non-seizable offences reported to the Police in 1926. The number of persons arrested in connection with both seizable and non-seizable offences was 23,069 males and 450 females. There was a decrease of 42 in the number of extortions.

Secret Societies and Crime

The feud between Tiu Chiu factions continued in Singapore during January. Combined work by the Protectorate and the Police resulted in the arrest of a considerable number of men. A settlement by the parties concerned ended the trouble. Since then Tiu Chius have not caused anxiety except for a brief period during the 7th moon celebration. There was a certain amount of inter-society fighting on the Hokkien side in February and March and again in October. Internal disputes were the cause. Fighting did not attain serious dimensions.

Trouble caused by Cantones societies was the feature of the year. As in the case of the Tiu Chiu trouble the use of firearms was general and indiscriminate. From

April to June an old feud between two groups was revived and there were several serious affrays in which firearms were freely used. The trouble ceased with the killing of a gunman in Sago Street in June, following a fight with a detective patrol.

Other groups increased the public alarm by a series of armed gang robberies in which murder was committed.

By August nearly half of those concerned, including some of the most dangerous, had been arrested. There was no recrudescence.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,152 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca): 2,572 were admitted during the year as compared with 3,474 during 1925 and 2,750 were discharged during the year. Nine hundred and seventy-four remained at the end of the year. There were 134 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 342 were admitted and 440 were discharged. Of the 440 vagrants discharged 122 found employment and 260 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at husk-beating, and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Medical Department

A. VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of 1926 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is:—

		Estimated 1925.	*Estimated 1926.*
Singapore	...	497,277	517,082
Penang	...	319,979	324,316
Malacca	...	177,010	184,437
Total	...	994,266	1,025,835

Public Health

The number of births registered during the year was 33,694 and the number of deaths 32,633. The deaths exceeded the births in Singapore and Penang. Exceptionally hot and dry weather was experienced from March to August and led to a great increase in deaths from Malaria and Pneumonia and to a rise in the infantile mortality.

The percentage of males born was 54·12. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 53·98 per thousand amongst Chinese.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 205·47 per thousand births as against 184·62 in 1925, and 204·76 in 1924.

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year) was 4,783 as against 3,648 and 3,832 in the two previous years: Dietetic errors, tetanus and malaria are common causes of convulsions.

The crude death-rate 31·81 per thousand, though below the average of 32·35 per thousand for the last 10 years, was the highest since 1920: the death-rate for 1925, 27·26 per thousand was the lowest on record.

Malaria was responsible for 6,452 deaths as against 4,209 in 1925, while fever unclassified accounted for 2,662 deaths against 2,276 in 1925.

The increased prevalence of malaria was due to the deficient rainfall which left many anopheline breeding grounds unflushed, enabling the larvæ to come to maturity.

The highest death-rate in any month was 39·04 in June. With the advent of sufficient rain in September, the death-rate dropped to 28·99 and 29·72 in the last 2 months of the year.

In 1911 which approached 1926 in dryness, the death-rate for the year was 46·46 per thousand. But for the preventive measures which have been steadily carried out since 1920, the death-rate might have been considerably higher.

Two thousand six hundred and ninety deaths were due to Tuberculosis against 2,624 in the previous years.

Pneumonia caused 2,568 deaths against 2,009 in 1925: only 210 deaths were recorded as due to influenza.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,098 deaths as against 957, 904 and 1,388 in the years 1925, 1924 and 1923.

Dysentery caused 1,015 deaths classified as follows:—

Dysentery, Amœbic	... ...	280
,, Bacillary	... ...	293
,, Unclassified	...	442
Total	...	1,015

as against 855 deaths in 1925.

Infectious Disease.—There were 16 deaths from small-pox, 13 deaths from Cholera, 7 deaths from Plague and 6 deaths from Cerebro-spinal Fever, excluding deaths in Maritime Quarantine Stations.

B. HEALTH BRANCH

Port Health

One thousand six hundred and fifty visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 885 visits to ships in Penang, by Port Health Officers, who examined 832,972 persons. One hundred and sixty-four thousand five hundred and seventy persons were retained under observation in the two quarantine stations, mostly for short periods.

The number of persons from ships treated for dangerous infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 103 for Cholera and 57 for Small-pox; and in Penang, 89 for Cholera, 5 for Small-pox and one for Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Rural Conservancy

The Health Officers in each Settlement continued to supervise the sanitation and conservancy in rural area.

Anti-Malarial Work

The sum of $206,783.89 was spent on anti-mosquito and anti-malarial measures in a general reduction of all harmful mosquitoes. Many areas formerly malarious are becoming free from this disease. The chief item of expenditure has been permanent drainage.

C. KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 199 and the number of students 102.

The new College was opened by His Excellency the Governor on 13th February, 1926, in the presence of a large gathering representative of all nationalities.

Colonel R. A. NEEDHAM, C.I.E., travelling inspector of the General Medical Council, made a visit of inspection to the College in December.

D. HOSPITALS

The new General Hospital, Singapore, with accommodation for 800 patients, was opened by His Excellency the Governor on 29th March, 1926. The new District Hospitals at Jasin and Alor Gajah in Malacca, were also occupied during the year. Sixty-eight thousand and fourteen in-patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony, against 58,490 in 1925: the death-rate was 8·42 per cent against 7·26. The malaria admissions and deaths were more than double those of the previous year. The figures are—1925, 7,166 admissions, 431 deaths—1926, 14,293 admissions and 984 deaths.

Admissions for venereal disease were 5,371 with 115 deaths.

E. DISPENSARIES

Out-patients numbered 159,903 and attendances 312,090 as against 154,420 out-patients and 273,841 attendances in 1925.

Out-patients treated for venereal diseases were 22,245 as compared with 20,089 in 1925 and the attendances, which showed a large increase, were 54,090.

The number of out-patients treated for Yaws was 8,358 as against 15,133. This disease is steadily decreasing owing to widespread and effective treatment of the sufferers.

The attendances at the Women's and Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 32,247 compared with 26,904 in 1925.

The number of cases treated by the travelling motor dispensary in Province Wellesley, was 19,471 as against 8,639, and by the travelling motor dispensary in Malacca, 8,369 as against 9,417 in 1925.

F. LEPERS

The total number of lepers treated in the Leper Asylums was 1,022 and the total deaths 131 as against 1,085 treated and 143 deaths in 1925.

With the continuance of modern treatment, the death-rate has been halved since 1920.

G. MENTAL DISEASES HOSPITAL

Eight hundred and thirty-four male and 199 female lunatics were treated during 1926 in these institutions. The number remaining at the end of the year was 588 males and 135 females.

The New Mental Diseases Hospital on Trafalgar Estate, which is in course of erection, will be completed in 1928.

VIII.—Education

There were 17 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 6,995 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $848,697.

There were 29 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 14,746 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to $753,133.

The expenditure on the 212 Government Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 17,719 was $431,063.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 12 Aided Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 1,438, the grants to which for 1926 amounted to $14,936.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,397 as against 1,344 in 1924 and 1,499 in 1925.

Fourteen students passed the final third year examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, compared with 32 in 1925.

There were 12 student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools. As soon as Raffles College is opened in Singapore, student teachers will be trained in the Colony.

Fifteen candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang passed as fit in the opinion of the examining body to study for an honours' degree at Oxford or Cambridge. One proposes to study Law and the other Engineering.

The European Staff list showed a number of vacancies throughout the year chiefly as a result of the creation of supernumerary appointments to provide for officers going on leave and for officers seconded to Kedah and Johore.

During the year four European Masters, appointed to the Malayan Educational service, were allocated to the Colony. Two officers retired on reaching the age limit. Five new European Mistresses were allocated to the Colony.

The appointment of an Art Master for Singapore and of a Physical Instructor for the Colony has led to continued improvements in these important branches of the school curriculum.

A new elementary Government English School for 480 boys was opened at Teluk Kurau, Singapore.

A new secondary Government English School for Bukit Mertajam, Province Wellesley, was completed at the end of the year.

The building of a new Government Girls' School for Singapore was commenced.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils and instruction in hygiene are improving public health.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to satisfy a local want. In the last term the total enrolment was 436. Instruction was given in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mechanics, Mechanical and Survey Drawing, Building Construction, Electricity and Magnetism, and General Science. The science classes attracted a larger and better class of students than in former years. Nineteen students passed the examination of the London Chamber of Commerce held in November, 1925 and twenty-one passed the examination of May, 1926.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of $39,768.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was $13,023.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 325 with 20,150 pupils.

Two Chinese schools in Singapore received grants-in-aid during 1926 amounting to $1,967; in Penang three received grants amounting to $11,159.

Raffles College.—The accounts at the end of 1926 showed $1,579,928 to the credit of the General Fund and the funds of Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing $1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to $63,000 have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

Considerable progress has been made in the building of the Principal's and Professors' houses, a Hostel and the Science and Administration Blocks, which it is hoped will be completed by the end of the year 1927.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The financial position of the Colony remained satisfactory. The aggregate value of Trade for the year was approximately the same as in 1925, a record year. This is noteworthy in view of the large decrease in the aggregate value of the trade in Rubber.

Restriction of Rubber exports was in force throughout the year. The average price realised was satisfactory.

The year was remarkable for the large influx of Chinese immigrants, due to the prosperity of Malaya and the demand for labour. Arrivals of Indian immigrants were also in excess of previous years.

Unusually dry weather was experienced in the early part of the year and resulted in increased mortality. At the close of the year the rains were exceptionally heavy.

The Honour of Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George was conferred upon Mr. W. PEEL, Resident Councillor, Penang, and Mr. R. O. WINSTEADT, D. LITT., Director of Education.

In June, Mr. W. PEEL, C.M.G., was appointed to be Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, and was succeeded as Resident Councillor, Penang, by Mr. R. SCOTT. Mr. MEADOWS FROST, M.C., succeeded Mr. SCOTT as Resident Councillor, Malacca.

Mr. HAYES MARRIOTT, C.M.G., continued to officiate as Colonial Secretary throughout the year.

E. C. H. WOLFF,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements

SINGAPORE, *2nd June*, 1927.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1927.

Prefatory Note.

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

Singapore

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

Cocos or Keeling Islands

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ and 12° 45′ south, and in longitude approximately 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements

by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employees of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

Labuan

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907. It became a separate Settlement in 1912.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

Labuan has a fine port, Victoria Harbour (latitude 55° 16′ north, longitude 115° 15′ east), safe, and easy of access.

Penang

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

The Dindings

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude 4° 15′ north and longitude 100° 35′ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

MALACCA

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

TOTAL AREA

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

CLIMATE

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore during 1927 was 79·6° F; in Penang 82·3° F; in Province Wellesley 81·9° F; in Malacca 79° F; and in Labuan 82°.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 87·3° and 74·3° F. The maximum recorded was 92·0° F. on 14th and 17th March and on 31st May at Singapore. The minimum was 70·0° F. on 3rd February. The minimum in Singapore was 68·5° F. in May and June.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in Penang vary between 94·5° and 70·3° F. The maximum recorded was 98·0° F. on 5th February, 1927. The minimum was 70·0° F. on 22nd October, 1927.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1916 to 1925, it is found in Singapore that there is an annual average of 173 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 2526·7 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1913, with 3,442·37 m.m., and the driest was 1877, with 1,482·7 m.m. The average for the sixty-four years is 2,248·5 m.m. In Penang the average annual rainfall of the last three years is 178 wet days and the average rainfall for the same period is 3222 m.m. The actual number of wet days in Penang in 1927 was 172 and the rainfall 2276 m.m. In Labuan the average annual rainfall is about 127·34 inches.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, *viz*:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1926	1927
Singapore	...	2,172·38	2,876·43
Penang ...	...	3,033·00	2,276·00
Malacca ...	...	1,945·08	2,623·80
Province Wellesley	...	2,612·00	2,591·19
Labuan ...	...	3,182·00	3,581·5
Dindings ...	...	1,559·00	1,491·70

B.—HISTORY

Malacca

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century, but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by Napoleon the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah, who stipulated that the sum of $6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River. It is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823,

it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

Labuan

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay is the language of the Malays of the Colony. Moreover Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca*, though to-day it shows signs of being superseded by English as the language of commerce. It belongs to the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. To the western branch of this family belong Malay as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian. With Islam

Erratum.

Page 8, last line.

For—The koyan equals $533\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
(40 pikuls)

Read—The koyan equals $5{,}333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
(40 pikuls)

the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn. They are divided into Hokkien, (Amoy, Chiangchiu and Chuanchiu districts), spoken by about 44.4% of the total Chinese population of the Colony; Cantonese, 23.4%; Tiochiu, 15.4%; Hakka, 7.6%; Hailam, 6%; Foochow, 1.6%; Hokchhia, .8%; Henghua, .4%; and Shanghai and other northern dialects, .4%.

The Indian population of the Straits Settlements at the last census was 104,628, of whom 96,835 or 92 per cent were Southern Indians.

There has been an increase of some ten per cent in the Indian population since 1921, but the relative proportions of the various elements remain the same. Of the Southern Indians, who form the bulk of the Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, *i.e.*, Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Canarese. The vast majority (about 94 per cent) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Telugus slightly outnumber the Malayalis, while the number of Canarese is negligible.

Three quarters of the remaining Indian population of the Colony consist of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani. The balance comprises a few hundreds from the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and also a few hundred Burmese.

D.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, ½ cent and ¼ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter two denominations. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5, and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for the bankers' clearances.

During the War and for some years after notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by Order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at *2s. 4d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of *2s.* $4\frac{3}{16}$*d.* to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of *2s.* $3\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

E.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) Standard of Extension, the Imperial yard.

(*b*) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(*c*) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese Steelyards (called "Dachings") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal measures used by these classes with their relation to English standards:—

Local term	*Relation to English standard*	
The chupah	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	equals	1 gallon.
The tahil	equals	$1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	equals	$1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	equals	$133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	equals	$533\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.

I.—General

At the close of 1926 there was a surplus of $62½ millions. This was reduced by the end of the year under review to $61 millions as a result of the year's working. The financial position is therefore sound: but, in view of the fact that the annually recurrent expenditure is overtaking the normal annual revenue, the future is likely to see a steady diminution in the surplus balances, if the increasing demand for large public works is to be satisfied.

In spite of the fall in rubber prices there was little diminution in the activity of the land market and prices of town and suburban lands continued to rise, although agricultural land was not in such demand as in 1926. Considerable areas were acquired, as the purchases for schemes of town improvement approved in 1925 were completed during the year under review and as large acquisitions were also made for the Military Authorities.

The modified Rubber Restriction Scheme, which had been introduced on the 1st November 1926, making the pivotal price 1/9 (75 cents), continued in operation throughout the year. The price of rubber was steady at 65 cents to 70 cents until July and September when there was a period of depression. Towards the end of the year the price again rose to 70 cents. The failure of the price to reach the pivotal figure is attributed to the increase of London stocks. One satisfactory feature of the year was the substantial decrease of the large carry over of export rights accumulated by estates, when the percentage of release was 100. Rubber smuggling increased to a regrettable extent and measures were adopted with a view to suppressing it.

His Majesty the KING was graciously pleased to appoint His Excellency Sir L. N. Guillemard, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George on the occasion of the New Year Honours. The Birthday Honours list included the names of Mr. Hayes Marriott, C.M.G., and Mr. Song Ong Siang, V.D., who were created Knight Commander and Commander respectively of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division).

H. E. Sir Laurence Guillemard left the Colony on 6th May, 1927, from which date Mr. W. Peel, C.M.G., acted as Officer Administering the Government, pending the arrival of H. E. Sir Hugh Clifford, M.C.S., G.C.M.G., G.B.E, who landed at Singapore on 3rd June, 1927.

Mr. Hayes Marriott went on leave on 25th March, 1927, from which date Mr. G. Hemmant acted as Colonial

Secretary pending the arrival of Mr. E. C. H. WOLFF, C.M.G., on 8th April, 1927. Mr. WOLFF, continued to act until 22nd October, 1927, when Sir HAYES MARRIOTT resumed duty.

II.—Finance

The revenue for the year 1927 amounted to $37,602,081, exceeding the estimate by $2,512,037, whilst the expenditure was $39,253,272, being $696,694 less than the estimate.

The revenue was $1,136,868 more than that of 1926, while expenditure was more than the 1926 figure by $2,297,632. The excess of expenditure over revenue was $1,651,191 as compared with $490,427 in 1926.

The actual figures for 1926 and 1927 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE

—	1926	1927	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	2,715	2,519	...	196
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	27,682,559	27,954,663	272,104	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	1,191,514	1,246,494	54,980	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	2,120,394	2,224,838	104,444	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,662,692	1,753,768	91,076	...
6. Interest	2,737,371	2,976,328	238,957	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	544,198	588,392	44,194	...
	35,941,443	36,747,002	805,755	196
8. Land Sales	523,770	855,079	331,309	...
TOTAL ...	36,465,213	37,602,081	1,137,064	196
	Net	Increase ...	$1,136,868	

There was an increase of $1,486,380 in opium revenue, and the total receipts under "Licences" exceeded the 1926 figure by two hundred and seventy-two thousand.

The Estate Duty collected in 1927 amounted to $1,668,217 as against $2,420,759 in 1926.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

—	1926	1927	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,422,411	1,538,491	116,080	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	20,175	20,283	108	...
4. The Governor	155,337	157,507	2,170	...
5. Civil Service	667,060	669,635	2,575	...
6. General Clerical Service ...	...	869,531	869,531	...
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	199,150	129,041	...	70,109
8. Secretary to High Commissioner	21,507	13,884	...	7,623
9. Agricultural Department ...	35,256	42,279	7,023	...
10. Audit	103,623	24,103	...	79,520
11. Audit, External ...	11,501	...	...	11,501
12. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	90,819	83,824	...	6,995
13. Co-operative Societies ...	...	19,812	19,812	...
14. Ecclesiastical	25,234	25,059	...	175
15. Education	1,106,086	1,228,038	121,952	...
16. Fisheries	218,841	147,284		71,557
17. Forests	27,078	34,370	7,292	...
18. Gardens, Botanical ...	97,310	100,863	3,553	...
19. Imports, Exports and Statistics ..	92,027	35,771	...	56,256
20. Land and District Offices ...	354,494	237,861	...	116,633
21. Legal	422,269	351,128	...	71,141
22. Marine	639,753	598,168	...	41,585
23. Marine Surveys ...	76,065	69,755	...	6,310
24. Medical	462,081	401,677	...	60,404
25. Medical, Health Branch ...	511,289	604,635	93,346	...
26. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	...	92,488	92,488	...
27. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	1,973,157	2,066,543	93,386	...
28. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,630,388	5,303,211	1,672,823	...
II. Local Forces ...	335,081	390,803	55,722	...
29. Miscellaneous Services ...	10,323,772	9,157,397	...	1,166,375
30. Monopolies	1,970,547	1,686,966	..	283,581
31. Museum and Library, Raffles	59,877	55,730	...	1,147
32. Police	2,501,737	2,498,068	...	3,669
33. Political Intelligence Bureau	3,870	18,795	14,925	...
34. Post Office	1,486,783	1,681,747	194,964	...
35. Printing Office ...	205,603	180,262	...	25,341
36. Prisons	363,229	412,304	49,075	...
37. Public Works Department...	509,123	465,566	...	43,557
38. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	701,612	773,675	72,063	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary	5,145,540	6,184,886	1,039,346	...
40. Survey Department ...	415,664	427,003	11,339	...
41. Transport	256,461	253,470	...	2,991
42. Treasury	215,772	100,999	...	114,773
43. Veterinary	60,975	63,277	2,302	...
TOTAL ...	36,955,640	39,253,272	4,541,875	2,244,243
	Net	Increase ...	$2,297,632	

The increase under Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. is due to commutation of pensions under the Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance 1926.

The increase under Education is due to additional appointments of Teachers.

The larger Defence Contribution is attributable to the enhanced cost of the Garrison.

Co-operative Societies and Medical, Social Hygiene Branch, are new items of expenditure.

The increase under Post Office is caused by an extension of the provision for Telephone Switchboard and Reconstruction of Pole Lines.

The increase under Public Works Department Extraordinary is due to erection of new buildings and other works in Singapore, Malacca and Dindings.

The principal items on which expenditure fell short of the estimate were:—

	$
Civil Service	57,626
Audit, External	76,012
Education	200,467
Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	278,829
Monopolies	888,255
Police	289,792
Post Office	153,505
Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	51,040
Public Works Extraordinary ...	1,348,076
Survey Department	90,566

An excess of more than $1 million over the estimate for Miscellaneous Services was mainly due to the payment of $457,985 to the Singapore Town Improvement Scheme and of $314,700 for the purchase of and acquisition of land and to various other unforeseen services.

The following table shows the Colony's expenditure, excluding Defence Contribution, for the last eight years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary:—

	Total Expenditure	*Public Works Extraordinary*
	—	—
	$	$
1920	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923	22,860,635	2,519,954
1924	23,150,128	4,223,846
1925	54,314,078	5,142,549
1926	33,325,253	5,145,540
1927	33,950,061	6,184,886

The abnormal expenditure in 1920 was due to the Straits Settlements contribution to Imperial War Funds, $7,186,000, and to the Colony's share on the loss on the sale of Rice, $9,460,000. The 1925 figure is due to the amount set aside in respect of the Opium Revenue Replacement Fund.

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1927, were as follows:—

Liabilities		$	*Assets*		$
Deposits—			Investments—		
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	$40,239,616		Colony ...	$22,137,696	
Other Deposits ...	12,169,123		Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	40,155,519	
		52,408,739	Other investments	5,066,648	
					67,359,863
Drafts and Remittances ...		35,192			
Suspense		917,682	Advances		799,077
			Imprests		87,585
			Cash in Transit		78,549
Investments Depreciation Account		25,000			
			Loans:—		
Loans:—			Municipalities ...		18,936,383
			Kelantan Government ...		4,080,684
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921-1926		200	Trengganu Government ...		1,450,000
			Singapore Harbour Board ...		4,940,816
			Penang Harbour Board ...		1,758,525
			Ho Hong Steamship Co. ...		100,000
Surplus—			Singapore Cricket Club ...		29,258
			Brunei Government ...		12,000
Reserved for specific purposes (*a*) ...	$14,006,414		Sailors' Institute		155,000
			Stadium Association ...		25,000
Unreserved ...	46,937,296		War Service Land Grants Scheme		189,783
		60,943,710	Singapore Improvement Trust		250,000
			Indian Agency Account ...		101,673
			Cash		13,976,327
Total ...		114,330,523	Total ...		114,330,523

(*a*) *Loans*:—

Loans to Municipalities	$1,104,857	
Loan to Government of Trengganu	550,000	
Loan to Penang Harbour Board	858,000	
War Service Land Grants Scheme	101,267	
		$2,614,124

(*a*) *Commitments of Expenditure*:—

For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital	$1,085,627	
Raffles College Buildings	487,046	
Malacca Water Supply	106,256	
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply	300,000	
Development of Penang Hill	437,449	
Singapore Town Improvement Scheme ...	8,306,436	
New Mental Hospital	669,476	
		$11,392,290
Total ...		$14,006,414

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted, on the 31st December, 1927, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	...	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	...	320,137
Total	...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	...	3,388,205
		$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was $2,079,973 in 1927. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the sinking fund of this loan on 31st December, 1927, was approximately $8,560,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at $28,655,700, under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at $36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal of, and the major portion of the interest on, all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the loan and of sinking fund contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Exchange

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1927:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)
,, Banque de l'Indo Chine
,, National City Bank of New York
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited
,, Kwong Lee Banking Corporation

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 and 2/3$\frac{5}{8}$.

(vi).—Currency

No change was made in the Currency Legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year consisted of $117,805,414.70 in currency notes and $6,526,869 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $139,585, as compared with $140,165 at the end of 1926.

At the end of 1926 the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $163,279,713-70. There was a demand by the public for Sterling during the months of February, March, April, May, June, August and September, 1927 and the consequent contraction in the Currency during those months amounted to $45,965,650. In the month of December a slight demand for Currency resulted in the issue of $425,700, thus making a net contraction over the year of $45,539,950. The value of the Currency Notes in circulation at the end of 1927 stood at $117,805,414.70.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $65,419,652.40, consisting of £328,251 in gold, $15,753,158.28 in silver and $1,687,371.76 on deposit with the Government held locally and £73,330 in gold and £5,195,983.5.6 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $98,445,121.70; the cost price of those investments having been $101,920,586.53.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth $163,928,460.02 (liquid portion $65,419,652.40, investment portion $98,445,121.70, and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners Income Account $63,685.92). The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $46,123,045.32, as compared with an excess of $38,951,784.43 at the end of 1926.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of $1,099,468 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a net decrease of $799,288 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $10,664,454.95 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $1,124,307.70 in current notes of values less than $1.

The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1925 was $2,092,754.70 and at the end of 1926 $1,923,607.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year was 26,697,813, as against 31,148,533 in 1926.

Of the notes destroyed 8,453,270 were 10 cent notes and 11,489,020 were $1 notes.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 626,417, and a further 26,581,722 were cancelled during the year, making a total of 27,208,139 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 26,697,813 and the balance awaiting destruction at the end of the year was consequently 510,326.

(vii) Enemy Property

During the year a sum of $31,626.08 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property so transferred, to the end of 1927, amounted to $12,791,135.41. On 31st December, 1927, $898,736.11 was still held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and $110,398 by the Local Custodian in investments, while the latter also had a cash balance of $14,647.13, making a total of $1,023,781.24.

Local Clearing Office

The position at the end of 1927 in regard to the different classes of claims was as follows:—

German claims.—The total value of all claims registered was $1,894,021.59. Claims for $1,632,248.33 have been withdrawn and claims for $199,095.38 admitted. Claims to the extent of $53,239.34 were under reference to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and in addition there were claims amounting to $9,438.54 still undecided.

The total amount due on the admitted claims referred to above together with interest $35,224.54 comes to $234,319.92. Of this $186,682.51 has been recovered. Of the outstanding balance of $47,637.41 about $21,000 will most probably have to be written off as irrecoverable and the balance of $26,000 is expected to be paid up in the near future.

The sum of $7,120.70 was collected from British Nationals during the year on account of admitted debts and interest.

British claims.—The total value of the claims registered remained at $217,366.40. Of this claims to the value of $46,964.02 were withdrawn during the year making the total withdrawn $153,407.50. The admissions remained the same as in the previous year *viz*: $40,142.01. There was only one claim, of the value of $13,890.64, under reference to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal at the end of the year and in addition there was one claim amounting to $9,926.25 unsettled. The sum of $95,695.70 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London during the year.

Claims against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.

During the year, dividends amounting to 3/ in the £ on the admitted claims were credited and distributed making the total of the dividends so distributed 12/ in the £.

Funds in the hands of the Local Controller.—These amounted to $37,000 on Fixed Deposit and $4,401.08 cash.

III.—Production

(*a*) Agriculture

Rubber.—At the beginning of the year Standard Smoked Sheet was sold at 64½ cents per lb. The price appreciated to about 70 cents per lb. in March and remained around that figure until June when it began to decline. This downward tendency continued through the succeeding months until in September a figure of about 57 cents per lb. was reached. Thereafter the price rose steadily to about 70 cents per lb., at which level the business for the year terminated. The exportable allowances of standard production under the rubber restriction scheme were as follows, January 80 per cent, February to April 70 per cent, May to December 60 per cent. Measures were taken towards the end of the year to give greater efficiency to the operation of the restriction scheme.

The lower average price did not appreciably affect the standard of upkeep previously maintained on large plantations; neither did it cause any marked deterioration in the condition of the majority of small holdings, although there is still room for improvement in the latter in such matters as plant sanitation and methods of tapping. Routine instruction on these points is being continued.

Diseases and pests of rubber were not more prevalent than usual and received regular attention from the Inspecting Officers throughout the year. Mouldy Rot Disease (*Sphæronema fimbriatum*) continued to spread slowly along the eastern boundary between Province Wellesley and Kedah, chiefly amongst small holdings where tapping is bad and sanitation indifferent, and a similar kind of outbreak was noted in Penang Island. Both affected areas are receiving attention. In Malacca and Singapore Island the same disease was at times in evidence, particularly during wet weather, and regular control measures had to be enforced. A bark rot, in appearance somewhat similar to Mouldy Rot, was discovered in Penang Island. Microscopic examination of specimens failed to elicit any trace of the Mouldy Rot fungus; but the methods found efficacious in controlling the latter were utilised with effect in dealing with this attack. Pink Disease (*Corticium salmonicolor*) continued to be fairly widely distributed through the Northern District of Province Wellesley, but did not appear anywhere to have reached serious proportions. This disease and Black Stripe (*Phytophthora sp.*) are still present in Malacca, though in negligible quantity.

Coconuts.—The market for copra, which at the end of 1926 closed at $10.10 per picul (133⅓ lb.), rose in January to $11. The price during 1927 showed no great variation until October, when it rose to $11.53 per picul, but declined at the end of the year to $11.50 per picul. The average price throughout the year was $11.17 per picul, as compared with $11.80, $11.95 and $12.12 in the years 1926, 1925 and 1924 respectively.

In Penang and Province Wellesley, and in fact generally in Malaya, the year's coconut crop has on the whole been poor, the nuts themselves being small as well as comparatively few in number. This may have been due to the long drought in 1926, which may have affected nuts due to mature about twelve months later.

Records of yields of individual palms were continued for the seventh consecutive year in Province Wellesley. These have shown clearly that individual palms differ greatly from one another in their average annual yields, which have ranged from 50 to 150 nuts a palm during this period. To select the palms yielding the most copra per annum it is necessary to correlate the average annual yield of nuts from each individual tree with the average weight of copra produced from one of its nuts. This work is now in progress. The oil content of the copra obtained from each tree has also to be determined. The records so far obtained indicate clearly the valuable increase in the yield of copra per acre which may ultimately be expected as a result of selection.

The reputed inferiority of Straits copra as compared with that produced in Ceylon and Malabar appears to be a matter of importance to the local coconut industry and the matter is being investigated. Climatic conditions are apparently not wholly responsible and it is hoped that the local species can eventually be improved. Analyses of a number of samples of fresh and stored copra and a study of local methods of preparation are being made, in order to determine the range of variation in the oil content of the Straits product. It is anticipated that the results of this investigation may promote the marketing of copra on its oil and moisture content.

The Black Coconut Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) has been kept well under control throughout the year in the Province, Malacca and Singapore, as has also the Red Stripe Weevil (*Rhyncophorus schach*). The latter was reported in some quantity during the year from the Dindings, where it attacked particularly palms which had been damaged

previously by other agencies. An out-break of Skipper Caterpillars (*Hidari irava*) was also noted in the Dindings, but was promptly controlled.

Padi (Rice).—The total area planted with wet padi in the Straits Settlements during the season 1926 - 27 is estimated at 69,919 acres, yielding 19,072,956 gantangs (gallons), as compared with 71,911 acres and a crop of 20,209,720 gantangs for the season 1925 - 26.

In Province Wellesley the yield from the 1926 - 27 crop was much below average owing largely to unfavourable weather conditions during harvest. In Penang Island, with its better conditions of drainage and irrigation, the crop was fairly satisfactory. In Malacca the crop was good, although in some localities it was damaged by floods. Seed padi, amounting to 62,908 gantangs, from both the Province and Malacca was distributed in Perak and Pahang for use in the areas where the total crop was ruined by the unprecedented floods which occurred at the end of 1926.

In some areas of Province Wellesley and Penang planting operations for the 1927 - 28 season were completed early; but in others, notably in the Southern District of the Province, planting was very late owing to lack of water. Crop prospects are far from favourable in these latter areas, a further set-back having been sustained owing to a period of drought lasting from about the middle of November to the end of the year. Little or no damage was done by this drought to those areas in which planting was early. Conditions in the Dindings are reported as favourable. In Malacca the padi planted during the year is on the whole well advanced in growth and promises a good average crop.

In Malacca during the 1927 - 28 season some damage was done to nurseries by caterpillars of *Nymphula depunctalis;* but, apart from this attack, Malacca has remained singularly free from insect and fungoid pests. In the Province species of Nymphula and Spodoptera did severe damage to nurseries in the Northern District; stem borers were subsequently responsible for some damage, particularly in the late planted areas where the plants had received a material set-back owing to the drought at the end of the year. The Fulgorid leaf-hopper (*Sogata pallescens*), which did so much damage in the season 1925 - 26, reappeared in the first half of December. The pest was not so widespread as on the previous occasion, but did considerable damage to a few late-planted areas. Both in Malacca and the

Province rats have continued to the major pest of padi and, in view of the extensive damage done by them throughout the Province in previous seasons, special provision was made for carrying out an intensive Rat Campaign there during the last quarter of the year. This followed the lines of the campaign conducted regularly during the last three years in Krian. By its means approximately 100,000 rats were destroyed at a cost of $1,600.89 and damage from this cause in Province Wellesley was considerably diminished.

At the Pulau Gadong Experiment Station in Malacca rats again caused considerable damage during the 1926 - 27 season. In spite of the various methods used to destroy them, they seriously reduced the yields and rendered the records of several experiments unreliable, though the important pure line selection rows were less damaged than other parts of the Station. Nurseries at this Station were also attacked during the 1927 - 28 season by Caterpillars of the *Nymphula depunctalis* variety; but control measures were promptly instituted and the plants rapidly recovered. Later, very considerable damage was again done by rats, several plots in the Station being almost completely destroyed. Unfortunately, this Station seems peculiarly liable to periodical invasions of rats in such numbers that the usual methods of destruction are of little avail.

At Pekan Darat Padi Test Station in Province Wellesley recorded yields in both the manurial and varietal tests were very unreliable in the 1926 - 27 season, owing to the wet weather experienced during harvest. During the 1927 - 28 season dry weather has adversely affected some plots of the Station more than others, so that results are again liable to be unsatisfactory.

A comprehensive survey of padi soils in Malaya is in progress with a view to ascertaining the soil factors affecting fertility. Samples and estimates of yields are being obtained from all over the country. Up to the end of the year 103 samples, chiefly from Malacca, had been received. The work has not yet progressed sufficiently to enable correlations to be established between yield and any soil factor. One observation of importance has, however, emerged, namely that the presence of a medium, or even high, percentage of sand in the soil does not necessarily result in low yield. Great caution must, therefore, be used in condemning any proposed padi area on the score of a high ratio of sand to clay.

Fruit.—In Malacca a heavy crop of fruit was nearing harvest at the end of the year. In Province Wellesley and Penang the fruit crop during 1927 was almost a complete failure.

Soils.—In addition to the work on padi soils mentioned above, a thorough study of Malayan soils in general has been begun. No systematic investigations of soil problems in Malaya, or indeed in the majority of tropical countries, have hitherto been carried out. Reliable information concerning soils in the tropics, comparable with that available in respect of soils in temperate countries, is now generally regarded as of primary importance to the development of tropical agriculture throughout the Empire, more especially because it is as yet very uncertain to what extent knowledge of soils gained in temperate countries will apply under tropical conditions. The first necessity appeared to be to establish what soil types exist in Malaya and what relation these types bear to the underlying parent material. A satisfactory commencement has been made in the study of this problem.

Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes).—In Province Wellesley excellent progress was made in clearing up rivers previously infested with Water Hyacinth. Towards the opening of the padi season special attention was paid to streams directly affecting padi growing areas and large quantities of the weed were removed and destroyed.

Agricultural Shows.—In Penang a very successful Agri-Horticultural Show was held at Balik Pulau during the Easter holidays. In Malacca the Annual Show was held in July, and was again a success, the exhibits being generally of better quality than those shown in previous years.

School Gardens.—Steady improvement is to be recorded both in Malacca and Penang Island. In the latter many school gardens are surprisingly good and show signs of hard work and great care. Most of those on the mainland in Province Wellesley are poor in comparison.

Agricultural Research Conference.—Two representatives of the local Department of Agriculture, the Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. A. S. HAYNES and the Mycologist, Mr. A. SHARPLES, attended the Agricultural Research Conference convened by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London during October and November.

(*b*) Forestry

The only alteration to the area of reserved forests was the excision of 1 rood 16 poles from the Government Hill Reserve in the Island of Penang and the total area of reserved forests therefore remains approximately the same as in 1926, namely 111,477 acres, equivalent to 11·55% of the total area of the Colony. A Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests was appointed for Singapore early in the year and worked directly under the Conservator of Forests, the Personal Assistant acting as Deputy Conservator of Forests. It was also decided to appoint a Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests at Lumut

During the year 583 acres at Seletar Reserve, 332½ acres at Changi Reserve, 639 acres at Pandan Reserve and 100 acres at Bukit Timah Reserve were allotted to squatters on temporary permits for the cultivation of vegetables. All that part of Changi Forest Reserve, north of a line running directly east from the mouth of Sungei Selerang, was handed over to the Military Authorities for the Naval Base.

The working schemes of the Malacca and Dindings forests are still under consideration.

Revenue and expenditure were $52,763 and $54,998 respectively, as compared with $58,259 and $53,400 in 1926, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a deficit of $2,235 as compared with a surplus of $4,859 in 1926. Revenue rose in Singapore and the Dindings and fell in Penang and Province Wellesley and Malacca, where the large decrease was due to the extraction of Class I trees from the Reserves being stopped.

The outturn of timber was 9,677 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 27,241 tons, as compared with 10,819 and 35,870 tons in the previous year.

Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of $4,363, as compared with $3,804 in 1926.

One hundred and nineteen cases of breaches of the forest law were reported and in 13 of these offenders were undetected. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $1,090 and compensation to the amount of $125 was awarded for damage to the forests.

The Forest Rules were revised during the year.

(*c*) Fisheries

The testing of the seas about Malaya with the otter trawl was conducted throughout the year by the Government Trawler, the S. T. "*Tongkol*". The experiments tended to show generally that, while some grounds are better than others, fish can be caught in average weather to the extent of about 70 to 90 lbs. per fishing hour almost anywhere on the immense continental plateau about the Peninsula and that, unless some means of grouping the fish more together could be discovered, trawling would not prove a commercial success.

The local fisheries experienced a normal year, though a general fall in price was experienced. The most marked features were the continued increase (about 25 per cent as compared with 1926) in the number of Japanese fishermen and the success of the method of fishing known as "*muro ami*", which is peculiar to them. This method of fishing supplied the Singapore markets with no less than one-third of the fish sold there during the year and contributed largely as well to the market supplies of Penang and elsewhere. The "Delah" (the bream Caesio) is the fish mainly caught by this method. Before 1922, the year in which "*muro ami*" was introduced into Malaya, this fish was little seen in the local markets.

Over 5,000 "Sepat Siam" (Tricopedus leeri) were distributed and sold throughout the Peninsula during the year. This kind of fish grows with great rapidity in suitable rice-fields and in many places gives a handsome return for little or no attention beyond that required for the cultivation of the rice itself.

A number of carp and fresh-water culture ponds were built in Singapore for the purpose of investigating the Chinese method of carp culture and for experimental fish pond culture. The ponds had not sweetened enough for use by the end of the year.

(*d*) Mining

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca.

Two Leases under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) with mining Licences attached were issued during the year.

There are still numerous pieces of Land held under Approved Applications for Mining Lease in the neighbourhood of Chin Chin. The Revenue from Tin was $11,507.57 as against $313.64 of year previous.

(c) Principal Exports

Comparative Return of Exports of Principal Articles from the Straits Settlements for the Years 1923 to 1927

—	How Stated	1923		1924		1925		1926		1927	
		Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values
Para Rubber ...	Tons	204,811	227,893,117	210,135	212,854,606	248,138	568,523,333	272,546	493,314,301	270,749	373,172,359
Tin ...	"	69,895	119,716,725	80,693	169,177,028	79,094	175,228,751	76,340	185,541,301	83,778	206,580,907
Rice ...	"	341,202	38,182,165	326,836	41,941,832	405,412	51,747,890	461,821	61,531,459	467,106	58,945,805
Motor Spirit ...	"	*26,145,853	23,878,486	70,055	19,313,617	201,413	56,160,960	224,468	62,447,583	221,049	53,674,511
Copra ...	"	150,406	28,649,201	151,460	31,290,259	142,833	30,063,607	168,083	33,653,067	125,721	23,615,545
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	† 4,027,355	20,988,597	79,906,401	20,817,607	101,667,282	27,852,014	94,372,564	25,717,714	92,778,758	24,120,078
Cigarettes ...	lbs.	8,884,841	15,899,624	9,881,127	16,664,993	10,925,283	18,079,440	8,956,879	18,998,073	7,621,542	17,252,474
Pepper ...	Tons	18,572	6,001,985	19,703	8,332,677	15,820	10,186,696	14,584	13,385,070	13,642	16,871,151
Cotton Sarongs	Nos.	6,385,980	8,371,478	6,413,742	9,040,406	7,110,022	10,416,709	6,977,555	10,265,335	7,211,417	9,565,185
Milk ...	Cases	332,364	4,674,402	373,654	4,974,948	491,453	6,325,039	616,105	7,750,587	526,310	6,255,017

* The quantity shewn for motor spirit in 1923 is in Gallons
† The quantity shewn for cotton piece goods in 1923 is in Pieces

IV.—Trade and Economics

The value of the aggregate trade of the Colony in merchandise recorded during 1927 amounted to 269 million Sterling, a decrease of 26 million on the 1926 total or about 9%. Of this decrease 90% is accounted for by the difference in the value of the trade in rubber, the aggregate value of which was 199 million Dollars, or about 23 million Sterling less than in 1926.

The total quantity of rubber exported was about 271,000 tons, valued at 373 million Dollars. This is a decrease of nearly 2,000 tons in quantity and of 120 million Dollars in value as compared with the 1926 figures.

The quantity of rubber imported was about 285,000 tons, valued at about 311 million Dollars. This is an increase of about 5,000 tons in weight and a decrease of about 79 million Dollars in value. The rubber imported exceeded that exported by 14,000 tons, but it should be noted that the declared weight of rubber imported includes moisture and impurities, while that of rubber exported is the dry weight. The value of the imported rubber was 62 million Dollars less than that of the rubber exported.

The exports of tin increased to about 84,000 tons from 76,000 tons in 1926. The increase in value was 21 million Dollars.

The following figures show the value of the Colony's trade for the last six years, the value of Coin and Bullion and of the trade between the Settlements being excluded:—

Year	Imports of Merchandise	Exports of Merchandise	Imports Comparison with preceding year	Exports Comparison with preceding year
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922
1923 ...	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,530
1924 ...	98,915	89,430	+ 9,913	+ 6,840
1925 ...	152,338	143,137	+ 53,423	+ 53,707
1926 ...	153,945	140,966	+ 1,607	- 2,171
1927 ...	143,287	125,784	- 10,658	- 15,182

The value of the inter-Settlement trade, including treasure, for the last six years was as follows:—

Year	Imports	Exports	Imports Comparison with preceding year		Exports Comparison with preceding year	
	(in thousands)					
	£	£		£		£
1922 ...	5,148	5,078	–	1,756	–	1,809
1923 ...	5,728	5,607	+	580	+	529
1924 ...	5,125	5,049	–	603	-	558
1925 ...	7,584	7,665	+	2,459	+	2,616
1926 ...	8,133	8,042	+	549	+	377
1927 ...	6,912	7,004	–	1,221	–	1,038

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last four years:—

	Imports	*Exports*
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
1924	1,607	561
1925	4,732	1,423
1926	5,450	1,729
1927	3,225	1,097

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

—	Imports				Exports			
	1924	1925	1926	1927	1924	1925	1926	1927
	(In thousands)							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	28,348	32,412	35,581	35,493	21,412	24,031	26,524	25,193
II. Raw Materials	43,839	80,922	74,270	67,860	32,999	74,379	66,359	50,781
III. Manufactured and partly manufactured Articles ...	26,728	39,004	44,094	39,934	35,019	44,727	48,083	49,810
Total ...	98,915	152,338	153,945	143,287	89,430	143,137	140,966	125,784

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported:—

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED

Articles	How Stated	1926		1927		INCREASE		DECREASE	
		Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber	Tons.	279,641	389,951	284,567	311,319	4,926	...	...	78,632
Tin Ore	"	93,888	160,715	110,963	193,223	17,075	32,508	...	...
Rice	"	679,293	87,813	735,265	90,249	55,972	2,436	...	...
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases	1,136,393	14,166	1,083,015	12,735	...	...	53,378	1,431
Sugar	Tons.	108,827	15,168	110,486	15,340	1,659	172	...	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	11,092,078	23,463	10,055,209	22,895	...	...	1,036,869	568
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	67,566	17,868	62,932	17,504	...	...	4,634	364
Arecanuts	"	58,202	13,914	43,920	8,278	...	...	14,282	5,636
Motor Spirit (Benzine)	"	255,853	70,503	250,626	60,217	...	...	5,227	10,286
Petroleum (Kerosene)	"	79,684	13,308	121,828	16,901	42,144	3,593	...	...
Sago	"	38,225	3,291	43,330	3,785	5,105	494	...	...
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	147,876,310	40,396	151,414,459	35,930	3,538,149	...	...	4,466
Sarongs	Nos.	12,310,809	17,304	10,674,133	14,130	...	...	1,636,676	3,174
Copra	Tons.	170,495	32,094	133,442	23,643	...	...	37,053	8,451
Pepper	"	14,357	12,228	11,920	15,033	...	2,805	2,437	...
Rattans	"	23,466	4,785	23,475	4,358	9	...	...	427
Coal	"	799,094	9,581	873,950	10,947	74,856	1,366	...	...
Machinery	Nos.	123,404	12,854	67,360	12,865	...	11	56,044	...

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED

Articles	How Stated	1926		1927		INCREASE		DECREASE	
		Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
			$		$		$		$
Para Rubber	Tons.	272,546	493,314	270,749	373,172	...	...	1,797	120,142
Tin	,,	76,340	185,541	83,778	206,581	7,438	21,040	...	...
Rice	,,	461,821	61,531	467,106	58,946	5,285	...	...	2,585
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases.	616,105	7,751	526,310	6,255	...	...	89,795	1,496
Sugar	Tons	56,208	8,248	55,809	7,968	...	...	399	280
Cigarettes	lbs.	8,956,879	18,999	7,621,542	17,252	...	...	1,335,337	1,747
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	66,459	17,810	63,326	16,904	...	...	3,133	906
Arecanuts	,,	62,885	17,248	50,028	10,351	...	...	12,857	6,897
Benzine (Motor Spirit)	,,	224,468	62,448	221,049	53,675	...	...	3,419	8,773
Petroleum (Kerosene)	,,	82,739	12,420	111,529	15,553	28,790	3,133	...	...
Sago	,,	41,757	4,508	44,338	4,671	2,581	163	...	...
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	94,372,564	25,718	92,778,758	24,121	...	...	1,593,806	1,597
Sarongs	Nos.	6,977,555	10,265	7,211,417	9,565	233,862	...	...	700
Copra	Tons.	168,083	33,653	125,721	23,616	...	...	42,362	10,037
Pepper	,,	14,584	13,386	13,642	16,871	...	3,485	942	...
Rattans	,,	16,993	4,797	16,164	4,369	...	...	829	428
Preserved Pineapples	,,	36,916	7,012	36,274	7,500	...	488	642	...
Rubber Latex	Gals.	28,331	84	59,918	148	31,587	64	...	...

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927:—

—	1924		1925		1926		1927	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Malay States ...	90,519	88,843	100,656	232,636	128,130	219,454	101,317	139,406
Netherlands Indies ...	93,113	61,797	138,870	195,881	132,986	141,587	157,837	139,286
Other Countries ...	15,411	14,501	20,061	41,736	18,525	28,910	25,413	32,627
Total ...	199,043	165,141	259,587	470,253	279,641	389,951	284,567	311,319

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927:—

—	1924		1925		1926		1927	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
United Kingdom ...	14,020	14,755	20,540	54,170	34,260	64,262	28,349	41,558
United States of America ...	162,465	164,197	190,683	427,543	195,894	354,320	198,256	270,374
Other Countries ...	33,650	33,903	36,915	86,810	42,392	74,732	44,144	61,240
Total ...	210,135	212,855	248,138	568,523	272,546	493,314	270,749	373,172

Tin and Tin Ore were imported in 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 from the following countries:—

—	1924		1925		1926		1927	
	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore
	Tons	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Tons*
Malay States ...	7,092	54,352	7,310	56,280	5,547	57,009	3,838	68,718
Netherlands Indies ...	6	24,395	3	25,342	...	23,429	...	27,157
Siam	426	10,052	304	10,200	195	9,694	51	10,326
Other Countries ...	14	3,462	4	3,937	3	3,756	...	4,762
Total ...	7,538	92,261	7,621	95,759	5,745	93,888	3,889	110,963

The exports of Tin in 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 were as follows:—

—	1924		1925		1926		1927	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
United Kingdom ...	16,335	33,964	13,970	30,815	11,101	26,785	9,453	22,986
United States of America ..	46,194	97,620	45,120	99,895	44,513	108,013	46,370	114,812
Other Countries ...	18,163	37,593	20,004	44,519	20,726	50,743	27,955	68,783
Total ...	80,692	169,177	79,094	175,229	76,340	185,541	83,778	206,581

The quantity of Para Rubber imported amounted to about 285,000 tons. Of this the Malay States furnished about 101 thousand tons valued at 140 million Dollars, a decrease of 27 thousand tons in amount and of 80 million Dollars in value as compared with the 1926 figures. The Dutch East Indies and other countries contributed about 183,000 tons, valued at 172 million Dollars, an increase of 32,000 tons and 2 million Dollars.

The Rubber exported to the United States of America amounted to about 198 thousand tons, valued at 270 million Dollars. This was 2,000 tons more than in 1926, but 84 million Dollars less was paid for it. The quantity sent to the United Kingdom was 28,000 tons, valued at 42 million Dollars, a decrease of 6,000 tons and 23 million Dollars. The total amount exported to other countries increased by 2,000 tons but decreased in value by 14 million Dollars.

The quantity of Tin Ore imported increased by 17,000 tons, while Tin decreased by about 1,800 tons.

The exports of Refined Tin increased in amount by 8,000 tons and in value by 21 million Dollars.

The imports of Cotton Piece Goods increased by $3\frac{1}{2}$ million yards, but there was a decrease in value of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ million Dollars. The re-exports of these goods decreased by over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million yards.

Other imported articles, which shew an increase in value, are Rice, Kerosene, Pepper, Sugar and Coal. The value of Benzine, Arecanuts, Sarongs, Copra and Milk decreased.

The re-exports of the above articles were similarly affected.

The exports of canned pineapples decreased slightly in amount, namely by about 600 tons, but there was a small increase in value.

The following table shews the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australia, countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America, and Japan:—

—	Imports				Exports			
	1924	1925	1926	1927	1924	1925	1926	1927
				(000's)				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	9,050	12,346	13,338	12,346	8,457	12,700	13,130	10,181
Australia and New Zealand ...	1,620	1,990	1,679	1,770	1,236	3,077	4,705	4,654
Continent of Europe.								
Austria ...	...	...	2	67	...	...	...	...
Belgium ...	271	313	497	468	164	278	250	149
Czecho-Slovakia ...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...
Denmark ...	104	71	108	102	406	224	298	329
Fiume ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
France ...	705	848	1,388	1,056	3,202	4,339	3,797	3,464
Germany ...	610	923	1,454	1,464	1 274	2,764	1,797	1,635
Holland ...	582	895	1,004	891	1,891	3,189	3,186	4,550
Italy ...	617	1,100	1,725	943	1,434	2,046	1,650	1,429
Norway ...	113	88	53	68	23	19	17	2
Sweden ...	77	68	60	69	142	180	268	153
Spain ...	4	9	15	8	445	440	414	245
Switzerland ...	...	...	...	408	...	...	...	...
Russia ...	3	1	...	...	...	17	6	6
Other European Countries ...	...	4	25	60	..	...	8	13
United States of America ...	2,541	3,324	3,616	3,321	31,765	63,084	56,397	46,685
Japan ...	1,919	3,471	4,036	3,495	2,902	4,100	4,420	4,049

The above table shews that the value of the goods imported from 9 of the countries mentioned decreased. The imports from Australia, Austria, Germany, Norway and Sweden increased slightly in value. The value of exports in the case of almost every country decreased. In the case of Holland, however, there was an increase, due to the greater value of the tin exported to that country.

United Kingdom.—The articles imported from the United Kingdom, in respect of which the value increased, were cigarettes, coal, cement, steel girders, tin plates and electrical goods; while decreases occurred in biscuits, underwear, cotton piece goods, galvanized iron, motor cars, tyres and sewing machines.

The export value of rubber, tin, copra, gutta percha and illipinuts decreased, while that of sago, pepper, rattans, gum copal, raw hides and fish maws increased.

United States of America.—The articles from the United States of America, which shew an increased value during the year, are motor spirit, tin plates, and liquid fuel. The imports of kerosene, motor cars, tyres and cigarettes decreased.

Of the goods exported to the United States of America, which shew an increased value, the principal were tin, pepper, and canned pineapples. There were decreases in respect of rubber, copra, rattans, gutta inferior, gum copal, tapioca and sago.

Japan.—The value of most of the goods imported from Japan decreased. The principal decreases were in respect of rubber cases, glass bottles, hollow-ware, wheat flour, dried and salted fish, coal and crockery. The imports of cement and dyed cotton piece-goods increased. As regards exports, rubber, rattans, sago and motor spirit decreased in value, while tin and phosphate of lime increased.

Netherlands East Indies.—The value of the trade with the Netherlands East Indies again declined, owing to the drop in the value of rubber imported from there:—

Imports				*Exports*			
1924	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*	*1924*	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(000,000's)				(000,000's)			
$227	$397	$361	$355·6	$83·6	$113·2	$112·3	$101·1

The other imports which decreased were gutta percha, copra, cotton sarongs, motor spirit, arecanuts, coffee and timber. The imports of tin ore, kerosene, liquid fuel, sugar and coal increased.

The exports which decreased in value are rice, fish dried and salted, milk, sugar, cigarettes, tobacco, galvanized iron, plain and printed cotton piece-goods, and motor spirit. Increases occurred in respect of onions and garlic, coconut oil, machinery, kerosene, liquid fuel, motor car tyres, and boots and shoes.

Continent of Europe.—The aggregate trade with the Continent of Europe shews a slight decrease.

V.—Communications

(*a*) Shipping and Harbour Boards

(i) *Shipping*

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 39,693,766 as compared with 38,028,630 in 1926.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1926 and 1927

NATIONALITY	1926					1927					Increase in 1927 as compared with 1926	Decrease in 1927 as compared with 1926
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)		
Finnish ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,304	...	...	...	5,304	5,304	...
Belgian ...	...	...	...	...	...	13,696	6,348	...	...	20,044	20,044	...
American ...	637,294	440,588	...	...	1,077,882	555,288	470,899	1,436	...	1,027,623	...	50,259
Brazilian ...	2,046	...	...	...	2,046	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,046
Zaccho-Slavoc	...	...	...	...	...	6,520	6,520	...	...	13 040	13,040	...
British ...	10,977,421	7,412,642	360,294	280,368	19,030,725	11,751,846	7,452,222	364,246	242,388	19,810,702	779,977	...
Chinese ...	87,484	22,104	...	...	109,588	87,782	3,124	16,728	...	107,634	...	1,954
Danish ...	454,584	249,492	...	...	704,076	454,152	292,980	18,764	...	765,896	61,820	...
Dutch ...	5,280,403	1,322,971	644	7,750	6,611,768	5,537,592	1,424,703	4,640	4,706	6,971,641	359,873	...
French ...	1,624,699	65,554	...	...	1,690,253	1,831,538	...	...	...	1,831,538	141,285	...
German ...	928,778	355,594	...	...	1,284,372	1,153,334	583,448	...	...	1,736,782	452,410	...
Italian ...	326,456	183,440	...	...	509,896	367,278	149,822	...	...	517,100	7,204	..
Japanese ...	3,918,010	1,193,962	235,714	93,700	5,441,386	3,906,443	1,051,908	21,190	96,614	5,076,155	...	365,231
Norwegian ...	777,221	98,080	4,566	6,924	886,791	1 052,859	77,192	34,842	...	1,164,893	278,102	...
Panama ...	15,980	...	...	...	15,980	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,980
Russian ...	31,606	...	...	...	31,606	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,606
Sarawak ...	118,802	...	...	2,038	120,840	133,195	...	324	3,044	136,363	15,523	...
Siamese ...	192,659	...	...	...	192,659	186,205	1,600	...	...	187,805	...	4,854
Spanish ...	59,900	...	...	...	59,900	29,788	...	...	...	29,788	...	30,112
Swedish ...	194,986	53,876	...	...	258,862	186,694	100,698	...	4,066	291,458	32,596	...
TOTALS ...	25,628,329	11,408,303	601,218	390,780	38,028,630	27,259,514	11,621,464	461,970	350,818	39,693,766	2,167,178	502,042
										Net Increase ...		1,665,136

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1923	29,936,949	tons.
1924	32,617,101	,,
1925	35,032,127	,,
1926	38,028,630	,,
1927	39,693,766	,,

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures in 1927 were 64,562 in number and 2,302,838 in tons as compared with 62,980 and 2,239,590, respectively, in 1926.

Four new steam-vessels and two motor-vessels, with a tonnage of 300 tons gross, and forty-two sailing-vessels (3,937 tons) were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 15 new sailing-vessels (1,201 tons) were licensed under section 424, and 983 vessels (10,032 tons) under section 425.

(ii) *Harbour Boards*

The income and expenditure of the SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD for the last two years have been as follows:—

	Income	*Expenditure*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1926 ...	12,055,233	8,354,278
Year ended 30th June, 1927 ...	12,027,510	8,895,896

The Capital debt due to Government amounted to $52,673,858 at June 30th, 1927, in respect of which sum the Board pay interest half yearly, at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on $50,102,430 and on the balance of $2,571,428 at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In addition to this capital the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of $6,402,990 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the PENANG HARBOUR BOARD for the year ended 30th June, 1927, were $1,973,182 and the expenditure $1,550,898.

The capital debt due to Government stood on 30th June, 1927, at $3,815,464.

(*b*) Railways

A railway, the property of the Federated Malay States Government, traverses the island of Singapore and connects, by a causeway across the Johore Straits which was opened for traffic in October, 1923, with the peninsular system, thus affording rail communication with Johore, the Federated Malay States, Malacca, Province Wellesley, Penang, Kedah, Perlis and Siam.

(*c*) Roads

The metalled Roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) measure 559·2 miles, distributed as follows:—

Singapore	*102·5
Penang and the Dindings ...	99·4
Province Wellesley	175·6
Malacca	171·2
Labuan	10·5

Of the 559·2 miles of metalled road 343 miles are now treated with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads 2·5 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path are maintained in the various Settlements.

The re-surfacing of all metalled roads with granite was continued a further 7 miles in Singapore, 6·2 miles in Penang and the Dindings, 2·8 miles in Province Wellesley and 19 miles in Malacca.

(*d*) Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services

The work of the Postal and Telegraph Sections of the Post Office and the number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges continued to increase during the year.

The building of the new General Post Office, Singapore, was nearly completed and it is anticipated that the Department will enter into occupation during the current year.

Singapore Radio

In May a 150 Watt Short Wave Telegraph Transmitter was made primarily for experimental work.

Only a few tests were possible as on July 1st a transformer in the main spark set broke down. In order to carry

*This figure does not include roads upkept by Government within the Municipal Limits. These roads total 25 miles and form the approaches to Government buildings and Government Quarters.

on, a short-wave set was brought into use with such satisfactory results that all point to point (*i.e.* Sarawak and Christmas Island) traffic has since been carried on this set. Satisfactory test signals have been passed daily with Penang Radio.

A 500 Watt Marconi short-wave Telephony transmitter has been installed here temporarily. The set has been tested out on several wavelengths and Telephony reports have been received from Hongkong, Deli, Sumatra, Java, Penaga, Kuala Lumpur, Seremban and Ipoh.

Penang Radio

Rugby Press messages were regularly received, but the noon transmission continued to be unreadable during the greater part of the year.

In May the locally designed Press Receiver was replaced by a Marconi Type Rg. 12 Receiver with a Heart shape sense unit.

Results were obtained with this Receiver similar to those obtained from the one previously in use. Short wave experimental transmissions were carried out and good results obtained.

Posts and Telegraphs

The postal rates are as follows:—

—	Letters		Postcards		Printed Papers
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	For every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 „	6 „	4 „	8 „	2 „
Local ...	2 ozs. / 4 cts.	Each succeeding 2 ozs. / 2 cts.	2 „	4 „	2 „

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 22,838,000, an average of 22·97 per inhabitant, as against 21·83, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 17,940,000 as compared with 16,274,000 in 1926. The number of messages forwarded over the Government Telegraph lines during the year 1927 was 593,703 as compared with 626,561 in 1926, whilst the number

received over the Government Telegraph lines was 482,052 as compared with 486,005 in 1926. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges increased from 1,707 to 1,844.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1927, was $3,745,797.39 an increase of 8 per cent. as compared with the amount on 31st December, 1926. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $215.94. There was a profit on the year's working of $50,657.20. The estimated present value of investments is $3,920,853.88. These figures are subject to revision after audit.

In addition to the General Post Offices at Singapore, Penang, Malacca and the Post Office, Labuan, there are 42 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tasek Glugor Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley) and Tebong (Malacca). Of these 28 are Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1927 to $8,318,760.86, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands East India, Ceylon and the United States.

Eleven Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5, thence to Madras	(3)
		,, ,, Colombo	(2)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	2, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, ,, ,, Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1, Direct thence to Manila	(1)
		,, North China	(1)
		,, Macao	(1)
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)

There are also Government Telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for Traffic in June 1909. There are 229⅝ miles of Telegraph lines, 16½ miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley, containing 139⅝ miles of wire, and 1½ miles between Singapore and Johore, containing 7½ miles

of wire. There are 2,436 miles of Telephone Line in Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,661 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office. There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony situated at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Penang) respectively. The Station at Paya Lebar communicates with fixed stations at Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island and with ships. The Penaga Station communicates with Rangoon and with ships.

(*e*) Communication by Sea

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly alternately by British India Steamers *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards, *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon. In addition there is a weekly service to Europe by the Steamship Company, Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and a service at frequent intervals by Holt, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines. With China and Japan there is fortnightly communication by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and the Societe des Affreteurs Indo-Chinois and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong frequently and direct by Spanish Packets, Steamship Co. Nederland, and British Packets occasionally; with Bangkok frequently by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports frequently by steamers of the Netherlands India Company's Steamship Co., and of the Netherland's and Rotterdam Lloyd Co.; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australian Steam Navigation Company, Austral East Indies Line, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence by Orient Packets; with Madras (direct) and other ports on the Coromandel Coast fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons

Statistics

The total number of seizable offences recorded during 1927 was 6,437.

Of the admitted reports convictions were obtained in 2,153 cases and 196 cases awaited trial in 1928. Under the heading of "Serious Offences against the person" there was an increase of 49 in the number of murders and an increase of 57 in reports of hurt caused by dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was an increase of 49 under robbery, a decrease of 31 in the number of reports of housebreaking and theft and an increase of 304 in the number of reports of theft.

Fifty-four thousand one hundred and seventy-two non-seizable offences were reported to the Police in 1927. The number of persons arrested in connection with both seizable and non-seizable offences was 39,463 males and 555 females. There was an increase of 24 in the number of extortions.

Crime and Secret Societies

The Cantonese societies gave little trouble from August, 1926 until the end of the year, mainly owing to internal dissensions and police supervision. A feud then broke out however between the 'Heng' and 'Kwan Yi' groups and there were several shooting affrays in the public streets involving loss of life among members of the gangs and innocent civilians.

Gangs of the 'Heng' and 'Kwan Yi' groups were also responsible for many robberies during the first nine months of the year. A general round up of Cantonese suspects was therefore undertaken in July and the city was thus freed of large numbers of notorious bad characters. Two important raids by the Police in July and September against the 'Kwan Yi' and 'Heng' respectively resulted in the arrest of nearly 40 men, including several leading members and criminals. The activities of the 'Heng' group were attacked in October, by which time the most troublesome societies were reduced to a state of quiescence. Up to the time of writing there has been no further serious outbreak.

As in the case of the Cantonese fighting among the Teo Chiu faction tends to become an annual occurrence. The 1926 feud was settled in January, 1927; but there was a serious recrudescence in September of that year, due to various minor

disputes. A large number of murders and attempted murders were perpetrated. Both the Police and Chinese Protectorate failed to secure any detailed information which would enable them to attack the opposing factions and no assistance was rendered by the public. The dispute was eventually settled through the intervention of leading members of the Chinese community, who, however, were entirely unable to give any information which would hep to prevent further outbreaks or strengthen the hands of the authorities. Until the Police are able actually to punish the criminal element in these factions, this feud is liable to break out at any time on the smallest pretext.

Internal troubles among various Hokkien societies kept the Police active throughout the year. There was a good deal of fighting and shooting, but fortunately none of the disputes developed on a scale comparable with the dissensions of the Cantonese and Teo Chiu.

At the beginning of the year there were 974 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca). 3,966 were admitted during the year as compared with 2,572 during 1926 and 3,843 were discharged. One thousand and ninety-seven (1,097) remained at the end of the year. There were 36 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 671 were admitted and 533 were discharged. Of the 533 vagrants discharged 75 found employment and 393 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at husk-beating, and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Public Works

In Singapore the new General Hospital was completed during the year and further progress was made with the new General Post Office and the new Mental Asylum.

In Penang the Marine Depôt at Glugor and the Sikh Police Depôt at Patani Road were completed and occupied.

In the Dindings the new Water Supply for Lumut was begun.

In Province Wellesley the work on the iron bridge over the Krian River at Nibong Tebal and the reconstruction of main roads were continued.

In Malacca special repairs to One Fathom Bank Lighthouse are in progress, certain additions and alterations to Central Station Barracks are well in hand and the sea reclamation from the Bastion to the Rest House is progressing satisfactorily.

In Labuan a new Dam for the Reservoir was begun and quarters for a Government Subordinate in North Road and one set of coolie lines for the Health Department were completed.

The Dredger *Tembakul* was engaged in the early months of the year on dredging a new Channel at Malacca and in the latter part of the year on dredging operations at Weld Quay, Penang.

VIII.—Public Health

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

The population of 1927 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is as follows:—

		Estimated 1926	*Estimated 1927*
Singapore	...	517,082	538,077
Penang	...	324,316	333,063
Malacca	...	184,437	188,828
Total	...	1,025,835	1,059,968

The number of births registered during the year was 37,233 and the number of deaths 35,561. The driest months during 1927 were from June to September when the drought was responsible for a large number of deaths from malaria, pneumonia and among infants.

The percentage of males born was 51·33. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 58·28 per thousand amongst Chinese.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 214·14 per thousand births as against 205·47 in 1926 and 184·62 in 1925.

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year of age) was 5,831 as against 4,783 and 3,648 in the two previous years. Dietetic errors, tetanus and malaria are common causes of convulsions.

The crude death-rate, 33·55 per thousand as against 31·81, was the highest since 1918. The average for the last ten years is 32·01. The death-rate for 1925, 27·26 per thousand, was the lowest on record.

Malaria was responsible for 6,296 deaths as against 6,452 in 1926, while fever unclassified accounted for 1,983 deaths as against 2,662 in the previous year.

The prevalence of malaria was due to deficient rainfall, which left many anopheline breeding grounds unflushed, enabling the larvæ to come to maturity.

The highest death-rate in any month was 36·67 in July. With the advent of the rains in September the death-rate dropped to 32·32 and then to 30·04 in the last two months of the year.

Two thousand nine hundred and fifty-two deaths were due to tuberculosis as against 2,690 in the previous year.

Pneumonia caused 2,690 deaths as against 2,568 in 1926. Only 198 deaths were recorded as due to influenza.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,531 deaths as against 1,098, 957 and 904 in the years 1926, 1925 and 1924.

Dysentery caused 1,111 deaths classified as follows:—

Dysentery	Amœbic	344
,,	Bacillary	281
,,	Unclassified	486
	Total ...	1,111

The number of deaths from dysentery in 1926 was 1,015.

Infectious Disease.—There were 28 deaths from small-pox, 14 deaths from cholera, 31 deaths from plague and 14 deaths from cerebro-spinal fever, excluding deaths in Maritime Quarantine Stations.

B.—HEALTH BRANCH

Port Health

One thousand five hundred and sixty-eight visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 998 visits to ships in Penang, by Port Health Officers, who examined 1,010,249 persons. One hundred and nine thousand and eighteen persons were retained under observation in the two quarantine stations, mostly for short periods.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 15 for

cholera, 19 for small-pox and 11 for cerebro-spinal fever: in Penang 42 for cholera and 11 for small-pox.

Rural Conservancy

The Health Officers in each Settlement continued to supervise the Sanitation and Conservancy in the rural area.

Anti-malarial Work

The sum of $226,090.14 was spent on anti-mosquito and anti-malarial measures in a general reduction of all harmful mosquitoes. Many areas formerly malarious are becoming free from this disease. The chief item of expenditure has been drainage.

C.—KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

His Excellency the Governor honoured the College by consenting to be Patron and presented the Prizes in October, 1927.

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 212 and the number of students 110.

Colonel R. A. Needham, c.i.e., Travelling Inspector of the General Medical Council of Great Britain, reported favourably on the College and made certain recommendations, of which a considerable number have been acted upon.

D.—HOSPITAL

Sixty-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-three in-patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony, as against 68,014 in 1926. The malaria admissions were 14,178 as against 14,293 and the deaths 914 as against 984.

Admissions for venereal disease were 4,377 with 85 deaths.

E.—DISPENSARIES

Out-patients numbered 166,428 and attendances 313,264 as against 159,903 out-patients and 312,090 attendances in 1926.

Out-patients treated for venereal diseases were 24,883 as compared with 22,245 in 1926. The attendances were 146,350 as against 54,090.

The number of out-patients treated for yaws was 7,979 as compared with 8,359 in 1926. This disease is steadily decreasing owing to widespread and effective treatment.

The attendances at the Women's and Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 33,888 as compared with 32,247 in 1926.

The number of cases treated by the Penang travelling motor dispensary, which started work on 25th August, 1927, was 19,269. The travelling dispensary in Province Wellesley treated 21,197 cases as against 19,471 in 1926, and the travelling motor dispensary in Malacca treated 13,832 cases as against 8,369 in 1926.

In Singapore a travelling motor dispensary started work in May and treated 15,652 cases.

F.—LEPERS

The total number of lepers treated in the Leper Asylum was 1,112 and the total deaths 143, as against 1,022 treated and 131 deaths in 1926.

With the continuance of modern treatment, the death-rate has been halved since 1920.

G.—MENTAL HOSPITAL

Eight hundred and eighty-one male and 212 female lunatics were treated during 1927 in this institution. The number remaining at the end of the year was 634 males and 146 females.

The New Mental Diseases Hospital on Trafalgar Estate will be completed during 1928.

IX.—Education

There were 20 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 8,145 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $987,594.

There were 29 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 15,010 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to $760,151.

The expenditure on the 214 Government Vernacular Schools was $498,659 and their average enrolment was 18,044.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 18 Aided Vernacular Schools, with an average enrolment of 2,059, the grants to which for 1927 amounted to $19,664.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,499 as against 1,499 in 1925 and 1,397 in 1926.

Thirty-nine students passed the final third year examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, as compared with 14 in 1926.

There were six student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hong Kong University at Government expense. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools. As soon as Raffles College is opened in Singapore, student teachers will be trained in the Colony.

Twelve candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang won the scholarships but several candidates were fit in the opinion of the examining body to study for an honours' degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Both the successful scholars propose to study Law.

The European Staff was still short of officers chiefly owing to the creation of supernumerary appointments to provide for officers going on leave and for officers seconded to Kedah and Johore.

During the year six European Masters, appointed to the Malay Educational service, were allocated to the Colony. One European Master and one European Mistress resigned. Two new European Mistresses were allocated to the Straits Settlements.

The appointment of an Art Master for Singapore and of a Physical Instructor for the Colony has been fully justified by results in these important branches of the school curriculum.

A new Elementary English School for 240 pupils was opened at Radin Mas, Singapore.

The building of the new Raffles Girls' School, Singapore, was nearly finished.

The new Penang Free School was completed.

The new High School at Bukit Mertajam, Province Wellesley, was opened in January.

A new annexe to the Government Girls' School, Penang, was equipped and furnished.

A new site for Malacca High School was purchased.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils and instruction in hygiene are slowly creating an interest in public health.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to satisfy a local want. In the last term the total enrolment was 415. Instruction was

given in English, Book-keeping, Shorthand and Typing, in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mechanics, Mechanical and Survey Drawing, Building Construction, Electricity and Magnetism, and Sanitary Inspection. Twenty-five students passed the examination of the London Chamber of Commerce held in November, 1926, and twelve passed the examination of May, 1926.

Nautical Classes under a European Instructor gave instruction in Malay for helmsmen, gunners and masters of local craft.

In Penang 135 students attended the evening classes in commercial subjects, and 34 the technical classes.

There were evening classes in Malacca in Type-writing and Shorthand.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of $46,901.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was $14,981.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 312 with 21,386 pupils.

One Chinese school in Singapore received a grant-in-aid during 1927 amounting to $659.50; in Penang four Chinese schools received grants amounting to $14,322.

Raffles College.—The accounts showed at the end of 1927 $1,693,496 to the credit of the General Fund and the Funds of Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing $1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to $63,000 have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

Considerable progress has been made in the building of a Hostel and of the Science and Administration Blocks, which will be completed by the middle of 1928. The houses for the Principal and Professors were nearly ready at the end of the year

The Honourable Mr. R. O. WINSTEDT, C.M.G., D. LITT. (Oxon.), M.A., Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, continued to act as Principal. The College is at present administered by Executive and Financial Committees.

The most important educational development of the year was the recognition by Government of the need for an Agricultural School. A school is to be built in the Federated Malay States but the Straits Settlements Government will pay a share of the expenses and enter a proportion of the total number of students.

X.—Lands and Survey

A.—LANDS

(i).—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the policy hitherto has been to restrict the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the

Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99 years but there are a few leases of 999 years and a few Statutory Grants.

Occupied land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99 year leases from the Crown in the case of Estates but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for the alienation of foreshore.

Land is obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure. Land to be held under Grant or Lease is generally sold by auction. The principal land Revenue consists of rents on Grants or Leases and of Mukim Assessment on land held under Customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE

The Revenue in 1926 and 1927 was distributed as follows:—

——		Land Revenue	Reimbursements	Land Sales	Total
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1926	376,364	43,800	70,673	490,837
	1927	368,783	43,689	359,889	772,361
Penang ...	1926	243,882	29,030	12,453	285,365
	1927	206,145	31,599	107,249	344,993
Malacca ...	1926	663,685	9,213	439,407	1,112,305
	1927	679,505	19,531	386,793	1,085,829
Labuan ...	1926	5,164	2,793	936	8,893
	1927	5,543	2,786	1,361	9,690
Total ...	1926	1,289,095	84,836	523,469	1,897,400
	1927	1,259,976	97,605	855,292	2,212,873

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years, together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Singapore	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,730 0 04	1,355 0 27	1,059 1 29	441 1 00	33 3 18
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	123,743	46,139	12,183	13,738	100,915
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	64	57	41	60	101
Premia paid ...	$131,476.00	$70,399.00	$87,631.00	$71,241	$48,738
Penang	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	525 3 24	1,284 1 22	1,120 3 6 45	2,134 1 11	1,825 1 39·93
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	155	19,901	Nil.	5,539
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	127	146 S. Grants (& 5-99 years' Leases.)	171 S. Grants (27-99 years' Leases.) 4-30 do.	391 Statutory Grants, 10 Penang Hill Leases 25-99 years' Leases 1-10 years' Lease	300 Statutory Grants, 99, 99 years Leases 1 Foreshore Lease for 80 years covering an area of 3,600 sq. ft.
Premia paid ...	$12,978.16	$18,464.00	$410,795.00	$14,165.72	$19,424.00
Malacca	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,348 0 16.96	2,712 2 18.64	3,686 3 11.02	737 1 03.75	8,018 0 26
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.		sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ..	Nil.	59,350½	Nil.	6 3 35	23,720
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	273	127 & 1 Lease	80 & 1 Lease	48 & 34 Leases	79 Statutory Grants, 55, 99 years' Leases, 2 30 years Leases and 2 Mining Leases
Premia paid ...	$72,345.00	$202,830 00	$254,040.10	$57,927	$109,297.00
Labuan	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	59 2 35	135 0 20	146 3 00	457 3 24	557 2 06
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	0 0 24¾	Nil.	0 2 01	131
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	91	50	52	124	
	(55 new Grants. 17 Sub-division Grants. 19 in exchange for old grants)	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)	(22 new Grants, 24 Sub-division Grants and 6 in exchange for old grants)	(87 new Grants, 34 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants)	(73 new Grants, 49 Sub-division Grants and 9 issued in exchange for old grants)
Premia paid ...	$49.40	$209.20	$217.20	$936.75	$1,360.50

B.—SURVEY

(i).—General

The Survey Department, which until 1920 had been under the control of the Colonial Engineer, was amalgamated with that of the Federated Malay States in that year. Since then its activities have been directed by the Surveyor General, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements stationed in Kuala Lumpur, with Superintendents stationed in Singapore, Penang and Malacca in immediate control of its operations.

Subdivisional and other surveys required for the registration of transactions in land under the Registration of Deeds Ordinance provide a large proportion of the work of the Department; but there is still a considerable demand for surveys for alienation, detailed surveys of towns, surveys for land acquisition and revisional surveys.

The methods now used in the field, in the office and in the compilation of records are such as to meet the requirements of the most exacting of land systems. The results being attained can therefore be looked on as permanent and adequate for any system of land tenure. But the transition from the methods of the past, which aimed at a draftsman's rather than a computer's value for boundaries, is productive of many difficulties.

Expenditure on surveys amounted to $508,648 during 1927 against $460,975 in 1926. The revenue amounted to $94,074 as against $92,805. The 1927 expenditure includes $30,695 for Topographical Surveys, while in 1926 these cost $21,240.

The demand for title and other surveys was more than maintained during the year. In the Settlement of Malacca this demand was fully met, and arrears were reduced. In Penang and Province Wellesley equilibrium was almost maintained, but in Singapore the number of uncompleted surveys increased considerably.

Although surveys in Singapore present obstacles of a kind and degree seldom encountered elsewhere, the Department's chief difficulty lies in the maintenance of a subordinate staff adequate in numbers and efficiency. During recent years recruiting has proceeded energetically and training methodically, but the full effects of this campaign will not be felt for some time. It takes nearly six years to convert a youth fresh from school into an efficient surveyor, and the attractive terms offered by private employers result in frequent resignations.

The Topographical survey of Penang Island, on a scale of four inches to one mile, was completed during the year, while progress continues on the Revision Survey of Malacca, which was commenced in 1923 and amounts in fact to a complete redetermination of boundaries.

The very wide selection of maps available to the public was increased by the publication during the year of a map of Singapore Island, scale 1½ inches to one mile, a map of Malacca territory, scale one inch to one mile, a map of Penang and Province Wellesley on the same scale, a Penang Municipal map, several mukim maps of Malacca and four sheets of the Topographical survey of Penang Island.

(ii).—Meteorology

Responsibility for the direction of meteorological activity was assigned to the Surveyor General, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements at the beginning of 1927. As a preliminary to scientific investigation and a systematic study of the climate of Malaya a scheme of development was submitted to and accepted by all Governments concerned. The proposals involve the establishment of groups of "second order" stations down each coast and along the centre of the Peninsula. At these stations determinations of barometric pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind direction and velocity, the amount and type of cloud and the duration and intensity of thunderstorms will be recorded. In addition it is hoped to establish a large number of stations at which temperature and rainfall data will be collected with the co-operation of the planting community.

The organisation outlined should provide a foundation or which can be built a Meteorological Department capable of dealing comprehensively with the needs of aviation, upper-air research work, the distribution and exchange of information and weather predictions.

The work accomplished during 1927 includes the selection and acquisition of station sites, the ordering of essential instruments and the recruitment and partial training of a proportion of the Subordinate Staff which will be required.

(iii).—Geological Survey

The preliminary Geological Survey of the Straits Settlements has been completed by the publication of an account of the geology of Malacca by Mr. J. B. Scrivenor, Government Geologist, Federated Malay States. It is improbable that there remain in Malacca undiscovered mineral deposits

of importance. Gold mining, as an industry, has ceased to exist but tin mining continues in the vicinity of Kesang and Jasin. Tin ore occurs on the coast and in the sea-bed between Tanjong Serai and Tanjong Bras Basa, where prospecting, now proceeding, may prove values sufficiently high for dredging.

The results of the preliminary geological survey are incorporated in the geological map of Malaya published by the Survey Department.

XI.—Labour

(i).—General

(*a*) The majority of labourers in the Colony are Chinese and Southern Indians. The latter are chiefly engaged in agricultural work and on public services, the former in agriculture and every other form of manual labour. Skilled work is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese.

(*b*) In addition there are about 3,500 Javanese labourers, immigrants from the Netherlands East Indies.

(*c*) Conditions of labour in the Colony are governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 197 (Labour), and by the Netherlands Indians Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908. These Ordinances are administered by a Labour Department under the direction of the Controller of Labour, Malaya.

During the year under review relations between employers and labourers continued to be satisfactory. There were no strikes or serious disturbances.

(*d*) Standard rates of wages, namely, 50 cents a day for men, and 40 cents a day for women were prescribed for Southern Indian labourers in Province Wellesley under section 131 of the Ordinance. These rates came into force on the 1st of July, 1927.

In other parts of the Colony, South Indian labourers earn from 45 cents to 60 cents (men), and from 35 cents to 50 cents (women). The rates in the larger towns are usually higher than these.

Javanese and Malays earn from 50 to 60 cents a day and Chinese who are usually employed on contract (*i.e.* piece work) earn considerably more.

(*e*) The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was satisfactory, the death rate among Indian labourers in Province Wellesley being 14·08 per mille and in the Dindings 19·59 per mille. The death rate on the few estates in Penang was 7·46 per mille.

(*f*) The death rate on estates in Malacca on an average population of 13,181 was 20·6 per mille.

(*g*) The death rate among Indians in Singapore was 29·83 per mille.

(*h*) The death rate among labourers of other races, of whom far fewer are employed on estates, was inconsiderable. In the Settlement of Penang on an average population of 2,123 it was 1·89 per mille. In Malacca among 584 Javanese it was nil and amongst 3,231 Chinese 5·5 per mille.

(ii).—IMMIGRATION

(*a*) *Chinese* Immigration from China is uncontrolled. In 1927 the number of immigrants arriving in the Colony from China reached the record figure of 359,262, an increase of 3·06 per cent over the number for 1926 and exceeding that for 1911, the highest year before the war, by 89,408 or 33·1 per cent.

Adult males formed 70·2 per cent, and adult females 16·3 per cent of the immigrants.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 155,198 and the excess of immigrants over emigrants was 204,064 or 56·8 per cent of their total number.

The chief factors contributing to the increased immigration were the comparative prosperity of Malaya's major industries, the demand for skilled and unskilled labour, the decline in passage rates and the continued unsettled conditions prevailing in South China.

Women and children arriving numbered 106,758, which again constitutes a record.

The following figures show the arrivals during the four previous years:—

1923	...	...	...	159,019
1924	...	...	...	181,430
1925	...	...	...	214,692
1926	...	...	...	348,593

(*b*) *Southern Indians.*—The immigration of labourers from Southern India is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee (of which the Controller of Labour, Malaya, is *ex officio* Chairman) appointed by the Governor.

The Railway fares in India, steamer passages, and transport expenses of such labourers to their places of employment are paid from the Indian Immigration Fund.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 156,132 as compared with 174,795 in 1926.

These figures include both "assisted" and "other" Immigrants.

The assisted immigrants are free labourers imported at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates, mines and elsewhere. The other immigrants are deck passengers paying their own fares, 66 per cent of whom were of the labouring classes.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 88,718 as against 65,786 in 1926. These figures include all deck passengers of whom it is estimated that 79 per cent were labourers.

The figures for arrivals for the last 4 years are as follows:—

	1924	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*
Assisted Immigrants	43,147	70,198	149,414	123,826
Other Immigrants ...	18,905	20,510	25,381	32,306
	62,052	90,708	174,795	156,132

The assisted immigrants consisted of 104,382 adults and 19,444 minors. Of the adults 76,937 were men and 27,445 were women. About 1/5th of the assisted immigrants remained in the Colony: the others proceeded to other parts of Malaya.

The Indian Immigration Fund.

The income of the Fund is derived from a quarterly assessment levied on all employers of South Indian labour throughout Malaya based upon the number of days' work done by such labourers during the quarter.

With a view to increasing the number of female immigrants, a differential rate is levied on male and female labourers. The rate of assessment was fixed at $5 for males and $4 for females for the first and second quarters and at $4 for males and $3 for females for the third and fourth quarters of 1927, in respect of every 72 days' work done.

(iii).—Repatriation

During 1927, 7,786 adult and 1,821 minor decrepit or destitute Indians were assisted with passages back to India.

XII.—Miscellaneous

A.—LEGISLATION

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year 1927. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and twelve were purely Amending Ordinances.

The Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Malacca Re-Surveys Ordinance (No. 3) which provides for the re-survey of all lands in the Settlement of Malacca and for the substitution of new maps for maps published under Ordinance No. 31 (Boundaries and Survey Maps).

(ii) The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance (No. 4) which reproduces in all essentials the provisions of the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1924, with the object of securing international uniformity of maritime law, as was agreed at meetings of the International Maritime Conference and Committees of the Conference in 1922 and 1923.

(iii) The Deleterious Drugs Ordinance (No. 7) which consolidates and amends the law relating to deleterious drugs so as to embody in it such of the provisions of the International Opium Convention, signed at Geneva on the 19th February, 1925, as are applicable to the Colony.

(iv) The Singapore Improvement Ordinance (No. 10) which constitutes a Board of Trustees with power to take measures for the improvement of the Town and Island of Singapore in regard to housing accommodation, means of communication and insanitary areas.

(v) The Liquors Revenue Ordinance (No. 11) which repeals and re-enacts with amendments the law for collecting revenue upon intoxicating liquors.

(vi) The Children Ordinance (No. 17) which prohibits the employment of children upon forms of labour unsuitable to them and provides for their detention and care in Government houses and hospitals and other places of safety.

The principal Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Telegraphs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which places upon unlicensed persons, who are in possession of apparatus capable of transmitting or receiving wireless signals, the burden of proving they have not worked the same.

(ii) The Reformatories and Industrial Schools (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which enables the Governor in Council to fix from time to time the rate of maintenance of a child who is detained in a reformatory or similar institution.

(iii) The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which removes the doubts as to whether a woman, who is otherwise qualified to be admitted and enrolled as an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Colony, is disqualified by reason of her sex from such admission and enrolment.

(iv) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which provides that, where any vessel has been used for the importation, exportation or removal of any article in contravention of the Ordinance, liability shall not attach to the owner and master of the vessel, if it is proved that he was not implicated in the placing or keeping of the article on board the vessel and that the offence was committed without his knowledge, consent or connivance.

(v) The Women and Girls Protection (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) which requires prostitutes, who are suspected on substantial grounds to be suffering from venereal disease, to submit themselves to medical examination.

(vi) The Chandu Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) which gives effect to the provisions of the International Opium Convention 1925, so far as they affect the carriage through the Colony of opium consigned to destinations outside the Colony.

(vii) The Rubber Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) which prevents the utilisation of export rights carried over from the previous quarter until the rights of the current quarter are exhausted.

B.—REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

During the year 70 new companies were registered, with a capital of $28,205,571, including 50 private companies with a capital of $11,727,000.

Four hundred and ninety-four companies remained on the register at the end of the year, 41 of which were in liquidation, and the total subscribed capital of the 440 companies carrying on business was $190,583,572.

Five hundred and fifty companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 429 are British, 26 are Japanese, 34 are Dutch, 2 are German and 27 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 15 companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Seventy-one companies do fire insurance business.

C.—BANKRUPTCIES

There were 47 trade bankruptcies of which 32 were Chinese. In 21 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In three cases liabilities exceeded $100,000, in 6 cases $50,000 and in 13 cases $10,000.

Three Deeds of Arrangement were registered.

H. MARRIOTT,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, *1st June*, 1928.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1928.

Prefatory Note

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

Singapore

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

Cocos or Keeling Islands

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ and 12° 45′ south, and in longitude approximately 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements

by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employees of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

Labuan

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907. It became a separate Settlement in 1912.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

Labuan has a fine port, Victoria Harbour (latitude 5° 16′ north, longitude 115° 15′ east), safe, and easy of access.

Penang

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

The Dindings

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude 4° 15′ north and longitude 100° 35′ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

Malacca

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

Total Area

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

Climate

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore during 1928 was 79·7° F; in Penang 83·4° F; in Province Wellesley 80·5° F; in Malacca 81·3° F; and in Labuan 80° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 87·3° and 74·4° F. In Singapore the maximum recorded was 91·8° F. on the 27th September and the 31st May. The minimum was 70·5° F. on the 2nd February. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in Penang vary between 92·6° and 71·6° F. The maximum recorded was 97·5° F. on the 13th February, 1928. The minimum was 67·5° F. on the 23rd October, 1928.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1919 to 1928, it is found in Singapore that there is an annual average of 178 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 98·42 inches. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1914, with 135·52 inches, and the driest was 1877 with 58·37 inches. In Penang the average annual rainfall of the last three years is 178 wet days and the average rainfall for the same period is 99·0 inches. The actual number of wet days in Penang in 1928 was 169 and the rainfall 87·91 inches. In Labuan the average annual rainfall is about 136·26 inches.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz*:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1927	1928
Singapore	...	101·43 inches	109·25 inches
Penang	...	89·61 ,,	87·91 ,,
Malacca	...	103·30 ,,	123·25 ,,
Province Wellesley		102·01 ,,	81·57 ,,
Labuan	...	141·01 ,,	128·74 ,,
Dindings	...	58·73 ,,	95·02 ,,

B.—HISTORY

Malacca

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century, but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by Napoleon the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah, who stipulated that the sum of $6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River. It is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823,

it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

Labuan

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay is the language of the Malays of the Colony. Moreover Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca*, though to-day it shows signs of being superseded by English as the language of commerce. It belongs to the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. To the western branch of this family belong Malay as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian. With Islam

the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn. They are divided into Hokkien, (Amoy, Chiangchiu and Chuanchiu districts), spoken by about 44.4% of the total Chinese population of the Colony; Cantonese, 23.4%; Tiochiu, 15.4%; Hakka, 7.6%; Hailam, 6%; Foochow, 1.6%; Hokchhia, .8%; Henghua, .4%; and Shanghai and other northern dialects, 4%.

The Indian population of the Straits Settlements at the last census was 104,628, of whom 96,835 or 92 per cent were Southern Indians.

There has been an increase of some ten per cent in the Indian population since 1921, but the relative proportions of the various elements remain the same. Of the Southern Indians, who form the bulk of the Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, *i.e.*, Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Canarese. The vast majority (about 94 per cent) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Telugus slightly outnumber the Malayalis, while the number of Canarese is negligible.

Three quarters of the remaining Indian population of the Colony consist of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani. The balance comprises a few hundreds from the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and also a few hundred Burmese.

(D).—Currency

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, ½ cent and ¼ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter two denominations. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5, and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for the bankers' clearances.

During the War and for some years after notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at *2s. 4d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of *2s.* $4\frac{3}{16}$*d.* to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate *2s.* $3\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

E.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) Standard of Extension, the Imperial yard.

(*b*) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(*c*) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese Steelyards (called "Dachings") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal measures used by these classes with their relation to English standards:—

Local term	*Relation to English standard*	
The chupah	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	equals	1 gallon.
The tahil	equals	$1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	equals	$1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	equals	$133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	equals	$5{,}333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.

I.—General

At the close of 1927 there was a surplus of 61 million dollars. This was increased as a result of the year's working to 64 millions in spite of the fact that a deficit of 6 millions was budgetted for at the beginning of the year. The increase in the surplus was due to the fact that the revenue exceeded the estimates by 5 millions whilst the expenditure was less by 4 millions. It would appear from the results that the Colony was overcautious in estimating its Revenue whereas it was oversanguine as to its capacity to spend. The general financial position is sound.

Activity in the land market declined during the year and the boom which began towards the close of 1925 and continued during the following years may now be considered ended. What activity still persisted was in the case of suburban and seaside property.

The Rubber Restriction scheme continued in operation until the 1st November, when it was removed entirely. Notice of its removal had been given by the announcement of the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on the 4th April. At the beginning of the year the price was 70 cents per lb., but it rapidly declined until, as a result of the Prime Minister's announcement, it fell to as low as 27 cents per lb. at the end of April. From that date onwards the price remained in the neighbourhood of 30 cents per lb. The percentage of release remained at 60 per cent until Restriction ceased.

A noticeable feature of the year was the suppression of lawlessness in Singapore in the form of crimes of violence and of outbursts of dissensions among the various native factions. This was due to the sustained and consistently devoted efforts of the Police Department.

During the early part of the year the Singapore Harbour Board decided that its present Wharf accommodation should be increased and a report by the Chairman, Singapore Harbour Board, on the various schemes put forward received careful consideration and was referred to the Consulting Engineers.

At the New Year His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to confer the honour of Knight Bachelor upon Mr. C. Everitt, who had recently retired after serving on

both the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Colony The Birthday Honours list included the following:—

Mr. W. H. LEE-WARNER of the Malayan Civil Service ...	O.B.E. (Civil Division)
Captain H. A. A. HOWELL, Assistant Staff Officer to Local Forces	M.B.E. (Military Division)
Mrs. E. P. MANASSEH	O.B.E. (Civil Division)
Mrs. A. SPROULE	O.B.E. (Civil Division)

The large and handsome building erected in Singapore to accommodate the General Post Office, the Singapore Club, the Singapore Chamber of Commerce and various Government offices, was completed by the middle of the year. It was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 27th June, when it was announced that it would be known as Fullerton Building from its association with Fullerton Road, which was so named in commemoration of Mr. THOMAS FULLERTON, the first Governor of Singapore, Malacca and Penang.

Vice-Admiral Sir R. Y. TYRWHITT, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief of the China Station, arrived at Singapore in H.M.S. "Hawkins" on the 13th January and made an official landing on the following day.

In February, His Excellency the Governor made an official visit to the neighbouring Kingdom of Siam, returning to Singapore *viâ* Saigon.

The Right Honourable W. G. A. ORMSBY-GORE, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, arrived in Penang on the 5th April and carried through an extensive programme of visits in Malaya. After a tour in the Netherlands East Indies, he returned home *viâ* Colombo, leaving Penang on the 1st June.

His Excellency the Governor proceeded on leave to Europe on the 28th July, when the late Sir HAYES MARRIOTT, K.B.E., C.M.G., assumed the administration of the Government. Sir HUGH CLIFFORD returned to Penang on the 28th December.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the deep regret of the Government and of all communities in the Colony at the death on the 9th of February, 1929, of Sir HAYES MARRIOTT, who had proceeded on leave on the 28th December prior to retirement after 32 years devoted service in

this country, and also at the death of Lady MARRIOTT which occurred only a few days later.

II.—Finance

The revenue for the year 1928 amounted to $38,092,221, exceeding the estimate by $5,175,676, whilst the expenditure was $35,007,608, being $3,943,341 less than the estimate.

The revenue was $490,140 more than that of 1927, while expenditure was less than the 1927 figure by $4,245,664. The excess of revenue over expenditure was $3,084,613 as compared with an excess of expenditure over revenue in 1927 of $1,651,191.

The actual figures for 1927 and 1928 are as follows:—

(i)—REVENUE

—	1927	1928	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	2,519	2,588	69	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	27,954,663	28,067,105	112,442	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	1,246,494	1,213,723	...	32,771
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	2,224,838	2,123,489	...	101,349
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,753,768	1,879,938	126,170	...
6. Interest	2,976,328	2,362,898	...	613,430
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	588,392	954,795	366,403	...
	36,747,002	36,604,536	605,084	747,550
8. Land Sales	855,079	1,487,685	632,606	...
TOTAL ...	37,602,081	38,092,221	1,237,690	747,550
	Net Increase ...		$490,140	

The decline in revenue under Interest is mainly due to a lower rate of interest obtained for the Colony's sterling investments. The 1927 figure was augmented by a sum of $126,500 on account of interest accrued due in 1926 but credited in 1927.

The increase under Miscellaneous Receipts is caused largely by a refund of $139,500 on account of Defence Contribution, the transfer to revenue of $97,000 standing to the credit of the Mercantile Marine Fund and the recovery of $32,000 on account of over-payments.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

—	1927	1928	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,538,491	1,716,029	177,538	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	20,283	33,107	12,824	...
4. The Governor	157,507	148,110	...	9,397
5. Civil Service	669,635	687,073	17,438	...
6. General Clerical Service ...	869,531	930,982	61,451	...
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	129,041	129,305	264	..
8. Secretary to High Commissioner	13,884	13,615	...	269
9. Agricultural Department ...	42,279	46,043	3,764	...
10. Audit	24,103	23,633	...	470
11. Audit, External ...	...	16,849	16,849	...
12. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	83,824	90,423	6,599	...
13. Co-operative Societies ...	19,812	26,325	6,513	...
14. Ecclesiastical	25,059	25,281	222	...
15. Education	1,228,038	1,301,209	73,171	...
16. Fisheries	147,284	80,170		67,114
17. Forests	34,370	47,795	13,425	...
18. Gardens, Botanical ..	100,863	104,585	3,722	...
19. Imports, Exports and Statistics ...	35,771	40,084	4,313	...
20. Land and District Offices ...	237,861	254,917	17,056	...
21. Legal	351,128	333,770	...	17,358
22. Marine	598,168	628,104	29,936	...
23. Marine Surveys ...	69,755	73,181	3,426	...
24. Medical	401,677	360,311	...	41,366
25. Medical, Health Branch ...	604,635	648,914	44,279	...
26. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	92,488	98,620	6,132	...
27. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,066,543	2,246,130	179,587	...
28. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	5,303,211	3,960,000	...	1,343,211
II. Local Forces ...	390,803	438,037	47,234	...
29. Miscellaneous Services ...	9,157,397	5,759,964	...	3,397,433
30. Monopolies	1,686,966	1,727,880	40,914	...
31. Museum and Library, Raffles	55,730	52,871	...	2,859
32. Police	2,498,068	2,727,842	229,774	...
33. Political Intelligence Bureau	18,795	24,710	5,915	...
34. Post Office	1,681,747	1,765,803	84,056	..
35. Printing Office ...	180,262	200,739	20,477	...
36. Prisons	412,304	432,277	19,973	...
37. Public Works Department...	465,566	482,135	16,569	...
38. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	773,675	884,282	110,607	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary	6,184,886	5,409,873	...	695,013
40. Survey Department ...	427,003	426,453	...	550
41. Transport	253,470	328,083	74,613	...
42. Treasury	100,999	98,926	...	2,073
43. Veterinary	63,277	66,085	2,808	...
TOTAL ...	39,253,272	35,007,608	1,331,449	5,577,113
		Net Decrease ...	$4,245,664	

The increase under Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. is due to commutation of pensions under the Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance, 1926.

The appointment of additional Teachers accounts largely for the increase under Education.

The larger expenditure under Hospitals and Dispensaries is due to new appointments and increased contributions to Hospital Boards.

The excess under Police is caused by an increased personnel and greater expenditure in connection with the conveyance of prisoners, vagrants etc.

The increase under Post Office is caused by additional appointments and the reconstruction of the Penang Telephone and Telegraph system.

The increase under Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure, is caused by the larger number of public works requiring upkeep and maintenance.

The head "Transport" includes provision for passages both of officers proceeding on furlough and of officers on their first appointment. The number of such officers showed an increase for 1928.

The abandonment of experimental fishing by the steam trawler *Tongkol* at the end of April caused the decrease under Fisheries.

The suspension in 1928 of payment of ten per cent of the revenue to the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund, a payment which in 1927 amounted to $3½ millions, accounts for the decrease under Miscellaneous Services.

The expenditure under Military, Defence Contribution, which shows a large decrease, is more comparable with that of 1926. The large figure for 1927 was mainly due to arrears being paid in respect of the financial year 1925/1926.

The completion of the new Post Office, Singapore, (Fullerton Building) early in the year accounted mainly for the decrease under Public Works, Extraordinary.

An excess of more than $1 million over the estimate for Miscellaneous Services was mainly due to the payments of $251,204 as arrears to the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund, of $198,000 on account of the Singapore Town Improvement Scheme, of $174,032 as a grant to the

Singapore Municipality in respect of the interest on its Government loan of $13,000,000, and of $290,000 for acquisition and purchase of land.

The following table shows the Colony's expenditure, excluding Defence Contribution, for the last five years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary:—

		Total Expenditure	*Public Works Expenditure*
		$	$
1924	...	23,150,128	4,223,846
1925	...	54,314,078	5,142,549
1926	...	33,325,253	5,145,540
1927	...	33,950,061	6,184,886
1928	...	31,047,608	5,489,873

The abnormal figure for 1925 is due to the transfer of $30,000,000 to the newly-formed Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund.

The amounts paid as Defence Contribution for the last 5 years are:—

				$
1924	...	...	...	3,556,000
1925	...	...	...	3,280,000
1926	...	...	...	3,630,000
1927	...	...	...	5,303,000
1928	...	...	...	3,960,000

The amount for 1927 includes a sum of $810,000 paid in respect of arrears for the financial year 1925 - 1926. A refund of $139,500 received in 1928 in respect of overpayment in the financial year 1926 - 1927 is not included in the above figures.

(iii).—Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, were as follows:—

Liabilities		$	*Assets*		$
Deposits:—			Investments:—		
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	$42,417,071		Colony ...	$40,620,788	
Other Deposits ...	10,173,793		Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	42,417,071	
		52,590,864	Other investments	4,360,956	
					87,398,815
Drafts and Remittances ...		31,202			
Suspense		3,329,011	Advances		1,048,546
			Imprests		75,586
			Cash in Transit		53,786
Investments Depreciation Account		25,000			
			Loans:—		
Loans:—			Municipalities ...		6,691,861
			Kelantan Government ...		4,080,684
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921-1926		200	Trengganu Government ...		1,747,000
			Singapore Harbour Board ...		4,928,048
			Penang Harbour Board ...		2,413,525
			Ho Hong Steamship Co. ...		50,000
Surplus:—			Singapore Cricket Club ...		24,183
			Brunei Government ...		10,000
			Stadium Association ...		25 000
Reserved for specific purposes (*a*) ...	$17,248,703		War Service Land Grants Scheme		156,500
Unreserved ...	46,779,620		Singapore Improvement Trust		250,000
		64,028,323	Indian Agency Account ...		164,952
			Cash		10,886,114
TOTAL ...		120,004,600	TOTAL ...		120,004,600

(*a*) *Loans*:—

Loans to Municipalities	$ 947,000	
Loan to Government of Trengganu	1,753,000	
Loan to Penang Harbour Board	453,000	
War Service Land Grants Scheme	88,305	
For building Dwelling Houses	517,709	
		$3,759,014

(*a*) *Commitments of Expenditure*:—

Raffles College Buildings	77,014	
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply	100,000	
Development of Penang Hill	324,638	
Singapore Town Improvement Scheme	8,108,408	
Land required for improvement of Railway	2,638,320	
Other Public Works shewn on page 3 of 1928 Estimates ...	2,241,309	
		$13,489,689
TOTAL ...		$17,248,703

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted, on the 31st December, 1928, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
Total ...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ...	3,388,205
	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was $2,079,908 in 1928. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the sinking fund of this loan on 31st December, 1928, was approximately $9,446,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the 5½ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 stands at $36,715,200, and under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at $15,074,300. The principal of, and the major portion of the interest on all these two loans is payable by His Majesty's Government

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the loan and of sinking fund contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Exchange

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1928:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)
,, Banque de l'Indo Chine
,, National City Bank of New York
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited
,, Kwong Lee Banking Corporation
,, Eastern Bank, Limited

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 and 2/3 21/32.

(vi).—Currency

No change was made in the Currency Legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $115,636,274.20 in currency notes and $5,958,262 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $138,999 as compared with $139,585 at the end of 1927.

At the end of 1927 the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $117,805,414.70. There was a demand by the public for Currency Notes during the month of January, 1928, which resulted in the issue of notes to the extent of $851,400. But there was also a demand for sterling in the months of May and August and the consequent contraction in Currency Notes during those months amounted to $3,589,050, thus making a net contraction over the year of $2,737,650. The value of the Currency Notes in circulation at the end of 1928 stood at $115,636,274.20.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $68,624,647.43, consisting of £328,251 in gold, $16,321,765.71 in silver and $2,736,154.75 on deposit with the Government held locally and £73,330 in gold and £5,381,203-16-3 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $102,959,862.97; the cost price of those investments having been $104,216,567.10.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than 2/5 ths of the notes in Circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form *i.e.* in current silver and gold coin in the Colony and in Gold, cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year was $68,706,907.05 and the investment portion amounted to $102,959,862.97. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $56,030,495.82 as compared with an excess of $46,123,045.32 at the end of 1927.

There was a net withdrawal by the Treasury of $101,016 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a net decrease of $355,838.50 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $10,563,438 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $768,391.20 in current notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1926 was $1,923,607.70 and at the end of 1927 $1,124,307.70.

Twenty millions five hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and forty notes to the value of $87,133,550 were destroyed during the year as against 26,697,813 to the value of $140,666,694 in 1927.

(vii) Enemy Property.

During the year a sum of $24,113.29 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts), London. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property so transferred to the end of 1928 amounted to $12,815,248.70.

Local Clearing Office.

The position at the end of the year 1928 in regard to the different classes of claims was as follows:—

German Claims.—The total value of all claims registered remained at $1,894,021.59 as in the previous year. Claims for $1,643,954.14 have been withdrawn and claims for $200,389.76 admitted. Claims to the value of $49,240.43 were under reference to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and in addition there was a portion of a claim amounting to $437.26 unsettled. The admitted claims together with interest $36,123.87 amounted to $236,539.34. Of this $219,859.84 has been recovered. The balance will have to be treated as irrecoverable.

The sum of $33,168.11 was collected from British Nationals during the year on account of admitted debts and interest.

British Claims.—The total value of the claims registered remained at $217,366.40 as in the previous year. Of this, claims to the value of $16,871.57 were withdrawn during the year making the total of the withdrawn claims $170,279.07. The admissions during the year amounted to $11,648.16, including interest $4,702.84, making the total of the admissions $47,087.33 on account of principal and $21,019.52 on account of interest or a total of $68,106.85. The payment to British creditors in respect of the foregoing admissions amounted to $48,464.82.

Claims against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.

During the year a dividend of 1/- in the £ on the admitted claims was credited and distributed making the total of the dividend so distributed 20/- in the £ on the first £5- and 13/- in the £ on the balance ranking for dividend. Liabilities outstanding on the 31st December, 1928, amounted to $1,141.07.

Funds in the hands of the Local Controller.—These amounted to $37,000 on fixed deposit and $22,302.03 cash.

III.—Production

(*a*) Agriculture

The total expenditure of the Department of Agriculture in the Colony, including the contribution towards the Head Office expenses, was $153,268.49, while the Revenue collected in the Colony amounted to $1,950.35.

Rubber.—In 1927 the Department of Agriculture handed over to the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya all work in connection with rubber cultivation other than the administration of Ordinance No. 166 (Agricultural Pests). Under this Ordinance the Department is still responsible for enforcing the control of pests and diseases of rubber.

The standard of upkeep maintained on large plantations was not appreciably affected by the lower prices for rubber ruling during the year, but a deterioration in the general condition of native holdings accompanied by a programme of more liberal tapping was apparent. Following the removal of restriction at the end of October excessive tapping and a tendency to neglect sanitation and diseases became general on small holdings.

Pests and diseases of rubber showed no material increase in virulence or distribution, nor were any new diseases recorded by the Agricultural Department. A long period of dry weather in the first half of the year effectively checked the development of the more important fungi which attack the tapped surface and the branches of rubber trees, but with the advent of the rainy season vigorous recrudescenses of Mouldy Rot disease in all three Settlements necessitated persistent enforcement of control measures by the field staff.

The importation throughout the year of very considerable quantities of budwood, and to a lesser extent selected seeds, from Java and Sumatra, would indicate that planting Companies are making strenuous efforts to develop their properties along up-to-date and scientific lines.

Coconuts.—The price of copra opened at $11.90 per picul and declined gradually until the middle of October when it was $10.10 per picul. Thereafter it varied between this figure and $10.45, closing at the end of the year at $10.05. Good average crops of nuts have been reported throughout the Colony during the year.

A scheme for instituting research work on the preparation of copra has been approved and the Empire Marketing

Board has undertaken to contribute a half share of the provision made for this work. Preliminary chemical investigations connected with this scheme have been commenced.

The two important insect pests of coconuts, the Black Beetle and the Red Stripe weevil, were satisfactorily controlled. In Singapore Island much useful work has been accomplished in destroying dead coconut trunks and stumps which serve as breeding grounds for these two pests. The results so far obtained from research work on various local diseases of the coconut and other palms were published in the *Malayan Agricultural Journal* during the year.

Padi (Rice).—The total area under padi during the season 1927—28 amounted to 72,834 acres and yielded 22,206,549 gantangs, as compared with 69,919 acres and 19,072,956 gantangs during the 1926—27 season, when both the planted area and yield were below the average.

In Province Wellesley the padi crop suffered severely from the adverse climatic conditions so frequently experienced in past seasons, drought during the planting and growing period and heavy rains during the delayed harvest, the loss of crop being further augmented by the ravages of insect pests, as often happens under such conditions. In Malacca a very satisfactory season was experienced and a crop averaging 327 gantangs per acre was harvested.

Season 1928—29. In Penang, the Province and the Dindings it is estimated that some 45,040 acres are under cultivation, a decrease of 125 acres compared with last season's area, while in Malacca the area has increased by some 2,478 acres, giving a total planted area of 30,147 acres. Planting in Province Wellesley was again considerably delayed by drought conditions, and the programme was not completed until December. Malacca enjoyed a normal season. At the close of the year conditions were favourable throughout and crops were making satisfactory progress.

Up to the close of the year insect pests had only occasioned slight damage. In Malacca rats were as usual active, but to a lesser degree than in some previous years. Traps and poisons were obtained in large quantities and were sold to padi cultivators at cost price. In Province Wellesley the rat campaign made satisfactory progress, especially after the appointment of a Rat Destruction Officer in July. Taking into consideration the very dry conditions prevailing during the early stages of the crop's growth, the absence of any extensive damage indicates the efficiency and value

of organised rat control. 509,151 rats were secured at an average cost of 1·785 cents ($\frac{1}{2}d.$) each.

At the Pekan Darat experiment station in Province Wellesley during the season 1927—28 lack of water in the earlier stages delayed cultivation and transplanting operations and rendered the growth of the crop uneven. Applications of soluble nitrogenous and potash fertilisers failed to produce an appreciable improvement. Although the yield was poor, some interesting information concerning the behaviour of different varieties under adverse conditions was obtained. Work during the 1928—29 season has followed the same lines as in previous years. Dry weather again delayed operations. At the close of the year, however, the general appearance of the padi, though only moderately satisfactory, was considerably better than that recorded in the two previous seasons.

Tests were commenced on padi lands at Glugor Estate, Penang, with the object of determining which strains of padi are best suited for cultivation on the island.

On the Pulau Gadong experimental station at Malacca the 1927—28 crop was again badly damaged by rats and no conclusions could be drawn from the results obtained. The Pure Lines however were not affected, and the usual records were obtained for the third year. The 1928—29 crop has done well so far, and, given relative freedom from rat damage, useful results may be anticipated. Improvements, in the shape of levelling uneven ground and clearing and planting higher land with fodder grasses, were carried out during the year.

Padi Soil Survey.—Further samples were analysed, and confirmation found of the opinion expressed in the last report, *viz.*, that the presence of a considerable proportion of sand is not necessarily a bar to good production. No other general relationships have yet been found.

Minor Crops.—With the help of the Empire Marketing Board and the Malay States Information Agency, exhibits of Malayan (Singapore) canned pineapples were staged at the British Industries Fair in London, the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, and the Imperial Fruit Show in Manchester. These exhibits attracted considerable attention. Recent communications have, however, emphasised that, if Malaya is to obtain the full benefit of the excellent facilities thus afforded for bringing this commodity to the notice of the consumer and to be enabled successfully to face

competition in this market, the different grades of the product must be carefully standardised. This important aspect of the pineapple industry was discussed at an informal meeting of packers and exporters with Mr. E. M. H. LLOYD of the Empire Marketing Board held in Singapore on the 2nd May, 1928. At this meeting both sections of the industry were able to exchange views and to learn from Mr. LLOYD the methods successfully employed in other countries for standardising similar agricultural produce.

An extension of coffee cultivation is reported from the Dindings. The cultivation of cloves in Penang appears to be waning; the crop harvested during November was not above the average. Vegetable cultivation on a large scale is maintained in the Central district of the Province and in parts of Penang Island.

Fruit.—The fruit crop throughout the Province and Penang was good, but the quality, especially towards the close of the season, was poor, owing no doubt to unseasonable weather conditions. Crops in Malacca were good throughout the year. At Pringgit in Malacca a small fruit station comprising one and a half acres was partly planted with various local fruit trees, and preparations were made to receive a further supply of selected planting material.

Soils.—The main work of the Soils Division has been on the establishment of soil types. Three main inland types have been characterised on the area selected for detailed survey and have been found to be closely connected with the underlying parent material.

Water Hyacinth.—Work on the eradication of this pest on Crown lands has been continued in the Province and much progress is reported.

School Gardens.—Regular supervision has been given throughout the year and several new gardens have been laid out. Seeds and seedlings have been supplied when required, while distributions of good varieties of fruit have also been made.

Agricultural Shows.—The Malacca branch of the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association held its annual show on July 21st and 22nd. Considerable interest was stimulated and the attendance was good.

Distinguished visitors to the Department of Agriculture during the year have included in March Dr. A. W. HILL, C.M.G., F.R.S., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and in April the Right Honourable Major W. G. A. ORMSBY-GORE, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(*b*) Forestry

The area of reserved forests was increased by the addition of 3,325 acres at Gunong Tunggal and Tanjong Hantu in the Dindings. Reserves were decreased by 72 acres at Bukit Timah in Singapore Island for a quarry; by 12 acres 3 roods at Pantai Acheh in Penang for agriculture; by 15 acres at Tanjong Burong in the Dindings for agriculture; by 1 rood 38 poles at Bukit Sedanan and by 94 acres 2 roods 3 poles at Ramuan China, both in Malacca, for agriculture; and by 25 acres 2 roods and 5 poles at Bukit Bruang, also in Malacca, for a burial ground. The total area of forest reserve is now 114,580 acres 2 roods 2 poles as against 111,476 acres 1 rood 8 poles at the end of 1927, equivalent to 11·9% of the total area of the Colony.

The Malacca forests were managed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests, stationed at first at Tampin but later at Jasin, under the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Negri Sembilan. A Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests was in charge of the Dindings forests, but was later replaced by an Assistant Conservator of Forests stationed at Lumut.

During the year further areas of poor inland forest in Singapore were allotted to squatters on temporary permits for the cultivation of vegetables. The areas were 50 acres at Pandan, 128 acres at Kranji, 70 at Bukit Panjang, 1,000 at Mandai and 160 at Bukit Timah.

A scheme for the management of the Malacca forests was prepared and approved generally, and working was begun. The proposed scheme for the Dindings forests is not yet completed.

Revenue and expenditure were $63,308 and $66,241 respectively, as compared with $52,763 and $54,998 in 1927, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowance. There was therefore a deficit of $2,933 as compared with one of $2,235 in 1927. Revenue increased in Singapore and the Dindings but fell off in Penang and Provice Wellesley and Malacca.

The outturn of timber was 9,488 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 30,857 tons, as compared with 9,677 and 27,241 tons in 1927.

Minor forest produce yielded $3,815 as compared with $4,363 in 1927. No rubber was tapped in Malacca after March.

Seventy-six cases of breach of the forest law were reported. Twenty-eight of these offenders were not detected. Fines inflicted in court amounted to $462 and compensation amounting to $606 was awarded for damage to the forests.

A few minor alterations of the Forest Rules were made during the the year.

(c) FISHERIES

The Trawler *Tongkol* stopped work on the 1st May and was sold to a Company working in Ceylon waters for the sum of £8,000. The experimental work conducted by this vessel has shown that steam trawling in Malayan waters is not a profitable undertaking. The main reasons for this of course are that fish are scarce and that the expenses are found to be roughly double the returns. Various factors may account for the scarcity of fish but the most noticeable feature is perhaps that fish do not concentrate and remain localised in any particular area. Although the shallow waters of 5 fathoms and thereabouts yield a big weight of fish, compared with the deeper waters, the bulk of these fish are of a low grade and fetch but a poor price. They are very small and decay rapidly and this kind of fishing can only be developed if working costs are kept low.

The local fisheries apart from the usual fluctuations are on the whole unchanged and despite the fall in the price of rubber the price of fish shows little inclination to drop. The Japanese still continue to extend their activities and are most enterprising. Their success is due to sheer hard work and in this respect the Japanese very much resemble the European and American fishermen. Neither bad weather nor distance deter them, nor do they consider a good profit from a fishing an excuse for temporarily reducing their efforts. The boycott to which they were subjected in the early part of the year compelled them to work harder than ever to minimise their losses, due to the drop in price of their fish from about 20 cents to 5 cents a kati. As a result they landed the greatest weight of fish which the Japanese have ever obtained from fishing in the vicinity of Singapore. They are now taking up tunny fishing, using drift nets and handlines. This will be carried out off the North Borneo coast, in the neighbourhood of the Natuna and Anamba Islands, and off the East Coast of Malaya where favourable.

The cultivation of carp is being treated scientifically and considerable progress is being made in ascertaining the

physical conditions of waters which are suitable or unsuitable for rearing these fish. Similarly experiments are being carried out on improving the diet of young carp, with the intention of making them grow faster, and the food value of local fish is being investigated in the Biochemical Laboratories in the Medical College, a most important help to fisheries work.

An extensive report on inshore methods of fishing is in preparation with a view to a thorough investigation of their value as compared with the methods practised in other countries and the scheme of fisheries statistics started about three years ago is being keenly pursued.

(*d*) Mining

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca.

There are still numerous pieces of Land held under Approved Applications for Mining Lease in the neighbourhood of Chin Chin. The Revenue from Tin was $8,822 as against $11,507 in the previous year.

IV.—Trade and Economics

NOTE:—In accordance with a recent decision approved by the Secretary of State the Trade Returns of the Straits Settlements as a separate unit have been discontinued and the Foreign Trade Return of British Malaya (namely trade between countries overseas with British Malaya) has been adopted instead. The figures in the following report, therefore, relate to British Malayan Foreign Trade and do not include any internal trade between the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States.

The aggregate value of the trade of British Malaya in merchandise recorded during 1928 amounted to 199 million Sterling, a decrease of 40 million from the 1927 total or about 17%, and a decrease of nearly 25% from the 1926 total, which was the highest recorded. Of this decrease nearly 40% is due to the decline in the value of the trade in rubber, the aggregate of which was 273 million Dollars or about 32 million Sterling less than in 1927.

The total amount of rubber exported was about 409,000 tons, valued at 330 million Dollars, which is an increase in

quantity of over 37,000 tons and a decrease in value of 190 million Dollars as compared with the 1927 figures.

The quantity of rubber imported was about 150,000 tons, valued at 88 million Dollars, a decrease of 33,000 tons in weight and of 83½ million Dollars in value as compared with 1927. It should be noted that the declared weight of rubber imported includes moisture and impurities, while that of the rubber exported is the dry weight.

The exports of tin increased to 99,000 tons as compared with 84,000 tons in 1927, but the value was only about 191 million Dollars as against 207 million Dollars in 1927, a decrease of about 8%. This export is the highest recorded in the British Malayan Return.

The following figures show the value of British Malaya's trade for the last five years, the value of Bullion and Specie being excluded:—

Year	Imports	Exports
	Thousands $	Thousands $
1924	653,311	720,450
1925	967,943	1,281,775
1926	1,003,849	1,262,596
1927	990,562	1,061,729
1928	860,643	845,064

The following are the figures of Bullion and Specie for the last five years:—

Year	Imports	Exports
	Thousands $	Thousands $
1924	13,381	4,635
1925	40,109	8,110
1926	46,263	10,878
1927	27,250	6,965
1928	16,862	6,962

The following tables show the quantities and values of the principal articles imported and exported during the last five years:—

Details of Principal Articles Imported

Articles	How Stated	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
		Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value
			Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
Para Rubber ...	Tons.	108,524	76,298	158,931	237,617	151,511	170,497	183,250	171,913	150,197	88,428
Tin Ore	"	37,909	55,359	39,489	60,984	36,891	62,599	42 254	73,362	44,389	66,950
Rice	"	580,735	72,606	650,007	80,650	755,380	98,378	839,959	104,355	803,909	95,473
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	759,357	10,035	1,081,456	13,780	1,271,956	15 857	1,283,771	15,141	1,368,091	15,491
Sugar	Tons.	91,152	18,156	112,919	15,808	108,829	15,169	110,683	15,367	111,733	12,905
Cigarettes	lbs.	12,697,744	22,358	15,398,156	29,129	12,436,459	27,102	11,383,411	26,334	11,131,334	26,636
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Tons.	47,917	12,471	56,172	13,889	56,535	15,731	52,609	15,460	51,038	13,996
Arecanuts	"	40,021	7,706	39,977	10,009	40,525	9,399	32,132	5,878	45,202	6,983
Motor Spirit (Benzine) ...	"	107,112	29,210	225,840	62,546	273,270	75,269	269,319	65,426	290,877	55,310
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	"	93,704	15,023	110,070	18,095	91,316	15,114	134,994	18,951	147,074	15,640
Sago	"	57,203	5,040	47,504	4,225	37,625	3,245	42,298	3,722	39,268	2,806
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards.	112,542,425	30,779	169,996,693	46,250	150,284,724	41,265	154,958,635	37,154	125,699,332	29,846
Sarongs	Nos.	9,510,134	13,144	12,493,136	17,243	12,324,839	17,361	10,673,439	14,148	9,617,809	12,847
Copra	Tons.	67,314	12,929	66,815	13,036	81,010	15,178	56,538	10,040	87,230	15,496
Pepper	"	19,092	7,820	14,212	9,391	14,350	12,225	11,915	15,028	12,710	16,378
Rattans	"	21,951	3,663	19,852	3,547	21,077	4,468	20,786	3,990	20,779	3,723
Coal	"	673,962	9,912	627,482	8,052	793,301	9,545	876,348	10,97[illegible]	812,130	9,768
Machinery		...	8,731	...	13,014	...	19,658	...	22,9[illegible]	...	27,652

Details of Principal Articles Exported

Articles	How Stated	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
		Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value	Quantities	Value
			Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
Para Rubber ...	Tons.	259,706	264,940	316,826	746,228	391,337	711,302	371,309	519,465	408,692	329,790
Tin	"	80,674	169,147	79,082	175,202	76,334	185,526	83,773	206,571	99,053	191,279
Rice	"	186,354	23,712	246,949	31,212	280,533	36,613	294,241	35,992	280,139	32,780
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases.	141,327	1,958	208,595	2,744	249,591	3,251	220,666	2,710	212,261	2,536
Cigarettes	lbs.	7,295,032	10,928	7,957,571	12,348	5,410,863	9,988	4,279,513	8,598	3,999,265	8,015
Fish, Dried and Salted ..	Tons.	55,020	14,512	59,021	14,105	60,220	15,161	58,577	14,309	57,544	14,470
Arecanuts	"	62,195	14,983	58,908	18,293	63,021	17,288	49,879	10,300	69,259	12,196
Benzine (Motor Spirit) ...	"	62,309	17,257	189,912	53,175	205,435	57,486	202,439	48,834	184,416	34,954
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	"	50,446	8,208	63,518	10,076	61,649	9,283	92,538	12,587	112,058	12,069
Sago	"	58,654	6,534	51,165	5,641	41,685	4,497	44,280	4,664	44,195	3,991
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards.	54,944,093	13,453	63,966,854	16,413	52,693,161	13,203	51,777,059	12,535	41,000,093	9,957
Sarongs	Nos.	5,379,731	7,434	5,635,638	7,941	5,510,925	7,751	6,088,828	7,779	5,211,937	6,573
Copra	Tons.	159,049	32,668	153,236	32,110	185,404	36,488	140,042	26,578	182,858	34,165
Pepper	"	19,592	8,297	15,729	10,142	14,453	13,292	13,515	16,762	13,509	18,413
Rattans	"	22,777	5,582	18,349	4,821	16,715	4,729	15,960	4,321	16,431	4,335
Preserved Pineapples ...	"	39,204	8,874	43,208	8,237	40,634	7,670	40,134	8,297	46,401	8,421
Rubber Latex ..	Gals.	803,539	1,252	2,316,438	10,413	2,087,849	6,650	1,560,976	3,523	919,909	1,297
Sugar	Tons	24,585	5,048	26,049	3,692	20,218	2,984	18,065	2,534	20,227	2,530

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:—

—	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
British North Borneo and Sarawak	9,059	8,757	11,330	24,848	11,629	18,691	14,198	18,738	13,359	10,317
Netherlands Indies	93,113	61,796	138,870	195,881	132,987	141,587	157,837	139,286	126,400	69,941
Other Countries	6,352	5,745	8,731	16,888	6,895	10,219	11,215	13,889	10,438	8,170
Total ...	108,524	76,298	158,931	237,617	151,511	170,497	183,250	171,913	150,197	88,428

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:—

—	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands
United Kingdom	33,502	35,939	45,698	121,367	83,998	155,493	76,398	111,234	60,993	50,311
United States of America ...	186,701	189,154	226,530	519,489	254,343	461,935	241,352	333,455	284,200	229,721
Other Countries	39,503	39,847	44,598	105,372	52,996	93,874	53,559	74,776	63,499	49,757
Total ...	259,706	264,940	316,826	746,228	391,337	711,302	371,309	519,465	408,692	329,789

Tin Ore was imported from the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
British India and Burma ...	1,473	1,904	1,832	2,653	1,802	2,967	2,226	3,614	2,306	3,033
Union of South Africa ...	1,836	2,438	1,823	2,566	1,537	2,419	1,808	2,911	1,839	2,225
Netherlands Indies	24,395	36,408	25,342	40,263	23,429	40,884	27,157	48,684	28,801	46,652
Siam	10,052	14,413	10,210	15,132	9,706	15,764	10,335	17,131	10,464	14,099
Other Countries	153	196	282	370	417	565	728	1,022	979	941
Total ...	37,909	55,359	39,489	60,984	36,891	62,599	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950

Tin was exported to the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
United Kingdom	16,335	33,964	13,970	30,815	11,101	26,785	9,453	22,986	12,910	24,843
United States of America .	46,195	97,621	45,120	99,895	44,513	108,013	46,370	114,812	56,986	109,929
Other Countries	18,144	37,562	19,992	44,492	20,720	50,728	27,950	68,773	29,157	56,507
Total ...	80,674	169,147	79,082	175,202	76,334	185,526	83,773	206,571	99,053	191,279

Rubber.—The quantity of para rubber imported from outside British Malaya amounted to 150,000 tons, valued at about 88 million Dollars, a decrease of about 33,000 tons in quantity and 83½ million Dollars in value as compared with 1927. These imports show a decrease from all the principal countries.

The quantity of para rubber exported to the United States of America was 284,000 tons, an increase of 43,000 tons in quantity but a decrease of about 104 million dollars in value as compared with 1927. The quantity exported to the United Kingdom was 15,000 tons and 61 million dollars less in value than in 1927. The exports to other countries collectively increased by 10,000 tons in quantity but declined by 25 million dollars in value as compared with 1927.

Tin.—The imports of tin ore increased by about 2,000 tons. The exports of refined tin increased in quantity by 15,000 tons, but decreased in value by 15 million dollars.

Cotton Goods.—The quantity of cotton piece goods imported decreased by 29 million yards in quantity and by 7 million dollars in value. The re-exports of these goods decreased by 11 million yards.

Other Imported Articles.—Those which showed an increase were machinery, copra, pepper, arecanuts, milk and cigarettes. Decreases occurred in rice, sugar, dried fish, motor spirit, petroleum, sarongs, coal, sago and rattans.

The re-export trade in the above commodities was similarly affected with the exception of that in milk and cigarettes (which decreased) and in dried fish (which only increased slightly).

Pineapples.—The exports of canned pineapples increased by 6,000 tons, and their value by 120 thousand dollars.

The following table shews the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australasia, Countries in the Continent of Europe, United States of America, Japan and Netherlands East Indies during the last five years :—

—	Imports					Exports				
	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
					(Thousands)					
United Kingdom	87,903	121,855	136,913	132,609	138,904	94,894	178,160	205,932	158,632	98,244
Australia and New Zealand ...	15,002	18,328	15,357	17,193	16,950	10,597	26,447	42,081	40,789	27,637
Austria	41	19	95	576	585	158	171	34	42	10
Belgium	2,639	3,076	5,106	4,830	4,209	1,507	2,762	2,434	1,519	1,744
Czecho Slovakia	...	...	...	332	537	...	...	...	..	...
Denmark	971	696	1,137	1,114	1,756	3,482	1,922	2,556	2,883	3,411
France	6,583	7,942	13,301	11,173	8,093	29,843	44,132	40,912	34,060	26,260
Germany	5,764	8,537	13,715	13,705	14,443	12,534	29,696	18,576	16,818	18,290
Italy	5,440	9,675	15,947	9,672	7,499	12,647	18,410	15,245	13,046	10,023
Netherlands	5,431	9,487	10,859	11,583	10,905	17,076	29,543	29,673	41,575	35,535
Norway	1,023	762	467	588	702	196	161	145	20	227
Russia	36	34	98	176	6	...	141	53	54	177
Spain	32	77	129	71	60	3,821	3,815	3,780	2,252	3,354
Sweden	690	675	617	765	1,074	1,220	1,548	2,359	1,365	1,109
Switzerland	...	...	...	3,506	5,887	...	...	...	1	3
Other European Countries ...	106	290	232	512	1,082	...	48	67	115	263
United States of America ...	22,712	30,726	34,866	31,799	27,542	298,533	643,159	597,875	466,998	353,372
Japan	16,556	29,957	34,900	30,215	20,219	26,487	36,987	39,966	38,628	33,983
Netherlands East Indies ...	231,643	403,000	367,979	363,613	287,006	83,806	113,379	112,451	101,280	91,494

The above table shows an increase in the value of goods imported from the following countries:—

United Kingdom, Austria, Czecho-slovakia, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sw den, Switzerland and Other European Countries.

Imports from Australasia, Belgium, France, Italy, Holland, Russia, Spain, United States of America, Japan, and the Netherlands East Indies decreased. Exports decreased generally but increased in the case of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Russia, Spain and Other European Countries.

United Kingdom.—The value of a number of articles imported from the United Kingdom increased, particularly cigarettes, cement, steel girders, tinplates, tubes, pipes and fittings, brass and brassware, insulated wire and cables, electrical goods, dredging materials, electrical machinery, sewing thread, and cranes and hoists. Decreases occurred in respect of biscuits, galvanised iron, sewing machines, cotton piece goods, and motor cars. The exports to the United Kingdom of tin and illipinuts increased in value and the exports of rubber, sago, pepper, tapioca, copra, rattan, gutta percha, canned pineapples, and fishmaws decreased.

United States of America.—The principal imports from the United States of America which increased in value were batteries and accumulators, motor cars (slightly), motor parts, tyre covers, asphalt and bitumen, milk, and unmanufactured tobacco. Decreases occurred under sardines, cigarettes, galvanised iron, tinplates, machinery, kerosene, lubricating oil, and motor spirit. Of the goods exported gutta inferior, canned pineapples, and coffee increased and tin, pepper, copra, rattans, para rubber, gum copal, and jelutong decreased in value.

Japan.—The value of most of the goods imported from Japan decreased, particularly cotton piece goods, underwear, cement, matches, rubber cases, dried and salted fish, and coal. There was a slight increase in value under Japanese slippers and sandals. As regards exports para rubber, tin and kerosene decreased and iron ore and rattans increased in value.

Netherlands East Indies.—The value of the trade of the Netherlands East Indies declined mainly owing to the drop in the value of their rubber exports to British Malaya. Other imports which decreased were sago flour, coffee, sugar, potatoes, tin ore, sarongs, and motor spirit. The imports of swine, arecanuts, pepper, copra, and liquid fuel increased. Among the exports beans, fruits dried and preserved, cloves, cigarettes, coconut oil, crockery and porcelain, cotton piece goods, and motor spirit decreased and dried and salted fish, gunnies, and boots and shoes (other sorts) increased in value.

Continent of Europe.—The aggregate trade with the Continent of Europe shows a decrease.

(*a*) Shipping and Harbour Boards

(i) *Shipping*

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 42,987,154 as compared with 39,693,766 in 1927—

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1927 and 1928

Nationality	1927					1928					Increase in 1928 as compared with 1927	Decrease in 1928 as compared with 1927
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)		
Finnish ...	5,304	...	...	...	5,304	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,304
Belgian ...	13,696	6,348	...	...	20,044	13,312	...	...	...	13,312	...	6,732
American ...	555,288	470,899	1,436	...	1,027,623	568,870	431,510	...	...	1,000,380	...	27,243
Austrian ...	...	...	...	...	...	10,710	...	...	...	10,710	10,710	...
Yugo-Slavian ...	6,520	6,520	...	...	13,040	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,040
British ...	11,751,846	7,452,222	364,246	242,388	19,810,702	12,286,244	8,068,159	408,508	220,758	20,983,669	1,172,967	...
Chinese ...	87,782	3,124	16,728	...	107,634	44,370	...	...	...	44,370	...	63,264
Danish ...	454,152	292,980	18,764	...	765,896	492,641	384,956	76,172	...	953,769	187,873	...
Dutch ...	5,537,592	1,424,703	4,640	4,706	6,971,641	6,435,707	1,491,180	2,374	7,018	7,936,279	964,638	...
French ...	1,831,538	...	...	...	1,831,538	2,065,290	...	...	...	2,065,290	233,752	...
German ...	1,153,334	583,448	...	...	1,736,782	1,576,134	782,216	...	...	2,358,350	621,568	..
Italian ...	367,278	149,822	...	...	517,100	330,056	210,006	...	...	540,062	22,962	...
Japanese ...	3,906,443	1,051,908	21,190	96,614	5,076,155	3,841,421	1,049,340	...	102,080	4,992,841	...	83,314
Norwegian ...	1 052,859	77,192	34,842	...	1,164,893	1,196,801	20[illegible],942	71,042	...	1,475,785	310,892	...
Sarawak ...	133,195	...	124	3,044	136,363	156,821	...	...	3,032	159,853	23,490	...
Siamese ...	186,205	1,600	...	...	187,805	181,972	...	3,008	...	184,980	...	2,825
Spanish ...	29,788	...	...	...	29,788	29,572	...	...	...	29,572	...	216
Swedish ...	186,694	100,698	...	4,066	291,458	159,892	78,040	...	...	237 932	...	53,526
Totals ...	27,259,514	11,621,464	461,970	350,818	39,693,766	29,389,813	12,703,349	561,104	332,888	42,987,154	3,548,852	255,464

Net Increase ... 3,293,388

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1924 ...	...	...	32,617,101 tons.
1925 ...	...	...	35,032,127 ,,
1926 ...	...	...	38,028,630 ,,
1927 ...	...	...	39,693,766 ,,
1928 ...	...	...	42,987,154 ,,

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures in 1928 were 68,530 in number and 2,282,501 in tons as compared with 64,562 and 2,302,838, respectively, in 1927.

Three new steam-vessels and seven motor-vessels, with a tonnage of 512 tons gross, and forty-five sailing-vessels (4,067 tons) were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 15 new sailing-vessels (1,304 tons) were licensed under section 424, and 989 vessels (9,821 tons) under sections 425 and 426.

(ii) *Harbour Boards*

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the last two years have been as follows:—

	Income	*Expenditure*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1927 ...	12,027,510	8,895,896
Year ended 30th June, 1928 ...	10,744,189	8,180,919

The capital debt due to Government amounted to $52,648,574 at June 30th, 1928, in respect of which sum the Board pay interest half yearly, at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on $50,077,146 and on the balance of $2,571,428 at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In addition to this working capital the Board has expended on new works and other services of a permanent nature a sum of $6,715,546 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1928, were $2,150,517 and the expenditure was $1,710,108.

The capital debt due to Government stood on 30th June, 1928, at $4,290,464.

(*b*) RAILWAYS

A railway, the property of the Federated Malay States Government, traverses the island of Singapore and connects, by a causeway across the Johore Straits, which was opened for traffic in October, 1923, with the peninsular system,

thus affording rail communication with Johore, the Federated Malay States, Malacca, Province Wellesley, Penang, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Siam.

(*c*).—Roads

The metalled Roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) measure 578·83 miles, distributed as follows:—

Singapore	*103·48
Penang and the Dindings ...	99·77
Province Wellesley	178·25
Malacca	184·66
Labuan	12·67

Of the 578·83 miles of metalled road 418·38 miles are now treated with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads 226·16 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path are maintained in the various Settlements.

The re-surfacing of all metalled road with granite was continued, a further 5·5 miles in Singapore, 22·22 miles in Penang and the Dindings, 17·45 miles in Province Wellesley, 13·5 miles in Malacca, and 2·4 miles in Labuan.

(*d*) Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services

The work of the Postal and Telegraph Sections of the Post Office during the year 1928 showed on the whole a steady increase over preceding years. On Monday the 23rd July, 1928, the new General Post Office in "Fullerton Building," Singapore, was opened to the public.

The Postal rates are as follows:—

—	Letters		Postcards		Printed Papers
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	For every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 ,,	6 ,,	4 ,,	8 ,,	2 ,,
Local ...	2 ozs. / 4 cts.	Each succeeding 2 ozs. / 2 cts.	2 ,,	4 ,,	2 ,,

*This figure does not include roads upkept by Government within the Municipal Limits. These roads total 25 miles and form the approaches to Government buildings and Government Quarters.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 24,014,000, an average of 24.15 per inhabitant as against 22·97 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 18,276,000 as compared with 17,940,000 in 1927. The number of messages forwarded over the Government Telegraph Lines during the year 1928 was 565,150, as compared with 593,703, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph Lines was 486,365, as compared with 482,052 in 1927. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges decreased from 1,844 to 1,836.

The estimated amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1928, was $4,014,201.15, an increase of 7 per cent as compared with the actual amount on the 31st December, 1927. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $192.54. There was a profit on the year's working of $53,501.74. The estimated present value of investments is $4,197,031.23. These figures are subject to revision after audit.

In addition to the General Post Offices at Singapore, Penang, Malacca and the Post Office, Labuan, there were on the 31st December, 1928, 43 Sub-Offices in the Colony including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tasek Glugor, Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley) and Tebong (Malacca). Of these 32 were Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1928 to $7,891,719.75, the principal business done being with India, the Federated Malay States, Great Britain, the Netherlands East Indies, Ceylon, China and the United States of America. The operations in 1927 amounted to $8,318,760.86.

Eleven Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5 thence to Madras	(3)
		,, ,, Colombo	(2)
		,, ,, Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	2 thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1 ,, ,, Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1 ,, ,, Manila	(1)
		,, North China	(1)
		,, Macao	(1)
Cochin China	...	1 thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1 ,, ,, Hongkong	(1)

There are also Government Telegraph Lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak,

Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. In Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings there are 233¼ miles of Telegraph wire, 20 miles of submarine cable, containing 148½ miles of wire and 2,801¾ miles of overhead telephone wire, and 21¾ miles of under-ground telephone cables containing 5,257⅛ miles of wire. There are 1½ miles of Telegraph Lines between Singapore and Johore containing 7½ miles of wire and there are 199¼ miles of Telegraph Line and 1,770¾ miles of Telephone line in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

Radio Telegraphy

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony, situated at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Penang) respectively. The station at Paya Lebar communicates with fixed stations at Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island, and with ship stations. The station at Penaga communicates with Rangoon and with ship stations. The machinery and apparatus have been maintained in good working order throughout the year. Point to point and shore to ship communication has been carried on without failure. Short-wave tests indicate that a satisfactory service could be maintained between Penang and Singapore by the use of that system. Short-wave communication was maintained with the aeroplane "Spirit of Australia" from two hours before its arrival at Singapore, and again during the whole flight from Singapore to Victoria Point, Burma. Communication was maintained with the Far Eastern Flight of the Royal Air Force from Victoria Point to Penang on the 8th December, and again during part of the flight from Penang to Singapore on the 11th December. Tests for reception of the short-wave programmes sent out from the experimental station of the British Broadcasting Corporation at Chelmsford, 5 S. W., on 24 metres, produced very varying results. The 7 P.M. to 12 midnight (G. M. T.) programme (2 A.M. to 7 A.M. Straits time) is generally receivable, but cannot be relied upon. The 12-30 P.M. to 1-30 P.M. (G. M. T.) programme (7-30 P.M. to 8-30 P.M. Straits time) has been found to be almost impossible of reception in Malaya. The 8 P.M. (G. M. T.) transmissions of British Official Wireless Press from Rugby have been regularly received. The noon (G. M. T.) transmissions are readable in this country only from November to March.

(c) Communication by Sea

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India Steamers *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards, *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards, and by the Peninsular & Oriental vessels *viâ* Ceylon; and fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon. In addition there is a weekly service to Europe by the Steamship Companies Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and a service at frequent intervals by Holt, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines. With China and Japan there is fortnightly communication by the Peninsular and Oriental and Messageries Maritimes lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and the Societe des Affreteurs Indo-Chinois, and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong frequently, and direct by Spanish Packets, Steamship Company Nederland, and British Packets occasionally; with Bangkok frequently by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports frequently by steamers of the Koninklyke Paketvaart Maatschappij, and of the Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd Company; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philip, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australian Steam Navigation Company, Koninklyke Paketvaart Maatschappij, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence by Orient Packets; with Madras (direct) and other ports on the Coromandel Coast fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc. by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons

Crime Statistics

The total number of seizable offences recorded during 1928 was 6,879, as compared with 6,437 in 1927.

Of the admitted reports convictions were obtained in 2,633 cases and 103 cases awaited trial in 1929.

There was a decrease of 34 in the number of murders. There were 32 assaults classified as attempted murder and an increase of 38 in the number of reports classified as causing hurt with a dangerous weapon.

Robberies reported decreased by 122. Housebreakings accompanied by theft increased by 239, and thefts by 197. There were 15 more cases of extortion reported than in 1927. Seventy-four thousand, eight hundred and twenty-one non-seizable offences were reported to the Police in 1928.

Chinese Secret Societies

The repressive action taken in Singapore by the Police in 1927 crippled the Cantonese secret societies and sporadic attempts to re-organize them in 1928 were easily suppressed. There were isolated affrays between rival gangs in the course of which firearms were used, but there was nothing comparable with the active feuds of 1927. Reliable information has almost invariably been obtained which has enabled the Police to take precautionary measures. There was no active recrudescence of the longstanding feud between the Teochew Societies the "Sin Tong Hwa" and the "Hok Teo Keng". Better regulation of the river traffic has removed many causes for minor quarrels, which have been wont to develop into serious faction fights, and immediate repressive action was invariably taken at the earliest sign of pending trouble.

Hokkien Societies were engaged almost throughout the year in internal quarrels and as usual caused the Police considerable trouble. They were never seriously out of hand and never menaced the general peace of Singapore.

Members of the Communist Party chiefly Hailams were a source of considerable trouble to the Police in Singapore from the beginning of the year until September, by which time their activities had been practically stamped out. In February they were responsible for the attempt to shoot Dr. C. C. Wu. In April and May they sponsored the cause of the shoemaker strikers and caused the planting of numerous amateurish bombs in bootshops throughout Singapore, which did little material damage but had considerable moral effect on the Chinese populace. They were responsible for several murders. They made repeated attempts to demonstrate in furtherance of the anti-Japanese boycott and flooded the city with proclamations of a subversive nature. Most of the leaders had been arrested by the end of the year.

In Penang activities among the members of the Hokkien society "Sin Ngee Hin" were checked by prompt Police action.

Prisons.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,097 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore Penang and Malacca). Five thousand six hundred and

twenty-eight were admitted during the year as compared with 3,966 during 1927 and 5,470 were discharged. One thousand two hundred and fifty-five (1,255) remained at the end of the year. There were 174 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,645 were admitted and 1,608 were discharged. Of the 1,608 vagrants discharged 174 found employment and 1,311 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at husk-beating, and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Public Works

In Singapore the new General Post Office, now called Fullerton Building, was completed as also the Mental Hospital, the Raffles Girls' School and 8 Quarters for Senior Government Officers. Work on the new Chinese Protectorate was begun.

In Penang the Carnarvon Street Police Station and Barracks were practically completed and good progress was made with the additions to the Girls' School, Northam Road, and the erection of an English Elementary School in Perak Road.

Progress was made with the new Water Scheme for the Dindings.

Dredging operations were continued at Weld Quay, Penang, by the "Tembakul" throughout the year.

In Province Wellesley the new Bridge over the Krian River, consisting of 2 spans of 166 feet and 2 spans of 100 feet, was approaching completion towards the close of the year. The reconstruction of roads programme was continued.

In Malacca the extensive repairs to the Ferro-concrete Lighthouse at One Fathom Bank were continued. The Water Scheme, which has been carried out at an expenditure of over $2,000,000, was completed and water was available from the new source of supply before the close of the year.

In Labuan the new Dam for the Reservoir was finished.

VIII.—Public Health

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

The population of 1928 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is as follows:—

	Census Figures 1921	*Estimated 1927*	*Estimated 1928*
Singapore ...	423,768	538,077	559,270
Penang ...	304,572	333,063	342,023
Malacca ...	153,599	188,828	194,342
Total ...	881,939	1,059,968	1,095,635

The number of births registered during the year was 39,479 as against 37,233, and the deaths 31,516 as against 35,561 in the previous year.

This shows a return to normal figures after the high death rates of 1926 and 1927.

The percentage of males born was 51.90. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 41.43 per thousand amongst Malays.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 185.06 per thousand births as against 214.14 in 1927 and 205.47 in 1926.

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year of age) was 4,575 as against 5,831 and 4,873 in the two previous years. Dietetic errors, tetanus and malaria are common causes of convulsions.

The crude death rate is 28.76 per thousand, as against 33.55 and 31.81 in the two previous years, and is the lowest since 1926. The lowest death-rate on record, 27.26 per thousand of population, was in the year 1925. The average for the last ten years is 30.51.

Malaria was responsible for 5,798 deaths as against 6,296 in 1927, and 6,452 in 1926, while fever unclassified accounted for 1,494 deaths as against 1,983 and 2,662 in the two previous years.

Two thousand eight hundred and two deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,952 in the year 1927.

Pneumonia accounted for 2,679 deaths as compared with 2,690 in the previous year. Only 204 deaths were registered as due to Influenza.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,146 deaths as against 1,531, 1,098 and 957 in the three previous years.

Dysentery caused 902 deaths, classified as follows:—

Amœbic	256
Bacillary	253
Unclassified	393
Total ...	902

The number of deaths from dysentery in 1927 was 1,111.

Infectious Disease.—There were two deaths from small-pox, 11 deaths from cholera, 4 deaths from plague and 14 deaths from cerebro-spinal fever, excluding deaths in Maritime Quarantine Stations.

B.—HEALTH BRANCH

One thousand three hundred and forty two visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 1,821 visits to ships in Penang by Port Health Officers, who examined 758,516 persons.

Fifty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty-six persons were retained under observation in our two Maritime Quarantine Stations, mostly for short periods.

The numbers of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station were 14 for cholera and 6 for small-pox: in Penang nil for cholera and 11 for small-pox.

Rural Conservancy

The Health Officers in each settlement continued to supervise and develop the sanitation and conservancy in rural areas.

The Rural Sanitation Campaign has resulted in the erection of many sanitary latrines of types suitable to the various localities.

Anti-malarial Work

The sum of $226,465.55 was spent on anti-mosquito work and anti-malarial measures in a general reduction of all harmful mosquitoes.

The chief item of expenditure has been permanent drainage, but large areas are also controlled by temporary oiling measures.

C.—KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 225 and the number of students 105. The number of new students admitted was 21. Owing to the addition of a further year to the medical course in 1923, only 4 students completed their course and obtained the diploma of the College in 1928.

D.—HOSPITALS

Sixty-six thousand one hundred and sixty-nine in-patients were treated in the Hospitals of the Colony, as against 69,123 in 1927. The malaria admissions were 13,173 as against 14,178.

Admissions for Venereal disease were 4,754 with 157 deaths.

E.—DISPENSARIES

General Diseases

Out-patients numbered 190,749 and attendances 333,106 as against 166,428 out-patients and 313,264 attendances in 1927.

The attendances at the Women & Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 35,222 as compared with 33,888 in 1927.

In the Women and Children's out-door dispensary, Penang, the attendances were 17,342 as against 11,749 in 1927.

Motor Travelling Dispensaries

The number of attendances at the Motor Travelling Dispensary in Singapore was 18,415. In Penang Island the attendances were 31,688 and in Province Wellesley the attendances were 17,712. In Malacca there were 15,037 attendances.

Venereal Diseases

Out-patients treated for venereal diseases were 28,568 as compared with 24,883 in 1927. The attendances were 191,534 as against 146,350.

Yaws

The number of out-patients treated for Yaws was 7,870 as compared with 7,979 in 1927. This disease is steadily decreasing owing to widespread and effective treatment.

F.—LEPERS

The total number of lepers treated in the Leper Settlements was 1,091 with a total of 128 deaths.

With the continuance of modern treatment, there is a steady fall in the death-rate.

G.—MENTAL HOSPITAL

One thousand and fifteen males and thirty two females were treated during the year 1928. The numbers remaining at the end of the year were 730 males and 270 females.

All the mental cases at Sepoy Lines and Pasir Panjang Lunatic Asylums were moved to the new Mental Hospital at Trafalgar Estate, Yeo Chu Kang, Singapore, during the latter half of 1928, and so were the Straits Settlements patients at Tanjong Rambutan.

IX.—Education

There were 20 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 8,717 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $1,032,806. The equivalent figures for 1927 were 20 schools, 8,145 pupils and $987,594 expenditure.

There were 29 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 15,255 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to $831,716.

The expenditure on the 215 Government Vernacular Schools was $454,611 and their average enrolment was 19,421.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 19 Aided Vernacular Schools, with an average enrolment of 2,751, the grants to which for 1928 amounted to $7,794.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,580 as against 1,397 in 1926 and 1,499 in 1927.

Thirty students passed the final third year examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, as compared with 39 in 1927.

There were two student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense and 33 at Raffles College. These students on the completion of their studies are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools.

Nine candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang won the scholarships and in the opinion of the examining body all candidates reached a higher standard than usual. One of the successful candidates proposes to study Law and the other Medicine.

The European Staff was still short of officers chiefly owing to the creation of supernumerary appointments for officers seconded to Kedah and Johore.

During the year one European Master, appointed to the Malayan Educational Service, was allocated to the Colony. Four new European Mistresses were allocated to the Straits Settlements.

The Department of Physical Instruction was strengthened by the addition of another European Officer and the Colony and the Federated Malay States now share the services of a Chief Superintendent of Physical Education and an Assistant Superintendent of Physical Education.

A new Elementary English School for 480 pupils was opened at McNair Road, Singapore, in 1928.

A similar school at Serangoon, Singapore, was nearing completion at the end of the year.

Raffles Girls' School moved into its new premises in July, leaving its old building to meet the growing needs of Raffles Institution.

The new Penang Free School was opened in January.

Plans and a site were prepared for the new High School, Malacca.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils and instruction in hygiene and perhaps more than all physical education are creating an interest in public health.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to satisfy a local want. Instruction was given in English, Book-keeping, Shorthand and Typing, in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mechanics,

Mechanical and Survey Drawing, Building Construction, Electricity and Magnetism, and Sanitary Inspection.

Nautical Classes under a European Instructor gave instruction in Malay for helmsmen, gunners and masters of local craft.

In Penang there were Evening classes in commercial and technical subjects.

There were evening classes in Malacca in Type-writing and Shorthand.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of $48,486.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was $19,607.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 335 with 22,591 pupils.

One Chinese school in Singapore received a grant-in-aid during 1928 amounting to $964; in Penang eight Chinese schools received grants amounting to $18,508 and one school in Malacca received a grant-in-aid amounting to $135.

Raffles College:—The accounts showed at the end of 1928, $1,881,770 to the credit of the General Fund and the Funds of Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing $1,000,000 towards the cost of building, the Federated Malay States Government defraying $200,000 being the cost of a second Hostel. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to $63,000 have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

The Eu Tong Sen Hall of Residence and the houses for the President and Professors were ready and the College opened informally in June with 33 Government students, one scholar and seven private students.

The Honourable Mr. R. O. WINSTEDT, C.M.G., D.LITT. (Oxon.), M.A., Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, continued to act as President. A new Ordinance was passed for the administration of the College.

X.—Lands and Survey

A.—LANDS

(i).—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the policy hitherto has been to restrict the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99 years but there are a few leases of 999 years and a few Statutory Grants.

Occupied land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99 year leases from the Crown in the case of Estates but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for the alienation of foreshore.

Land is obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure. Land to be held under Grant or Lease is generally sold by auction. The principal land Revenue consists of rents on Grants or Leases and of Mukim Assessment on land held under Customary tenure.

Labuan.—In Labuan Crown Land may be disposed of by public auction only.

The titles given are leases of 999 years or less.

Since 1919 leases for 30 years only have been granted.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE

The Revenue in 1927 and 1928 was distributed as follows:—

—		Land Revenue	Reimbursements	Land Sales	Total
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1927	368,783	43,689	359,889	772,361
	1928	499,806	35,028	407,394	942,228
Penang ...	1927	206,145	31,599	107,249	344,993
	1928	210,053	37,159	28,442	275,654
Malacca ...	1927	679,505	19,531	386,793	1,085,829
	1928	677,481	23,460	326,066	1,027,007
Labuan ...	1927	5,543	2,786	1,361	9,690
	1928	6,475	1,742	1,200	9,417
Total ...	1927	1,259,976	97,605	855,292	2 212,873
	1928	1,393,815	97,389	763,102	2,254,306

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants and Leases issued during the last five years, together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
Singapore	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,355 0 27	1,059 1 29	441 1 00	33 3 18	7 1 32
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	46,139	12,183	13,738	100,915	282,451
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	57	41	60	101	58
Premia paid ...	$70,399.00	$87,631.00	$71,241	$48,738	$196,272.00
Penang	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,284 1 22	1,120 3 6·45	2,134 1 11	1,825 1 39·93	5,611 3 37
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	155	19,901	Nil.	5,539	4,418
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	146 S. Grants (& 5-99 years' Leases.)	171 S. Grants (7-99 years' Leases.) 4-30 do.	391 Statutory Grants, 10 Penang Hill Leases 5-99 years' Leases 1-10 years' Lease	300 Statutory Grants, 99-99 years' Leases 1 Foreshore Lease for 80 years covering an area of 3,600 sq. ft.	(257 Statutory Grants, 110-99 years' Leases 4 Penang Hill Leases 1-30 years' Leases 2 Foreshore Leases for 99 years each; covering area of 677.5 sq ft.
Premia paid ...	$18,464.00	$410,795.00	$14,165.72	$19,424.00	$100,173.00
Malacca	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,712 2 18·64	3,686 3 11·02	737 1 03·75	8,018 0 26	6,731 3 21
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.		sq. ft.	
,, Town Lots ..	59,350½	Nil.	6 3 35	23,720	2 0 27
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	127 & 1 Lease	80 & 1 Lease	48 & 34 Leases	7[illegible] Statutory Grants, 55-99 years' Leases 2-30 years' Leases and 2 Mining Leases	(148 Statutory Grants, 126-99 years' Leases 1-21 years' Lease 1-999 years' Lease
Premia paid ...	$202,830.00	$254,040.10	$57,927	$109,297.00	$468,133.00
Labuan	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	135 0 20	146 3 00	457 3 24	557 2 06	614 3 25
,, Town Lots ...	0 0 24¾	Nil.	0 2 01	131	7 0 19
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	50	52	124		72
	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)	(22 new Grants, 24 Sub-division Grants and 6 in exchange for old grants)	(87 new Grants, 34 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants)	(73 new Grants, 4[illegible] Sub-division Grants and 9 issued in exchange for old grants)	(43 new Grants, 21 Sub-division Grants and 8 issued in exchange for old grants)
Premia paid ...	$209.20	$217.20	$936.75	$1,360.50	$1,200.50

B.—SURVEY

(i).—General

Expenditure on Surveys amounted to $509,085 in 1928 against $508,648 in 1927. The Revenue amounted to $110,220 against $94,075 in 1927.

The demand for title and other Surveys continues to increase particularly in Singapore. During the year the Co-ordination with the Survey Staff of the Singapore Improvement Trust became fully effective and has resulted in mutual benefit both to the Trust and to the Survey Department. The more efficiently the Trust functions and the more energetically it pushes on its schemes of improvement, the more requisitions for survey have to be dealt with.

It may generally be said that there is no piece of survey work in Singapore that does not involve an elaborate investigation into the history of the parcel of land and reference to the many previous attempts to make reliable surveys. The position now is that the work is organised on sound lines, that the staff is working efficiently, that the Co-operation with the Improvement Trust is effective and that the work now being done is of permanent value. It will be some years before arrears are overtaken, but it will never in future be necessary to begin all over again as has been done so often in the past. In Penang and Malacca the position with regard to progress of surveys is quite satisfactory.

(ii).—Meteorology

The programme of establishing meteorological stations has proceeded satisfactorily. The sites for the Stations in Singapore and Malacca were selected and the Meteorological station on Mount Faber is now fully established.

The whole programme is one of 17 stations distributed over Malaya of which 16 will be working by the middle of 1929.

(iii).—General

The Surveyor-General returned from leave in September: During his absence he attended as the representative of Malaya the Conference of Empire Surveyors, convened by His Majesty's Government, and also the Geographical Congress.

XI.—Labour

(i).—General

The majority of labourers in the Colony are Chinese and South Indians. The latter are chiefly engaged in agricultural work and on public services, the former in agriculture and every other form of manual labour. Skilled work is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese.

In addition there are about 4,900 Javanese labourers, immigrants from the Netherlands East Indies.

Conditions of Labour in the Colony are governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 197 (Labour), and by the Netherlands Indians Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908. These Ordinances are administered by a Labour Department under the direction of the Controller of Labour, Malaya.

During the year under review, relations between employers and labourers continued to be satisfactory.

Throughout the year, standard rates of wages in Province Wellesley were 50 cents a day for adult male labourers and 40 cents for adult females, these rates having remained unchanged since the 1st July, 1927. In other parts of the Colony, South Indian labourers earn from 40 cents to 65 cents (men) and from 35 cents to 50 cents (women). The rates in the larger towns are higher than these.

Javanese and Malays earn from 50 to 60 cents a day and Chinese who are usually employed on contract (*i.e.*, piece work) earn considerably more.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was satisfactory, the death-rate among Indian labourers in Province Wellesley being 11·71 per mille and in the Dindings 8·28 per mille. The death-rate on the few estates in Penang was 6·83 per mille.

The death-rate on estates in Malacca on an average population of 11,306 was 17·86 per mille.

The death-rate among Indians in Singapore was 25·41 per mille, as compared with a death-rate of 27·84 per mille for the general population of Singapore.

The death-rate among labourers of other races, of whom far fewer are employed on estates, was inconsiderable. In the Settlement of Penang on an average population of 3,946 it was 2·8 per mille. In Malacca on an average population of 4,162, it was ·96 per mille and in Singapore, on an average population of 18,893, it was 2·8 per mille.

(ii).—Immigration

Chinese Immigration.—The total number of immigrants arriving in the Colony in 1928 was 295,700, being 17·6 per cent less than the figure for 1927 and exceeding that for 1911, the highest year before the war, by 25,846 or 9·6 per cent.

Adult males formed 65·2 per cent, and adult females 18·8 per cent of the immigrants.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 149,354, and the excess of immigrants over emigrants was 146,346 or 49·5 per cent of their total number.

The decrease was due to the slump in Rubber and Tin, less employment and an improvement in the general conditions in South China.

Women and children arriving numbered 102,891.

Southern Indians.—The immigration of labourers from Southern India is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee (of which the Controller of Labour, Malaya, is ex officio Chairman) appointed by the Governor.

The Railway fares in India, steamer passages, and transport expenses of such labourers to their places of employment are paid from the Indian Immigration Fund.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 63,072 as compared with 156,132 in 1927.

These figures include both "assisted" and "other" Immigrants.

The assisted immigrants are free labourers imported at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates, mines and elsewhere. The other immigrants are deck passengers paying their own fares, 71 per cent of whom were of the labouring classes.

The total number of immigrants arriving from Southern India was a great deal smaller than the corresponding number for 1927. The very high immigration in 1926 and 1927 had practically satisfied the existing demand and the effect of the announcement in April that restrictions on the export of rubber would be removed on the 1st of November, 1928, was to restrict for the time being the further demand for labour.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 91,252 as against 84,767 in 1927. These figures include all deck passengers of whom it is estimated that 78 per cent were labourers.

The figures for arrivals for the last 4 years are as follows:—

	1925	*1926*	*1927*	*1928*
Assisted immigrants ...	70,198	149,414	123,826	27,240
Other immigrants ...	20,510	25,381	32,306	35,832
	90,708	174,795	156,132	63,072

The assisted immigrants consisted of 22,649 adults and 4,591 minors. Of the adults 14,635 were men and 8,014 were women. About 3,046 of the assisted immigrants remained in the Colony: the others proceeded to other parts of Malaya.

The Indian Immigration Fund

The income of the Fund is derived from a quarterly assessment levied on all employers of South Indian labour throughout Malaya based upon the number of days' work done by such labourers during the quarter.

The rate of assessment was fixed at $3 for males and $2 for females for the first two quarters of 1928, at 50 cents for males and nil for females for the third and fourth quarters of 1928, in respect of every 72 days work done.

Repatriation

During 1928, 13,819 adult and 4,328 minor decrepit or destitute Indians were assisted with passages back to India.

XII.—Miscellaneous

A.—LEGISLATION

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year 1928. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and seventeen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The Ordinances which are not Supply or Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Cinematograph Films Ordinance (No. 5) which consolidates and amends the law relating to the exhibition of cinematograph films.

(ii) The Raffles College Ordinance (No. 8) which makes provision for the administration of Raffles College as an established institution.

(iii) The Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 11) which gives power to restrict, in certain circumstances, the immigration of labourers into the Colony.

(iv) The Foreign Corporation (Execution of Instruments under Seal) Ordinance (No. 15) which makes provision with regard to the execution of instruments under seal by the agents of certain foreign corporations.

(v) The Rubber Restriction Repeal Ordinance (No. 20) which removes the restriction upon the export of rubber by repealing the legislation under which such restriction has been enforced.

(vi) The Pensions Ordinance (No. 22) which consolidates and amends the law regulating the granting of pensions, gratuities and other allowances in respect of public service in the Colony

(vii) The Apportionment Ordinance (No. 25) which legalises the practice of treating periodical payments, such as rent, as accruing from day to day and of apportioning them in respect of time accordingly.

The principal Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Banishment (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which empowers the Governor in Council to make an order for the banishment or expulsion of an alien upon the same grounds as the Secretary of State may make a deportation order under the Aliens Order 1920.

(ii) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which prohibits the importation, manufacture or possession of fireworks, which contain any explosive ingredient other than a limited quantity of black gunpowder.

(iii) The Youthful Offender's Reception (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 4) which extends the scope of the principal Ordinance so as to enable any person who has been found to be a youthful offender or destitute child by a Court of competent jurisdiction in any Malay State under British protection to be brought to the Colony and detained in a Reformatory School.

(iv) The General Loan and Inscribed Stock (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which provides for the suspension of further payments of contributions to the sinking funds of certain loans, when the sinking funds are potentially "full".

(v) The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7) which permits errors of fact or substance in any register book of births or deaths to be corrected only upon the

information of persons who have knowledge of the facts.

(vi) The Naturalization (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which declares that British nationality acquired under the principal Ordinance is lost by any person who subsequently becomes naturalized voluntarily in a foreign State.

(vii) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which amends the definition of "home trade ship" so as to bring the ports of Saigon, Bangkok and Rangoon within "home trade" limits.

(viii) The Chandu Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) which enables a system of registration of consumers of prepared opium to be introduced, in order that their numbers may be ascertained, with a view to the furnishing of the information required by Article X of the Agreement signed on the 11th February, 1925, at the First Opium Conference at Geneva.

(ix) The Deleterious Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which grants to duly qualified practitioners, and to certain other qualified persons, a general authorisation to be in possession of and to use deleterious drugs in the course of their professions.

(x) The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) which brings within the scope of the principal Ordinance the acquisition of land required by a Rural Board or the Singapore Improvement Trust.

(xi) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which allows drawbacks of import duty paid on tobacco when such tobacco after importation has been converted into cigarettes and the cigarettes so made have been exported.

(xii) The Rubber Lands Assessment (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) which re-introduces the sliding scale regulating the rate of assessment of rubber lands from the date on which restriction on the export of rubber is removed.

(xiii) The Traction Engines and Motor Cars (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) which transfers the duty of registering traction engines and motor cars from the Chief Police Officer to other persons to be appointed by the Governor.

(xiv) The Seditious Publications (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 26) which authorises police officers, not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent to search premises without warrant, in cases where delay in obtaining a warrant would be likely to frustrate the object of the search.

B.—REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

During the year 52 new companies were registered, with a capital of $19,370,683, of which 41 were private companies with a capital of $10,423,540.

At the end of the year 499 companies remained on the register of which 36 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 448 companies carrying on business was $197,250,004.

Five hundred and fifty-three companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance. Of these, 441 are British, 23 are Japanese, 29 are Dutch, 2 are German and 25 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 14 British, 1 Japanese and 1 American companies have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 6 foreign companies. Seventy-two companies do fire insurance business.

C.—BANKRUPTCIES

There were 58 trade bankruptcies of which 38 were Chinese. In 22 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In five cases liabilities exceeded $100,000, in 6 cases $50,000 and in 15 cases $10,000.

One deed of Arrangement was registered.

D.—CO-OPERATION

The past year has shown a steady increase in the membership and paid-up capital of existing Co-operative Societies and has witnessed the formation of a number of new societies.

In urban areas the 13 Thrift and Loan Societies, of which three were only recently registered, have built up a strong financial position and are of great assistance to salary earners. Societies of Government servants will, it is hoped, in the course of time, replace the Government as a source of assistance in times of financial embarrassment.

Societies have been formed amongst the mercantile employees both in Singapore and Penang.

In rural areas progress is such slower and the fall in the price of rubber has made repayment of loans at due date more difficult. There are eleven registered rural credit societies and two awaiting registration.

It is worthy of record that largely as a result of the encouragement given by the Malay Officer of the Department, out of a total of 71 cash prizes won by exhibitors from Balik Pulau, Penang, at the recent Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association Exhibition at Ipoh, 65 were won by members of Co-operative Societies. In addition, one gold and one silver medal were secured.

JOHN SCOTT,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements

SINGAPORE, *17th June*, 1929.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1929

Prefatory Note

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

Singapore

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

Cocos or Keeling Islands

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ and 12° 45′ south, and in longitude approximately 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements

by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram; with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employees of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime to which the island owes its importance.

Labuan

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907. It became a separate Settlement in 1912.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

Labuan has a fine port, Victoria Harbour (latitude 5° 16′ north, longitude 115° 15′ east), safe, and easy of access.

Penang

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

The Dindings

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude 4° 15′ north and longitude 100° 35′ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

Malacca

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

Total Area

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

Climate

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore during 1929 was 79·6° F; in Penang 85·82° F; in Province Wellesley 80·7° F; in Malacca 81·6° F; and in Labuan 82·4° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 87·3° F. and 74·3° F. In Singapore the maximum recorded was 92·0° F. on the 31st July and 1st August, 1929. The minimum was 69·0° F. on the 30th August, 1929. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in Penang vary between 92·6° F. and 73·72° F. The maximum recorded was 102·0° F. on the 28th August, 1929. The minimum was 67·0° F. on the 29th May, 1929.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry reasons, the rainfall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, 1920 to 1929, it is found in Singapore that there is an annual average of 174 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 79·10 inches. In Singapore, rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1914, with 135·52 inches, and the driest was 1877 with 58·37 inches. In Penang the average annual rainfall of the last three years is 169 wet days and the average rainfall for the same period is 86·73 inches. The actual number of wet days in Penang in 1929 was 165 and the rainfall 82·64 inches. In Labuan the average annual rainfall is about 127·72 inches.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz.*:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1928	1929
Singapore	...	109·25 inches	79·10 inches
Penang	...	87·91 ,,	82·64 ,,
Malacca	...	123·25 ,,	87·83 ,,
Province Wellesley		81·57 ,,	95·72 ,,
Labuan	...	128·74 ,,	127·72 ,,
Dindings	...	95·02 ,,	64·14 ,,

B.—HISTORY

Malacca

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century, but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by Napoleon the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah, who stipulated that the sum of $6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River. It is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823,

it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay is the language of the Malays of the Colony. Moreover Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca*, though to-day it shows signs of being superseded by English as the language of commerce. It belongs to the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. To the western branch of this family belong Malay as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian. With Islam

the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn. They are divided into Hokkien, (Amoy, Chiangchiu and Chuanchiu districts), spoken by about 44.4% of the total Chinese population of the Colony; Cantonese, 23.4%; Tiochiu, 15.4%; Hakka, 7.6%; Hailam, 6%; Foochow, 1.6%; Hokchhia, .8%; Henghua, .4%; and Shanghai and other northern dialects, 4%.

The Indian population of the Straits Settlements at the last census was 104,628, of whom 96,835 or 92 per cent were Southern Indians.

There has been an increase of some 35 per cent in the Indian population since 1921, but the relative proportions of the various elements remain the same. Of the Southern Indians, who form the bulk of the Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, *i.e.*, Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Canarese. The vast majority (about 94 per cent) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Telugus slightly outnumber the Malayalis, while the number of Canarese is negligible

Three quarters of the remaining Indian population of the Colony consist of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani. The balance comprises a few hundreds from the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and also a few hundred Burmese.

D.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, ½ cent and ¼ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter two denominations. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5, and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for the bankers' clearances.

During the War and for some years after notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at *2s. 4d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of *2s.* $4\frac{3}{16}$*d.* to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate *2s.* $3\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

E.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) Standard of Extension, the Imperial yard.

(*b*) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(*c*) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese Steelyards (called "Dachings") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal measures used by these classes with their relation to English standards:—

Local term	*Relation to English standard*	
The chupah	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	equals	1 gallon.
The tahil	equals	$1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	equals	$1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	equals	$133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	equals	$5,333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.

I.—General

At the close of 1928 there was a Surplus of $64 millions. This figure was increased to $83.2 millions by the end of 1929. Ordinary Revenue showed an excess of $2 millions over the Expenditure and the additional increase in the Surplus was due to the transfer of $19 millions from the Currency Guarantee Fund Surplus to Colonial Revenues. The Ordinary Revenue, that is excluding transfers from the Currency Guarantee Fund, exceeded the Estimate by $1.8 millions whereas the Actual Expenditure was less than the Budget figure by $3.9 millions. The Estimated Deficit on the year's working of $5.5 millions was therefore not realised and in actual fact, had no transfer been made from the Currency Guarantee Fund, the Surplus existing at the end of 1928 would have been increased by $.2 million as stated above.

Land values decreased slightly during the year; but, despite the extent of the drop in prices of tin and rubber, the land market remained fairly steady.

The value of the foreign trade in merchandise of Malaya increased from $1,705,707,721 in 1928 to $1,806,612,639 in 1929, an increase of $100,904,918 or 5.9 per cent, of which $734,153,508 in 1928 and $751,380,950 in 1929 (an increase of 2.3 per cent) were direct exports from Straits Settlements Ports, including Labuan. The increase was due principally to bigger rubber exports, including re-exports, which rose from 410,939 tons in 1928 to 580,784 tons in 1929. This increase of 169,845 tons compensated for the fall in average price from 36 cents to 33 cents per lb. Foreign imports of rubber increased from 150,197 tons to 162,109 tons or by 7.8 per cent. Malayan tin exports increased from 99,053 tons to 102,026 tons or by 3 per cent. Foreign imports of tin ore increased from 44,389 tons to 48,785 tons or by 9.1 per cent. The average price of tin fell locally from $116 to $104 per pikul and in London from £227.7.10 to £203.18.11 per ton. Average prices and declared trade values generally declined, principal exceptions being rice, white pepper, gambier, hides, rattans, gums, betel-nuts and spices. Rents rose slightly in Singapore and Malacca and fell in Penang.

There was a further improvement in the general health of the Colony during the year. Considerable progress was made in sanitation and malaria and infantile mortality declined.

A Committee appointed by the late Secretary of State for the Colonies under the Chairmanship of Lord Balfour of Burleigh to consider the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States legislation with respect to the Protection of Women and Girls returned its report in February. Their recommendations have been generally adopted and constitute the policy which the Government has been following with regard to social hygiene.

The Police Department is again to be congratulated on the further improvement attained in the state of crime. Steps were taken for the re-organisation and better equipment of the Force and for the provision of modern and up-to-date buildings in accordance with a definite programme of construction for each Settlement.

A new Department of Statistics for the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States was created in July and an officer was appointed to act as Registrar General. Following the recommendation of the Trade Statistics Committee appointed in 1927, approval was obtained from the Secretary of State for the discontinuance of the Trade Returns of the Straits Settlements as a separate unit and the adoption in their place of the Foreign Trade Returns of British Malaya. During the year the department concentrated its activities on organising itself on an efficient basis and already considerable improvement has been obtained in the statistics available.

In Singapore the Federated Malay States Railways acquired from the Singapore Harbour Board an area of about 54 acres, known as the Western Reclamation, in connection with the scheme for the diversion and extension of the Federated Malay States Railway towards Keppel Harbour and the provision of a new main railway station for Singapore in that vicinity.

The proposals of Mr. G. W. A. TRIMMER, the Chairman, Singapore Harbour Board, for the extension of the wharfage accommodation at Singapore together with the comments of the Board's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. COODE, WILSON, MITCHELL and VAUGHAN-LEE, were referred during the year for the advice of the Imperial Shipping Committee. The Committee endorsed the view of the Board that schemes "C" and "D" should be adopted. The schemes involve the dredging of certain shoals, and the whole matter is awaiting the consideration and approval of the Government.

The problem of providing adequate berthing accommodation at the Port of Penang received careful attention. The report submitted by Mr. TRIMMER at the end of 1928, suggesting the provision of deep water wharves on the mainland at Bagan Luar in preference to extending the facilities on the island, was considered and referred for the advice of the Harbour Board's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. COODE, WILSON, MITCHELL and VAUGHAN-LEE. The matter is still under discussion with the local public bodies and interests concerned.

The first section of the Gunong Pulai scheme of the Singapore Municipality for the supply of water to Singapore and the extension to the Penang Waterworks begun early in 1925 were completed during the year.

The buildings of Raffles College, Singapore, begun in 1926 in acordance with the design of the approved architects, Messrs. FAREY and DAWBARN of London, were completed by the middle of the year and formally opened by the Governor (Sir HUGH CLIFFORD) on the 22nd July. On that date there were 79 students on the College books and it is hoped that the institution will eventually develop into a local university in combination with the King Edward VII College of Medicine.

The new Municipal Offices in Singapore designed and carried out by the Engineering Department of the Municipality, and forming what has been described as the finest building which the Colony possesses, were completed and were formally opened by the Governor on the 23rd July.

At the invitation of the Naval Commander-in-Chief of the China Station, (Vice-Admiral Sir A. K. WAISTELL, K.C.B.), the Governor on the 15th August formally declared open the floating dock which had been towed out from England and anchored in the waters set aside for the Singapore Naval Base. The first vessel to make use of the dock was H.M.S. "Cumberland" which was docked there in September.

The New Years Honours List, the publication of which was delayed until the 1st March, owing to the illness of His Majesty the King, included the name of Mr. MANASSEH MEYER upon whom the honour of Knight Bachelor was conferred.

The Birthday Honours List included the following:—

Mr. M. H. WHITLEY of the Malayan Civil Service	Knight Bachelor
Mr. GEORGE HEMMANT of the Malayan Civil Service ...	C.M.G.
Mr. E. W. F. GILMAN of the Malayan Civil Service ...	C.B.E. (Civil Division)
Major A. A. LERMIT, V.D., Straits Settlements Volunteer Force	O.B.E. (Military Division)
Major J. J. SAUNDERS, Straits Settlements Volunteer Force	O.B.E. (Military Division)

A notable event was the official visit of His Royal Highness the DUKE OF GLOUCESTER as head of the Garter Mission to Japan in April. A very warm and loyal reception was accorded His Royal Highness, who arrived at Penang on the 18th April, proceeded the same day by train to Singapore and re-embarked on the s.s. *Morea* on the 20th April.

On the 31st July, Their Majesties the King and Queen of Siam arrived on an official visit to Singapore on board the Royal Yacht *Mahachakri* and were accorded a hearty popular welcome. Their Majesties were entertained at Government House by the Governor (Sir HUGH CLIFFORD) and Lady CLIFFORD and departed for Java on the 2nd August.

The Commission of Enquiry into the control of opium smoking in the Far East appointed by the League of Nations conducted its investigations in the Straits Settlements during October and November. The Commission inspected the new Government Opium Packing Factory, Singapore, studied the conditions under which opium is manufactured, sold and consumed in this country and heard evidence by witnesses representative of all classes of the community both official and unofficial.

Major-General Sir C. C. VAN STRAUBENZEE, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., relinquished his command as General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, on the 8th March, 1929, and Major-General H. L. PRITCHARD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., arrived and assumed command on the following day.

Owing to the serious illness of Lady CLIFFORD, the Governor (Sir HUGH CLIFFORD) resigned his appointment as Governor and High Commissioner and accompanied Lady CLIFFORD to England, leaving Singapore on the 18th October, by the s.s. *Karmala*. Their departure in such distressing circumstances aroused a remarkable demonstration of sympathy from all classes of the community. Sir HUGH CLIFFORD joined the Malayan Civil Service in 1883 at the age of 17, served in Perak, Pahang, British North Borneo (as Governor), and again in Pahang (as British Resident); was transferred to Trinidad as Colonial Secretary in 1903, and thence to Ceylon as Colonial Secretary in 1907; was appointed Governor of the Gold Coast (1912), Nigeria (1919), and Ceylon (1925) in succession, and finally in 1927 Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Malay States.

In December the announcement was made of the appointment of Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, K.C.M.G., (Governor of Hong Kong) to succeed Sir HUGH CLIFFORD.

I arrived in the Colony and assumed the duties of the appointment of Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, on the 12th February, in succession to the late Sir HAYES MARRIOTT, K.B.E., C.M.G. On the departure of Sir HUGH CLIFFORD for England I assumed the administration of the Government.

II.—Finance

(i)—REVENUE

The Revenue for the year 1929 amounted to $54,888,291, exceeding the estimate by $20,788,438, whilst the expenditure was $35,711,997, being $3,937,420 less than the estimate. The Revenue was inflated by $19 millions transferred to the Colony from the Currency Guarantee Fund. It will be seen therefore that in respect of the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Headings a surplus of $.18 millions approximately was realised.

The Revenue was $16,796,070, more than that of 1928, while expenditure was more than the 1928 figure by $704,389. If account be taken of the $19 millions transferred from the Currency Guarantee Fund above referred to it will be seen that the ordinary Revenue Headings on the whole showed a drop of $2.2 millions as compared with 1928.

Heads of Revenue	1928	1929	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	2,588	2,506	...	82
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	28,067,105	24,143,985	..	3,923,120
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ...	1,213,723	1,172,536	...	41,187
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	2,123,489	2,367,951	244,462	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,879,938	1,838,627	...	41,311
6. Interest	2,362,898	3,443,940	1,081,042	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	954,795	21,157,702	20,202,907	...
Total exclusive of Land Sales	36,604,536	54,127,247	21,528,411	4,005,700
8. Land Sales	1,487,685	761,044	...	726,641
TOTAL, Revenue ...	38,092,221	54,888,291	21,528,411	4,732,341
	Net Increase ...		$16,796,070	

As compared with 1928 the decline in Revenue of $3,923,120, under the head Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified is mainly attributable to a drop in the sales of Chandu (opium).

The decrease under Fees of Court, etc., is due to the decrease under the following items:—

	$
(*a*) Bankruptcy Estates Commission ...	6,000
(*b*) Naturalization and Passports ...	15,000
(*c*) Quarantine and Port Health Expenses recoverable	9,000
(*d*) Miscellaneous	8,000

The decrease under Rents on Government Property is due to the item "Lands". The amount collected in 1929 is $1,328,835.66 as against $1,393,070.49 in 1928.

The increase under Posts and Telegraphs is caused by a larger sale of Stamps and by increased revenue under the items Telegraphs and Miscellaneous.

The increase under the heading Interest is due to an increased Surplus resulting from the large transfers from the Currency Guarantee Fund.

The increase under Miscellaneous Receipts is due to overpayments recovered, the transfer of $763,352.59 from Insurance and Depreciation Fund, and as already stated, to the transfer of $19 millions from Currency Commissioners Guarantee Fund.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Heads of Expenditure	1928	1929	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083	37,083	...	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,716,029	1,687,187	...	28,842
3. Charitable Allowances ...	33,107	26,086	...	7,021
4. The Governor	148,110	134,921	...	13,189
5. Civil Service	687,073	713,641	26,568	...
6. General Clerical Service ...	930,982	1,028,547	97,565	...
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	129,305	163,453	34,148	...
8. Secretary to High Commissioner	13,615	10,978		2,637
9. Agricultural Department ...	46,043	60,442	14,399	...
10. Audit	23,633	24,152	519	...
11. Audit External ...	16,849	8,163	...	8,686
12. Chinese Secretariat ...	(*a*) 90,423	74,336	...	16,087
13. Co-operative Societies ...	26,325	33,176	6,851	...
14. Ecclesiastical	25,281	25,031	...	250
15. Education	1,301,209	1,427,988	126,779	...
16. Fisheries	80,170	39,257	...	40,913
17. Forests	47,795	82,348	34,553	...
18. Gardens, Botanical ...	104,585	111,341	6,756	...
19. Imports, Exports and Statistics .	40,084	52,035	11,951	...
20. Labour Department ...	...	21,647	21,647	...
21. Land and District Offices ...	254,917	268,632	13,715	...
22. Legal	333,770	353,707	19,937	...
23. Marine	628,104	639,774	11,670	...
24. Marine Surveys ...	73,181	77,518	4,337	...
25. Medical	360,311	348,582	...	11,729
26. Medical, Health Branch ...	648,914	627,620	...	21,294
27. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	98,620	99,033	413	...
28. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,246,130	2,248,416	2,286	...
29. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,960,000	3,775,714	...	184,286
II. Local Forces ...	438,037	518,734	80,697	...
30. Miscellaneous Services ...	5,759,964	6,313,210	553,246	...
31. Monopolies	1,727,880	1,687,555	...	40,325
32. Museum and Library, Raffles	52,871	53,171	300	...
33. Police	2,727,842	2,959,126	231,284	...
34. Political Intelligence Bureau	24,710	27,212	2,502	..
35. Post Office	1,765,803	1,733,095	...	32,708
36. Printing Office ...	200,739	231,358	30,619	...
37. Prisons	432,277	444,338	12,061	...
38. Public Works Department...	482,135	517,961	35,826	...
39. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	884,282	951,519	67,237	...
40. Public Works, Extraordinary	5,489,873	5,133,968	...	355,905
41. Survey Department ...	426,453	411,401	...	15,052
42. Transport	328,083	356,752	28,669	...
43. Treasury	98,926	103,622	4,696	...
44. Veterinary	66,085	68,167	2,082	...
TOTAL ...	35,007,608	35,711,997	1,483,313	778,924
	.. Net Increase ..		$704,389	

(*a*) Includes Labour Department for 1928

The decrease under Pensions, etc., is probably due to the Commutation provisions of the Pensions Ordinance. As all commuted sums are debited to Pensions, it is obvious that the sum spent from year to year will be affected to a considerable extent by the number of senior officers retiring during the year.

The decrease under Charitable Allowances is due to the deletion of the grant for furniture for the new "Po Leung Kuk" in the 1929 Estimates.

The increase under General Clerical Service is mainly due to promotions and to certain appointments being antedated in 1929.

The appointment of additional teachers largely accounts for the increase under Education.

The increase under Forests is due to Special Expenditure in 1929 and new appointments.

The excess under Miscellaneous Services was due to payments made on account of the Singapore Town Improvement Scheme in respect of the following items:—

	$	c.
Acquisition of sites at Alexander Road and Kampong Java	117,397	25
Land earmarked for open spaces Rochore Road Block	94,631	00
Palembang Road Block	72,461	00
Lot 179² at Teluk Blangah ...	2,246	00
Acquisition of Land in the District of Toah Payoh	46,500	00
Lot 56 Teluk Blangah taken over for Tiong Bahru Scheme	15,754	00
Total ...	$348,989	25

The excess under Police is caused by an increased personnel and greater Special Expenditure.

Purchase of additional Printing Machinery in 1929 accounts for the increase under Printing.

The decrease under Public Works Department Extraordinary is probably due to the following works which were not proceeded with during the year under review:—

	$ c.
New Pier to replace Johnston's Pier ...	90,000 00
New Police Station, and Quarters, Beach Road	100,000 00
New Police Station, Barracks and Quarters at Joo Chiat	100,000 00
Telok Ayer Basin, Dredging and Construction of Quay Walls	200,000 00
Durian Daun Hospital, Reconstruction ...	150,000 00

Exclusive of Defence Contribution, the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last five years, and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary:—

Year	*Total Expenditure*	*Public Works Expenditure*
	$	$
1925 ...	54,314,078	5,142,549
1926 ...	33,325,253	5,145,540
1927 ...	33,950,061	6,184,886
1928 ...	31,047,608	5,489,873
1929 ...	31,936,283	5,133,968

The abnormal figure of total expenditure for 1925 is due to the transfer of $30 millions to the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund.

The amounts paid as Defence Contribution for the last five years are:—

	$
1925	3,280,000
1926	3,630,000
1927	5,303,000
1928	3,960,000
1929	3,775,714

The amount for 1927 includes a sum of $810,000 paid in respect of arrears for the War Office financial year 1925 - 1926. Refunds of $139,500 and $454,397 received in 1928 and 1929 in respect of overpayments in the financial years 1926 - 1927 and 1927 - 1928 respectively are not included in the above figures.

(iii).—Assets and Liabilities

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1929 were as follows:—

Liabilities		$	*Assets*		$
Deposits:—			Investments:—		
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	$44,496,923		Colony ...	$63,070,921	
Other Deposits ...	7,587,173		Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	44,496,923	
		52,084,096	Other Investments	3,387,236	
					110,955,080
Drafts and Remittances ...		324,438			
Suspense Account		3,762,170	Advances		2,428,649
			Imprests		45,625
Investments Depreciation Account		25,000	Cash in Transit		162,073
Loans:—			Loans:—		
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921–1926		200	Municipalities ...		1,000,872
Straits Settlements 5½% War Loan 1918		2,900	Brunei Government ...		8,000
Straits Settlements 5½% Conversion Loan 1919–1929 ...		35,100	Kelantan Government ...		4,080,684
			Trengganu Government ...		2,300,000
			Singapore Harbour Board ...		4,888,193
			Penang Harbour Board ...		2,683,526
			Singapore Cricket Club ...		18,746
			Stadium Association ...		15,000
Surplus		*a*83,204,617	S. S. War Service Land Grants Scheme		101,646
			Singapore Improvement Trust		250,000
			Indian Agency Account ...		125,757
			Cash		10,374,670
TOTAL ...		139,438,521	TOTAL ..		139,438,521

a Reserved for Specific Purposes:—

	$	
(1) *Loans*—		
Municipalities, Malacca	362,000	
Trengganu Government	1,200,000	
Penang Harbour Board	183,000	
S. S. War Service Land Grants Scheme	86,300	
For Building Dwelling Houses	416,487	
		$2,247,787
(2) *Commitments of Expenditure*—		
Raffles College Buildings	20,014	
Development of Penang Hill	48,543	
Singapore Town Improvement Scheme	7,759,419	
Land required for improvement of Railway	2,288,320	
Barracks Maxwell Road	46,355	
Police Station, Tanjong Pagar	26,582	
Police Depot, Thomson Road	62,542	
Chinese Protectorate	201,860	
School Trade—Erection of	35,000	
School, English Elementary Upper Serangoon ...	15,589	
Police Station, Joo Chiat	65,000	
Malay Settlement Development	59,000	
New Reclamation from Bastion to Rest House, Malacca ...	80,777	
		$10,709,001
(3) Expenditure on Services as detailed on page 3 of 1929 Estimates		8,309,863
TOTAL ...		$21,266,651

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted, on the 31st December, 1929 to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
Total ...	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ...	3,388,205
	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was $2,079,899 in 1929. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1929, was approximately $10,527,828.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 stands at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on this loan is payable by His Majesty's Government

The 5½ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 - 1929 amounting to $36,715,200, was redeemed on the 15th November, 1929. To finance the redemption it was necessary to transfer from London to Singapore the sum of £1,895,000 and to supplement the local balances. These transactions were effected by means of forward contracts through the Banks and not a single dollar was added to the gross circulation of the Currency. This loan was raised for the Imperial Government. The capital sum remitted to London on flotation was repaid in London on the same date.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Exchange

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1929:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)
,, Banque de l'Indo Chine
,, National City Bank of New York
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited
,, Kwong Lee Banking Company
,, Eastern Bank, Limited
,, National Commercial and Savings Bank, Limited

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/3 31/32 and 2/3 23/32. The higher rate was obtainable only over a very short period at the end of the 3rd quarter.

(vi).—Currency

No change was made in the Currency Legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $104,159,136.75 in currency notes and $6,359,725 in dollars and half dollars,

while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $138,265 as compared with $138,999 at the end of 1928.

At the end of 1928 the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $115,636,274.20. There was no demand by the public for Currency Notes during the year 1929. But there was a demand for sterling in the months of January, April, May, June, July, August and December and the consequent contraction in Currency Notes during those months amounted to $11,674,800. The value of the Currency Notes in circulation at the end of 1929 stood at $104,159,136.75.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $63,323,707.88, consisting of £328,251 in gold, $16,520,303.92 in silver and $2,660,034.14 on deposit with the Government held locally and £73,330 in gold and £4,748,478-16-3 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $80,205,538.80; the cost price of those investments having been $85,233,914.88.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than 2/5 ths of the notes in Circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form *i.e.* in current silver and gold coin in the Colony and in Gold, cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year was $63,420,610.60 and the investment portion amounted to $80,205,538.80. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $39,467,012.65 as compared with an excess of $56,030,495.82 at the end of 1928. During the year the sum of $19 millions was transferred to the general revenue of the Colony.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of $371,769 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a net decrease of $32,712.70 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $10,935,207 were in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $735,627.25 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1927 was $1,124,307.70 and at the end of 1928 $768,391.20.

Seventeen millions eight hundred and ninety-four thousand two hundred and seventy-eight and a quarter notes to the value of $96,628,037.45 were destroyed during the year as against 20,542,740 to the value of $87,133,550 in 1928.

(vii) Enemy Property.

During the year a sum of $61,994.74 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property so transferred to the end of 1929 amounted to $12,877,243.44. With the exception of the liquidation of Messrs. Behn Meyer & Co., Limited, which was still outstanding, the liquidation of all Enemy Property was closed and the proceeds transferred to the Clearing Office, London.

Local Clearing Office.

The position at the end of the year 1929 in regard to the different classes of claims was as follows:—

German Claims.—The time for the registration of new claims having long since expired, the total value of all claims registered remained at $1,894,021.59 as in the previous year. The claims admitted remained at $200,389.76 while claims to the value of $49,240.43 and $437.26 which were under reference to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and unsettled, respectively, were wholly withdrawn making the total of the claims so withdrawn $1,693,631.83. The Mixed Arbitral Tribunal awarded to British Nationals the sum of £50 as costs in respect of five claims which were under reference to the Tribunal but withdrawn subsequently. A sum of $2,271.58 was collected from British nationals during the year on account of admitted German claims and interest. The total so collected to the end of the year was $222,131.42.

British Claims against German Nationals.—This portion of the Clearing Office work came to a close at the end of the year. The total claims dealt with under the Clearing Office procedure amounted to $217,366.40. Of this, claims to the value of $170,279.07 were withdrawn, and $47,087.33 admitted.

Claims against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.—During the year a dividend of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the £ on the admitted claims was credited and distributed. Liabilities outstanding on the 31st December, 1929, were $896.57.

Funds in the hands of the Local Controller.—During the year the sum of $57,000 was transferred to the Clearing Office in London leaving a cash balance of $2,787.81.

III.—Production

(a) AGRICULTURE

Dr. H. A. TEMPANY, formerly Director of Agriculture, Mauritius, was appointed to the post of Director of Agriculture, S. S. and F. M. S., as from January 6th. The total expenditure of the Department of Agriculture in the Colony including provision towards Head Office expenses was $144,611.24 while the revenue collected in the Colony was $2,311.71.

Rubber.—Low prices for this commodity ruled throughout the year. During the first quarter the average price for smoked sheet was 38 cents a pound. This gradually declined to 35 cents in August, 34 cents in September, 31 cents in October and fell as low as 25 cents in November. In December the market showed a slightly steadier tendency, but prices were inclined to fall again towards the end of the year.

The price ruling for small holders' rubber at the end of the year was $30 a pikul for smoked sheet and $27 for unsmoked sheet.

On estates no appreciable decline in the standard of maintenance was evidenced, but on small holdings the general standard of upkeep has continued to deteriorate as a result of the persistence of low prices, while there is an increasing tendency to excessive tapping by Asiatic cultivators.

There has been practically no extension in the area planted under this crop except in the Dindings, where a certain amount of new plantings by Asiatic cultivators has been made.

Imports of selected budding and planting material showed further considerable increase during the year.

There is nothing new to report in respect of rubber diseases. Mouldy Rot disease of the tapping surface still demands constant attention.

Certain recommendations were put forward by the Department with the object of securing more effective co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the Rubber Research Institute and these received the sanction of Government.

Coconuts.—There was a further decline in the price of copra. For "Fair Merchantable" quality the Singapore

price opened at $10 per pikul, nearly $2 less than at the beginning of 1928. The price fell to just over $8 per pikul by the summer, after which there was an upward tendency concluding by the end of the year with a fairly steady price of slightly below $9 per pikul. The average price for the year was $9.09 per pikul; while for "Sundried" the average price was 46 cents per pikul higher.

The area under this crop remains fairly constant.

A gradual improvement has taken place during the past few years in the matter of damage by the Coconut Beetle, (*Oryctes rhinoceros*), but unremitting attention is still required to ensure the prompt destruction of dead and dying palms which serve as breeding places for this insect.

A somewhat severe, but localised, outbreak of damage by the Red Stripe Weevil (*Rhyncophorus schach*) occurred in the Dindings. Investigation showed that this was due to excessive pruning, the weevil gaining an entrance where leaves had been cut off before they were ready for removal.

Padi (*Rice*).—The total area under cultivation in the Straits Settlements for the season 1928—29 was 76,074 acres and the yield obtained was 26,696,617 gantangs. Of this 75,138 acres were planted with "wet" padi as compared with 72,834 acres for 1927—28 season; the respective yields being 26, 612,377 gantangs compared with 22,206,549 gantangs.

In Province Wellesley, though the area under cultivation was slightly lower than the previous season, the greater portion of the increased crop was obtained; the yield for 1928—29 being 14,929,200 gantangs compared with 10,942,000 gantangs for 1927—28.

Malacca also had a successful season with 30,210 acres planted and a total yield of 9,588,337 gantangs, but the average per acre was slightly below the previous season.

The Penang returns, 5,040 acres and 2,031,000 gantangs of padi, were practically the same as for the previous season, and the yield from the Dindings, 148,080 gantangs, was above average.

1929—30 *Padi Season*.—In the Northern and Central districts of Province Wellesley attacks of a leaf-hopper (*Sogata pallescens*) and dry weather adversely affected the prospects of the crop, but the padi areas in the Southern District of the Province and in Penang promise average yields.

The total acreage planted in Malacca is slightly lower than last season. Drought at the beginning of the season caused a certain amount of difficulty. The severe floods in

September did considerable damage, particularly round Jasin.

The padi in other districts was not affected, and at the present time the prospect is very promising.

The newly initiated Rat Campaign in Malacca promises to be successful.

The Pekan Darat Experiment Station in Province Wellesley, owing to continued unfavourable conditions in regard to water supply, has had to be abandoned. A new station will be formed in another place.

Pulau Gadong Experiment Station in Malacca again sufferred damage during the 1928—29 season from floods and stem-borer pests, although rat damage was not serious, and pedigree line selection of heavy yielding strains of local padi was continued.

During the year the Public Works Department continued to conduct investigations with a view to ascertaining whether a system of controlled drainage and irrigation could be established on padi land in Province Wellesley.

Pineapples.—There are approximately 35,000 acres under Pineapples in Johore and 8,000 acres in Singapore. The produce from the whole of this area is exported as tinned pineapples from Singapore, the annual trade approximating to one million pounds sterling in value.

The fruit is tinned at factories in both Johore and Singapore, where there are five factories.

The crop is grown almost entirely as a catch crop with rubber, with the exception of 3,000 acres of Crown Land in Singapore, where pineapples are cultivated by Chinese under temporary occupation licence. Factory methods have improved of recent years and the improvement still continues.

The policy was continued of endeavouring to improve the trade in Malayan pineapples by organised exhibits at suitable exhibitions in the United Kingdom in co-operation with the Malayan Information Agency and the Empire Marketing Board. During the year exhibits of Malayan pineapples were staged at five exhibitions at home.

These efforts were remarkably successful in attracting the attention of the public and there is good reason to believe that they have materially stimulated the Malayan pineapple trade.

Coffee.—There are 325 acres under this crop on small holdings in Malacca and approximately 200 acres in the Dindings. In addition an estate in the Dindings has planted about 300 acres as a catch crop in young rubber.

Local Fruit.—In Singapore and Malacca good crops were produced in both January and the mid-year. In Province Wellesley the crop was below average in quantity but in quality was much better than last year.

Cloves and Nutmegs.—Prices were for cloves $75—$90 a pikul and for Nutmegs $70 a pikul. The cultivation of these spices still persists on the western slopes of Penang Hill and at Bukit Mertajam where they are grown almost exclusively by Chinese.

Vegetables.—There was a marked increase in Chinese vegetable gardens in Province Wellesley during the year. In some cases gardens have been established on land formerly used for padi cultivation.

School Gardens.—There are 67 school gardens in Malacca, 15 in Province Wellesley and 5 on Penang Island. Arrangements are being made to open a further 14 gardens in Province Wellesley and Penang during the coming year. All these gardens were regularly supervised by agricultural officers.

Rat control in Padi Areas.—The scheme of rat destruction, organised by the Department of Agriculture, was continued throughout the year in Province Wellesley and rewards were paid for over half a million rats. A similar scheme was inaugurated in Malacca in October. Poisoned baits were used on a large scale. Damage to padi by rats is reported to have been negligible throughout the year.

Soil Survey.—The work already carried out on the inland soils was consolidated during the first half of the year and a report was published. It was decided that the most immediate need was the elucidation of the coastal alluvial soils, owing to their importance for coconuts and padi. The second half of the year was devoted chiefly to this end.

(*b*) Forestry

The area of reserved forests was increased by the addition of 1,315 acres at Sungei Berih, 292 acres at Tuas and 65 acres at Pandan in Singapore, and by 29 acres at Balik Pulau in Penang.

Reserves were decreased in Singapore by 53 acres at Bukit Timah, for a rifle range, and by 25 acres at Pandan, for residential sites; in the Dindings by 3 acres at Lumut, and 180 acres at Batu Undan, both for agriculture; and by 8 acres at Merlimau in Malacca, due to the boundary of an adjoining estate overlapping that of the forest reserve. The total area of forest reserve is now 116,012 acres 0 roods 4 poles as against 114,580 acres 2 roods 2 poles at the end of 1928.

Revenue and Expenditure were $60,426 and $102,096 respectively, as compared with $63,308 and $66,241 in 1928, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a deficit of $31,670 as compared with $2,933 in 1928. Both revenue and expenditure increased in Malacca, but fell off in all the other Settlements.

The outturn of Timber was 11,568 tons and of firewood and charcoal 36,657 tons as compared with 9,488 and 30,857 tons in 1928. Minor forest produce yielded $5,397 as compared with $3,815 in 1928.

One hundred and three cases of breach of the forest law were reported. Sixty-one of these offenders were not detected. Fines inflicted in Court amounted to $1,518, cases settled departmentally realised $137, and compensation amounting to $122 was awarded for damage to the forests. Fines for breaches of leases and agreements realised $283.

(*c*) FISHERIES

Experimental work was engaged in during the year to ascertain the possibilities of fishing by means of drift-nets for the tunny ("tongkol"). This work was carried out off the East Coast until the advent of the N.E. Monsoon. It would appear that few tunny are to be caught by this method, although other fishes, mainly *Carangidae*, promise some prospect of success; but as the weather was not good at any time it is possible that the results are not a true indication of the usual conditions.

Carp cultivation has been receiving the attention of the Fisheries Department and the experimental ponds at Woodleigh, Singapore, were furnished with a satisfactory water-supply. A small laboratory with aquarium tanks has been fitted up, and research is being undertaken into the properties of the pond-water and the life-histories of various local fresh-water fishes of economical value.

Turtles are being reared in an experimental pond on Pulau Ubin, in the Johore Straits and an endeavour was made to decrease the mortality by farming them until they are of an age to fend for themselves.

The long-felt need of a study-collection of local fishes, accurately classified, has at last been supplied by Professor L. F. DE BEAUFORT, of Amsterdam, who has published a considerable amount of work on the fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago.

(*d*) Mining

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca.

All mining came to a complete standstill in 1929 and, although many applications for prospecting were received early in the year, it is not anticipated that any revival is likely to take place unless the price of tin rises considerably.

The Revenue from Tin was $708 only as against $8,822 in the previous year.

IV.—Trade and Economics

Prices.—Tables of Average Prices and Declared Trade Values for 1928 were published during the year and material for 1929 was collected.

The following remarks are a Summary of the material collected for 1929:—

(i) Average wholesale prices of principal articles quoted locally showed, when compared with 1928, a general downward tendency. Exceptions included white pepper, gambier, coir rope, gum benjamin, hides, rattans, rice, sandalwood and betel-nuts. Prices of articles regarded as Straits Produce, quoted by the London Chamber of Commerce, also showed a downward tendency, except white pepper, petrol, petroleum and tapioca. Rubber decreased in London from 10.71 to 10.28 pence, in New York from 22.22 to 20.37 cents, and in Singapore from 36.55 to 34.45 cents, per lb.

(ii) Declared trade values in foreign trade returns also showed a downward tendency, except gums, hides, oils, spices, rice, arecanuts, gambier, gutta percha, and white pepper. The index number of the value of 20 principal exports was 102.5, as compared with 103.4 in 1928, and of 40 principal imports was 91 in 1929, as compared with 93.6 in 1928.

(iii) The average for the year of the demand rate on London was 27.66 pence, or 1.21 per cent in favour of sterling, as compared with 27.815 pence and 0.67 per cent in 1928.

(iv) The value in circulation of Straits Settlements Currency was 105.2 million dollars at the end of the year, as compared with 115.6 million dollars at the end of 1928.

(v) The index number of market (retail) prices declined in Singapore from 110 to 105, in Penang from 127 to 124, and in Malacca from 125 to 119, market prices appearing to become progressively cheaper in Singapore than in Malacca or Penang. The index number for 1929 in the General Table of the Food Budget was 140, as compared with 143 in 1928 and 100 in May, 1914.

(vi) Municipal assessment values, regarded as equivalent to rentals, indicated in Singapore a general increase in rents of .4 per cent, in Penang a general fall of .8 per cent, and in Malacca a general increase of 1.3 per cent at the end of 1929 as compared with the end of 1928. A general upward tendency has been maintained since 1925, except in Penang where rents at the end of 1929 commenced to decline.

(vii) There was, at the end of 1929, a slight increase in the cost of cold storage supplies and of European men's wearing apparel, and no change in the cost of lamp oil and gas.

General Trade.—The Trade of Malaya, including bullion and specie, amounted in 1929 to $1,830 million, as compared with $1,732 million in 1928, of which $1,572.7 million represented the direct trade of the Straits Settlements, as compared with $1,532.2 million in 1928. Imports in 1928 exceeded exports, but the balance was redressed in 1929.

In total trade values, Malaya's best customers in 1929 were the United States of America, the Netherlands East Indies, the United Kingdom and Siam, with $425, $358, $267 and $122 million, respectively, the principal import trade being conducted with the Netherlands Indies, the United Kingdom, Siam and India and the principal export trade with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands Indies.

Of principal imports of merchandise in 1929, the first in value (as in 1928) was rice, $95 million, followed by rubber, $82 million, tin-ore, $63 million, motor spirit, $54 million, cotton piece goods, $39 million, and cigarettes, $27 million.

Of principal exports the first was rubber at $435 million, followed by tin, $182 million, motor spirit, $37 million, copra, $33 million, and rice, $28 million.

Rubber.—The quantity of rubber imports, including latex, amounted to 162,109 tons valued at $81,613 thousand, as compared with 150,197 tons at $88,428 thousand in 1928. The average import for the last five years has been 161 thousand tons. Imports were principally from the Dutch Indies, 84%, other countries being Sarawak, Siam, Indo-China, British North Borneo and Burma.

Exports of rubber increased from 411 to 581 thousand tons in volume, and in value from $331,763 thousand to $435,325 thousand, exports being principally to the United States of America, 64%, the United Kingdom, 19%, the Continent of Europe, 10%, Japan, 5%, British Possessions, 1.8%, and .2% to other countries, proportional increases in exports of 1929 over those of 1928 being to the Continent of Europe, 108%, the United Kingdom, 75%, British Possessions, 59%, the United States of America, 30% and Japan, 14%.

Tin.—Imports of tin-ore increased in volume from 44.4 to 48.8 thousand tons, gross values declining from $66.9 to $62.8 million, imports being principally from the Netherlands Indies, 61%.

Exports of tin increased in volume from 99 to 102 thousand tons, gross values declining from $191.3 to $182.1 million, exports being principally to the United States of America, 57%.

Cotton Piece Goods.—Imports of cotton piece goods showed a total value of $39 million, as compared with $30 million in 1928, the quantity increasing from 126 to 166 million yards. Exports fell slightly from $10 million to $9½ million and in volume by 455 thousand yards.

Other Articles.—Other Imports which showed an increase in volume were arecanuts, cigarettes, coal, milk, pepper, kerosene, sago, sarongs and sugar. Imports showing decreases in volume were copra, dried fish, motor spirit, rattans and rice. Other Exports showing an increase in volume were arecanuts, benzine, copra, milk, pineapples and sago. Other Exports showing decrease in volume were cigarettes, dried fish, pepper, kerosine, rice, rattans, sarongs and sugar.

Pineapples.—Exports of canned pineapples increased in volume from 46,401 to 58,690 tons and in value from $8,421 to $9,234 thousand.

Distribution of Trade.—Local Trade movements ceased to be recorded at the beginning of March, 1929. The following is a comparative statement of the value of the foreign trade of Malaya, including bullion as distributed between the different States, Settlements, and Islands, for the last five years, in millions of dollars:—

—	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Christmas Island	F. M. S.	U. M. S.	Total
1929–								
Imports ...	655–	154+	5+	·7–	·3+	80–	3+	899
Exports ...	517–	202+	34+	1·7+	2·0+	157–	17+	931
Total Trade ...	1,171	357	40	2·4	2·3	236	21	1,830
1928–								
Imports ...	648–	143–	5–	·7–	·1+	81–	3–	880
Exports ...	518–	197+	23–	1·7–	1·8+	100+	11–	852
Total Trade ...	1,165	340	28	2·3	2·0	181	13	1,732
1927–								
Imports ...	780–	161+	4–	·9	·1	68–	4+	1,018
Exports ...	649+	220+	38–	1·8	2·0	143+	15–	1,069
Total Trade ...	1,429	382	41	2·7	2·1	211	19	2,087
1926–								
Imports ...	815	172	3+	1·0	·1	56+	2+	1,050
Exports ...	728+	249+	60	2·0	2·0	214+	18–	1,274
Total Trade ...	1,543	421	63	3·0	2·1	271	20	2,324
1925–								
Imports ...	815+	150–	2–	2·1	·2	37+	2	1,008
Exports ...	781+	250–	62–	1·8	1·7	184–	10	1,290
Total Trade ...	1,596	399	63	3·9	1·9	221	12·0	2,298

The figures are those compiled by the Divisional Trade Registries and exclude transhipment trade at the ports. Malay States produce consigned to dealers in the Colony would, of course, appear as Colony trade. The trade of the Malay States shown in the statement is direct trade, either *via* Port Swettenham or *via* Shipping Agents (as distinct from dealers) at Colony ports. An examination of the trade returns of the Malay States will indicate what proportion of Colony foreign trade was in Malay States produce.

Changes of imports and exports of merchandise in 1929, as compared with 1928, are summarised and explained in the following table, in millions of dollars:—

—	Imports	Reason	Exports	Reason
Class I	$		$	
(Animals, Food, Drink and Tobacco) ...	+ 7	Decrease in quantity and value of Cattle ...	− 9	Reduction in volume of rice re-exports
Class II				
Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) ...	−13	Lower prices of rubber and tin-ore, in spite of increase in volume of both	+105	Increase in volume of rubber exports and re-exports
Class III				
(Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured)	+27	Decrease in volume and value of Asphalt, Cotton piece goods, hollow-ware and motor cars	− 15	Reduction in price of tin dredges and kerosene
Total Merchandise	+21		+80·4	

The following is a Summary showing the distribution of trade, including bullion, between the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries, in 1928 and 1929, in millions of dollars:

IMPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion	Grand Total
1928						
United Kingdom ...	30	2	107	139	5	144
British Possessions .	73	32	63	168	11	179
Foreign Countries ...	194	186	173	553	3	556
Total ...	297	220	343	860	19	879
1929						
United Kingdom ...	34	2	107	143	5	148
British Possessions ...	77	29	58	164	10	174
Foreign Countries ...	193	176	205	574	2	576
Total ...	304	207	370	881	17	898

EXPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion	Grand Total
1928—						
United Kingdom ...	17	55	26	98	·2	98
British Possessions ...	39	13	58	110	·8	111
Foreign Countries ...	81	333	223	637	6	643
Total ...	137	401	307	845	7	852
1929—						
United Kingdom ...	17	87	28	133	·002	133
British Possessions ...	36	17	53	106	1	107
Foreign Countries ...	75	401	210	686	5	691
Total ...	128	505	292	925	6	931

The following additional Tables show different aspects of Malayan foreign trade; an analysis of each Table is contained in the Annual Report for 1929 of the Statistics Department;

I. Value of Imports and Exports of Merchandise between Malaya and Principal Countries for each year, 1925-1929;

II. Principal Imports: Quantities and Values, 1925-1929;

III. Principal Exports: Quantities and Values, 1925-1929

IV. Bullion and Specie: Imports and Exports, 1925 1929;

V. Coal: Imports, Exports and Bunker Coal shipped on steamers for use in foreign trade, 1925-1929;

VI. Cotton Piece Goods: Imports and Exports, from and to Principal Countries, 1928 and 1929;

VII. Kerosene: Imports and Exports, from and to Principal Countries, 1928 and 1929;

VIII. Liquid Fuel: Imports and Exports, from and to Principal Countries, 1928 and 1929;

IX. Lubricating Oil: Imports and Exports, from and to Principal Countries, 1928-1929;

X. Motor Spirit: Imports and Exports, from and to Principal Countries, 1928 and 1929;

XI. Motor Vehicles: Summary of Imports and Exports, distinguishing Commercial and Passenger Cars, 1928 and 1929;

XII. Rice: Imports and Exports, from and to Principal Countries, 1928-1929;

XIII. Rubber: Imports and Exports, from and to Principal Countries, 1925-1929;

XIV. Tin Ore and Tin: Imports of tin ore and Exports of tin, from and to Principal Countries, 1925-1929.

TABLE *I*

Imports and Exports of Merchandise, from and to Principal Countries, 1925—1929

—	Imports					Exports				
	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
					(Thousands)					
United Kingdom	121,855	136,913	132.609	138,904	143,301	178,160	205,932	158,632	98,244	132,990
Australia and New Zealand ...	18,328	15,357	17,193	16,950	15,128	26,447	42,081	40,789	27,637	27,926
British North Borneo	7,518	6,040	5,867	4,274	4,137	4,337	4,828	5,251	5,048	4,742
British India and Burma	77,386	88,257	81,220	70,040	73,586	36,899	35,982	32,964	29,179	32,570
Hong Kong	28,577	27,054	35,84	33,283	28,331	9,997	9,973	10,139	15,716	11,283
Sarawak	48,751	42,357	39,703	32,625	31,826	9,198	9,808	10,848	10,914	9,026
Union of South Africa ...	5,363	4,640	5,351	5,100	3,889	1,538	1,776	3,072	4,089	4,727
Austria	19	95	576	585	525	171	34	42	10	...
Belgium	3,076	5,106	4 830	4,209	5,224	2,762	2,434	1,519	1,744	2,464
Czecho Slovakia	...	...	332	537	992	...	...		...	...
Denmark	696	1,137	1,114	1,756	1,739	1,922	2,556	2,883	3,411	2,663
France	7,942	13,301	11,173	8,093	9,497	44,132	40,912	34,060	26,260	37,852
Germany	8,537	13,715	13,705	14,443	19,415	29,696	18,576	16,818	18,290	24,152
Italy	9,675	15,947	9,672	7,499	9,119	18,410	15,245	13,046	10,023	1,4794
Netherlands	9,487	10,859	11,583	10,905	12,129	29,543	29,673	41,575	35,535	32,670
Norway	762	467	588	702	823	161	145	20	227	324
Russia	34	98	176	6	2	141	53	54	177	57
Spain	77	129	71	60	100	3,815	3,780	2,252	3,354	3,204
Sweden	675	617	765	1,074	2,020	1,548	2,359	1,365	1,109	1,050
Switzerland	...	...	3,506	5,887	5,709	...	...	1	3	7
Other European Countries ...	290	232	512	1,082	2,145	48	67	115	263	551
United States of America ...	30,726	34,866	31,799	27,542	31,840	643.159	597,875	466,998	353,372	393,207
China	34,995	48,250	35,114	29,691	40,795	8,503	9,213	8,589	12,410	10,574
French Indo China	16,725	20,265	24,053	22,014	26,289	7,978	10,195	10,368	9,327	5 228
Japan	29,957	34,900	30,215	20,219	23,190	36,987	39,966	38,628	33,983	38,671
Netherlands East Indies ...	403,000	367,979	363,613	287,006	273,008	113,379	112,451	101,280	91,494	84,919
Siam	93,972	100,431	113,144	102,918	99,064	28,986	28,082	29,442	28,906	23,260

TABLE *II*

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED 1925—1929

Articles	How Stated	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
			('000s) $		('000s) $		('000s) $		('000s) $		('000s) $
Arecanuts	Tons	39,977	10,009	40,525	9,309	32,132	5,878	45,202	6,983	47,657	8,199
Cigarettes	lbs.	15,398,156	29,129	12 436,459	27,102	11,383,411	26,334	11,131 334	26,636	11,368,540	27,444
Coal	Tons	627,482	8,052	793,301	9,545	876,348	10,972	812,130	9,768	830,603	9,616
Copra	,,	66,815	13,036	81,010	15,178	56,538	10 040	87,230	15,496	86,209	13,262
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	169,996,693	46,250	150,284,724	41,265	154,958,635	37,154	125,699,332	29,846	166,506,593	38,562
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Tons	56,172	13,889	56,535	15,73	52,609	15,460	51,038	13,996	47,116	13,177
Machinery	Value	...	13,014	...	19,658	...	22,915	...	27,652	...	21,679
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	1,081,456	13,780	1,271 956	15,857	1,283,771	15,141	1,368,091	15,491	1,548,726	15,896
Motor Spirit (Benzine) ...	Tons	225,840	62,546	273,270	75,269	269,319	65,426	290,877	55,310	280 425	53,937
Para Rubber ...	,,	158,931	237,617	151,511	170,497	183 250	171,913	150,197	88,428	162,109	81,613
Pepper	,,	14,212	9,391	14,350	12,225	11,915	15,028	12,710	16,378	13,960	18 087
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	,,	110,070	18,095	91,316	15,114	134,994	18,951	147,074	15,640	153,819	17.386
Rattans	,,	19,852	3,547	21,077	4,468	20,786	3,990	20,779	3,723	18,358	3,019
Rice	,,	650,007	80,650	755,380	98,378	839,959	104,355	803,909	95,473	785,558	95,461
Sago	,,	47,504	4,225	37,625	3,245	42,298	3,722	39,268	2,806	40,076	2,568
Sarongs	Nos.	12,493,136	17,243	12,324,839	17,361	10,673,439	14,148	9,617,809	12,847	10 165 086	13,219
Sugar	Tons	112,919	15,808	108,829	15,169	110,683	15,367	111,733	12,905	114,483	12,316
Tin Ore	,,	39,489	60,984	36,891	62,599	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814

TABLE *III*

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED 1925—1929

Articles	How Stated	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
			('000s) $		('000s) $		('000s) $		('000s) $		('000s) $
Arecanuts	Tons	58,908	18,293	63,021	17,288	49,879	10,300	69,259	12,196	72,127	14,412
Benzine (Motor Spirit) ..	,,	189,912	53,175	205,455	57,486	202,439	48,834	184,416	34,954	194,344	36,530
Copra	,,	153,236	32,110	185,404	36,988	140,042	26,578	182,858	34,165	198,638	32,925
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	63,966,854	16,413	52,693,161	13,203	51,777,059	12,535	41,000,093	9,957	40,455,571	9,441
Cigarettes	lbs.	7,957,571	12,348	5,410,863	9,988	4,279,513	8,598	3,999,265	8,015	3,719,830	7,437
Fish, Dried and Salted ..	Tons	59,021	14,105	60,220	15,161	58,577	14,309	57,544	14,470	54,717	14,002
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	208,595	2,744	249,591	3,251	220,666	2,710	212,261	2,536	217,312	2,261
Pepper	Tons	15,729	10,142	14,453	13,292	13,515	16,762	13,509	18,413	12,879	17,586
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	,,	63,518	10,076	61,649	9,283	92,538	12,587	112,058	12,069	100,443	10,548
Para Rubber ...	,,	316,826	746,228	391,337	711,302	371,309	519,465	408,692	329,790	577,209	432,644
Preserved Pineapples ...	,,	43 208	8,237	40,634	7,670	40,134	8,297	46,401	8,421	58,690	9,234
Rubber Latex ...	Gallons	2,316,438	10,413	2,087,849	6,650	1,560,976	3,523	919,909	1,297	1,709,529	1,910
Rice	Tons	246,949	31,212	280,533	36,613	294,241	35,992	280,139	32,780	233,897	28,031
Rattans	,,	18,349	4,821	16,715	4,729	15,960	4,321	16,431	4,335	15,228	3,820
Sago	,,	51,165	5,641	41,685	4,497	44,280	4,664	44,195	3,991	46,763	3,742
Sarongs	Nos.	5,635,638	7,941	5,510,925	7,751	6,088,828	7,779	5,211,937	6,573	4,446,605	5,717
Sugar	Tons	26,049	3,692	20,218	2,984	18,065	2,534	20,227	2,530	14,596	1,659
Tin	,,	79,082	175,202	76,334	185,526	83,773	206,571	99,053	191,279	102,026	182,129

TABLE *IV*

Imports and Exports of Bullion and Specie for the years 1925—1929, in thousands of dollars

Description	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Gold Bullion	15,538	3,342	21,766	4,672	11,195	3,542	6,643	4,275	7,719	3,391
„ Specie	21,681	3,297	21,746	3,377	15,413	2,480	8,736	1,979	8,793	1,760
Silver Bullion	411	173	731	461	504	316	613	494	714	441
„ Specie	2,478	1,295	1,970	2,337	119	430	2,869	214	157	96
Copper coin	...	2	50	32	20	197	2	...	12	...
Nickel coin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Total ...	40,108	8,109	46,263	10,879	27,251	6,965	18,863	6,962	17,397	5,688

TABLE *V*

Imports of Coal in thousands of tons for the years 1925—1929, distinguished sources of supply

Country from which imported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
United Kingdom ...	38	12	60	56	92
Australia and New Zealand	32	15	28	19	7
British India and Burma ...	19	112	138	76	70
Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei	3	1	...	...	...
Union of South Africa ...	177	163	182	235	183
Japan	135	237	200	147	226
French Indo-China ...	1	3	1	5	2
China	23	14	9	17	4
Dutch Borneo	95	126	174	168	155
Sumatra	55	61	48	54	90
Other Places	49	49	36	35	1
Total thousands of Tons ...	627	793	876	812	830

Bunker Coal shipped on board for the use of steamers engaged in the Foreign Trade—

	Tons	$
1925	457,745	6,901,707
1926	559,728	8,330,368
1927	529,997	8,235,833
1928	571,433	8,840,372
1929	563,066	8,645,011

Exports of Coal for the years 1925—1929

Country to which exported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Netherlands East Indies ...	618	1,242	2,034	1,171	1,273
Siam	9,195	12,623	2,540	1,343	846
Other Countries ...	108	1,453	154	26	29
Total Tons ...	9,921	15,318	4,728	2,540	2,148
Value in thousands of $	132	218	59	32	27

TABLE *VI*

Imports of Cotton Piece Goods during the years 1925—1929

Country from which imported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
United Kingdom ...	97,780,629	80,623,332	80,882,040	65,867,796	86,012,937
British India and Burma	2,522,528	3,945,307	4,174,341	3,400,374	3,102,648
Hong Kong ...	7,970,681	2,994,982	6,173,836	6,661,461	6,619,096
Italy ...	6,498,970	6,572,309	5,286,813	4,398,404	6,495,401
Netherlands ...	3,536,073	3,648,315	3,855,791	3,483,050	4,761,259
Switzerland ...	..	...	443,791	1,512,795	1,685,385
United States of America	456,346	649 216	1,021,143	1,147,393	1,630,998
China ...	16,572,237	17,205,632	14,167,044	13,102,250	18,128,000
Japan ...	30,844,138	31,298,240	35,607,466	23,098,804	34,732,075
Other Countries ...	3,815,091	3,347,391	3,346,370	3,027,005	2,338,794
Total Yards ...	169,996.693	150 284,724	154,958,635	125,699,332	165,506,593
Value $ ...	46,249,760	41,265,319	37,154,174	29,846,460	38,561,671

Exports of Cotton Piece Goods during the years 1925—1929

Country to which exported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
British North Borneo ...	2,231,841	2,648.284	2,633,955	2,543,392	2,616,483
Sarawak ...	3,314,477	2,580,451	2,800,509	2,438,570	2,778,227
Other British Possessions	2,177,246	1,838,955	1,142,328	1,188,180	1,171,328
Netherlands East Indies	33,476,883	28,590,615	27,352,657	22,785,836	24,805,350
Siam ...	21,484,202	15,800,145	17,003,374	11,184,829	8,326,475
Other Foreign Countries	1,282,205	1,234,711	844,236	859,286	757,708
Total Yards ...	63,966,854	52,693,161	51,777,059	41,000,093	40,455,571
Value $ ...	16,412,960	13,203,338	12,534,767	9,957,089	9,441,186

TABLE *VII*

Imports of Kerosene distinguishing sources of supply during the years 1925—1929

Country from which imported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Dutch Borneo ...	13,113	7,019	29,236	22,219	26,095
Sumatra ...	47,875	36,310	45,758	63,877	65,017
United States of America ...	11,639	12,786	10,147	12,950	16,138
Sarawak ...	37,349	34,752	49,733	40,797	42,525
Other Countries ...	94	449	120	7,231	4,044
Total Tons ...	110,070	91,316	134,994	147,074	153,819
Value $	18,094,675	15,114,252	18,951,384	15,639,681	17,386,346

Exports of Kerosene during the years 1925—1929

Country to which exported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British North Borneo ...	1,038	1,198	1,235	1,253	1,456
Sarawak	2,698	3,152	5,154	2,823	3,250
British India and Burma	3,567	1,902	6,792	7,102	10,313
Ceylon	234	940	2,456	774	5,949
Hongkong	446	585	1,063	3,601	2,013
Australia	19,870	22,022	34,264	43,249	34,912
New Zealand ...	6,618	3,200	1,942	2,101	3,818
Union of South Africa	19	95	516	3,063	3,310
Other British Possessions	1,63[illegible]	4,325	4,224	4,297	6,277
China	2,159	717	2,921	13,881	...
French Indo-China ...	5,125	5,246	6,207	8,659	4,573
Japan	6,732	2,491	3,356	1,430	2,252
Netherlands East Indies	6,333	3,158	6,520	3,886	4,843
Siam	6,357	11,898	15,176	15,108	16,645
Other Foreign Countries	692	720	712	831	832
Total Tons ...	63,518	61,649	92,538	112,058	100,443
Value $ ...	10,076,153	9,283,412	12,587,354	12,068,552	10,547,676

TABLE *VIII*

Imports of Liquid Fuel distinguishing sources of supply during the years 1925—1929

Country from which imported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak ...	14,015	83,124	44,320	4,748	29,513
United States of America ...	17,054	...	32,582	7,340	17
Egypt ...	...	...	...	...	4,189
Dutch Borneo ...	205,607	172,651	280,775	379,600	368,829
Sumatra ...	66,855	60,871	98,603	114,135	133,952
Other Countries ...	2	29,966	18,764	19,056	10,079
Total Tons ...	303,533	346,612	475,044	524,879	546,579
Value $	11,991,653	13,057,415	18,986,141	21,047,892	22,222,605

Exports of Liquid Fuel during the years 1925—1929

Country to which exported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India and Burmah	434	158	6,653	3,979	4,027
Ceylon ...	...	...	...	14	4,593
Australia ...	366	1,061	473	647	1,492
Other British Possessions	2,292	939	6,109	1,224	1,294
Egypt ...	17,969	27,404	14,064	16,539	22,868
China ...	21	...	134	57	2,208
French Indo-China	2,438	3,084	3,183	5,960	6,986
Netherlands East Indies	5,110	5,833	13,179	15,382	13,995
Siam ...	5,219	7,389	11,518	18,163	26,634
Other Foreign Countries	852	93	70	353	1,200
Total Tons ...	34,701	45,961	55,383	62,318	85,297
Value $	1,413,293	1,856,284	2,288,561	2,683,139	3,639,596

TABLE *IX*

Imports of Lubricating Oil distinguishing sources of supply during the years, 1925—1929

Country from which imported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
United Kingdom ...	130,719	165,382	253,828	291,164	398,980
British India and Burma	88,958	47,753	99,832	66,454	66,636
Hong Kong ...	45,958	12,351	37,160	32,844	17,246
United States of America ...	1,249,932	1,672,781	1,590,329	2,022,626	2,437,355
Netherlands India :—					
Dutch Borneo ...	3,776,369	3,654,006	3,449,232	2,916,084	2,722,958
Java ...	42,488	443,365	70,821	87,045	2,019
Sumatra ...	884,269	232,774	388,420	246,853	409,171
Other Countries ...	7,935	14,400	39,063	32,904	39,631
Total Gallons ...	6,226,628	6,242,812	5,928,685	5,695,974	6,093,996
Value $	4,183,793	5,067,192	5,150,192	4,531,619	5,186,448

Exports of Lubricating Oil during the years 1925—1929

Country to which exported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
British North Borneo ...	13,397	12,558	17,084	19,040	20,369
Sarawak	71,278	114,846	136,450	100,025	105,381
British India & Burma	535,175	352,045	208,026	75,275	24,[illegible]00
Ceylon	68,406	46,414	39,666	48,069	34,705
Australia	53,208	47,450	63,644	33,788	25,632
Hongkong ...	15,501	10,398	9,335	14,247	8,706
Mauritius	...	..	2,3[illegible]2	22,322	4,700
Union of South Africa	49,623	102,722	63,640	51,464	48,411
Other British Possessions	27,881	21,772	12,370	20,279	26,135
China	148,053	..	79,510	39,701	79,024
French Indo-China ...	679,859	148,813	109,937	139,598	146,330
Netherlands East Indies	833,265	708,851	964,600	490,712	389,961
Pailippines and Sulu ...	51,348	27,228	4,561	12,921	5,062
Siam	297,909	348,893	415,853	467,053	518,125
Other Foreign Countries	131,835	515,627	920	22,535	30,589
Total Gallons ...	2,976,738	2,457,617	2,128,148	1,557,029	1,467,130
Value $ ...	1,850,362	1,767,160	1,636,532	1,204,746	1,187,159

TABLE X

Imports of Motor Spirit distinguishing sources of supply during the years 1925—1929

Country from which imported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak ...	63,195	44,006	47,542	83,146	57,560
United States of America ...	770	2,576	5,217	542	407
Dutch Borneo ...	33,825	59,921	57,944	30,083	36,612
Java ...	13		...	8,208	5,655
Sumatra ..	127,874	166,635	158,476	168,895	179,655
Other Countries ...	163	132	140	3	536
Total Tons ...	225.840	273,270	269,319	290,877	280,425
Value $	62,545,924	75,268,955	65,426,497	55,310,235	53,936,681

Exports of Motor Spirit during the years 1925—1929

Country to which exported	1925	1936	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Ceylon ...	2	1	3,507	4,311	4,578
Australia ...	44,783	79,250	88,275	82,002	74,839
New Zealand ...	6,052	8,886	17,996	5,697	6,751
Union of South Africa...	3,784	3,853	9,155	17,393	20,798
Other British Possessions	78,097	53,919	40,177	39,553	30,454
France ...	...	...	...	...	4,165
Italy ...	...	...	...	...	6,849
French Indo China ...	130	10,300	8,198	8,950	1,343
Egypt ...	13,078	7,025	...	...	11,421
China ...	60	...	...	...	1,370
Japan ...	2,898	2,873	44	6,501	17,534
Argentine Republic ...	...	...	...	...	7,840
Netherlands East Indfes	38,172	35,086	28,559	14,315	2,868
Siam ...	2,732	3,594	6,507	5,694	2,999
Other Foreign Countries	124	668	21	...	535
Total Tons ...	189,912	205,455	202,439	184,416	194,344
Value $	53,175,329	57,485,938	48,834,219	34,953,522	36,530,103

TABLE *XI*

Imports and Exports of Motor Cars during the years 1925—1929

—	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
	Pagr.	Coml.	Pagr.	Coml.	Pagr.	Coml.	Pagr.	Coml.	Pagr.	Coml.
Imports ...	7,761	1,135	9,138	2,125	6,196	1,857	4,293	1,437	5,751	1,658
Exports ...	909	143	750	80	575	117	572	98	455	79
Consumption ...	6,852	992	8,388	2,045	5,621	1,740	3,721	1,339	5,296	1,579

TABLE *XII*

Imports of Rice during the years 1925—1929

Country from which Imported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India & Burma	235,483	258,953	218,363	209,646	266,802
French Indo-China ...	49,769	69,772	69,506	78,402	103,604
Siam	361,851	422,651	549,866	513,714	414,193
Other Countries ...	2,904	4,004	2,224	2,147	959
Total Tons ...	650,007	755,380	839,959	803,909	785,558
Value $ ...	80,649,592	98,378,269	104,354,775	95,473,000	95,461,000

Exports of Rice during the years 1925—1929

Country to which Exported	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British North Borneo	10,994	10,969	13,070	13,254	10,850
Sarawak ...	14,828	15,505	20,790	19,523	16,027
British India & Burma	200	205	17,105	13,959	699
Ceylon ...	2,499	21,563	37,630	16,250	4,413
Other British Possessions ...	3,788	2,998	2,705	3,042	7,391
Netherlands East Indies	207,168	222,020	198,746	211,518	191,886
Other Foreign Countries	7,472	7,273	4,195	2,593	2,631
Total Tons ...	246,949	280,533	294,241	280,139	233,897
Value $ ...	31,212,380	36,612,889	35 991,562	32,780,066	28,031,407

TABLE XIII

IMPORTS OF PARA RUBBER IN THE YEARS 1925—1929

—	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
British North Borneo and Sarawak	11,330	24,848	11,629	18,691	14,198	18,738	13,359	10,317	14,529	10,152
Burma	2,135	4,581	1,717	2,802	2,625	3,505	2,054	1,816	2,542	1,821
Netherlands Indies	138,870	195,881	132,987	141,587	157,837	139,286	126,400	69,941	134,736	62,895
French Indo-China ...	737	1,387	449	699	2,249	3,204	2,893	2,574	4,392	3,225
Siam	5,377	9,965	4,027	5,653	5,471	6,026	4,819	3,269	5,024	2,916
Other Countries	482	955	702	1,065	870	1,154	672	511	886	604
Total ...	158,931	237,617	151,511	170,497	183,250	171,913	150,197	88,428	162,109	81,613

EXPORTS OF PARA RUBBER IN THE YEARS 1925—1929

—	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
United Kingdom	45,698	121,367	83,998	155,493	76,398	111,234	60,993	50,311	106,234	82,197
United States of America ...	226,530	519,489	254,343	461,935	241,352	333,455	284,200	229,721	367,770	271,947
Continent of Europe	28,066	66,057	27,588	49,033	26,378	36,813	29,377	22,740	60,556	46,111
British Possessions	4,757	11,078	7,942	15,382	7,388	10,616	7,262	5,882	11,523	8,986
Japan	11,532	27,711	17,324	29,167	19,623	27,043	26,381	20,623	29,935	22,411
Other Countries	243	526	142	292	170	304	479	513	1,191	992
Total ...	316 826	746,228	391,337	711,302	371,309	519,465	408,692	329,790	577,209	432,644
Latex	3,619	10,413	3,262	6,650	2,628	3,807	2,247	1,973	3,575	2,681
Total ...	320,445	756,641	394,599	717,952	373,937	523,272	410,939	331,763	580,784	435,325

TABLE *XIV*

Imports of Tin Ore in the years 1925—1929

—	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
Burma	1,832	2,653	1,802	2,967	2,226	3,614	2,306	3, 33	2,323	2,806
Union of South Africa ...	1,823	2,566	1,537	2,419	1,808	2,911	1,839	2,225	1,650	1,777
Netherlands Indies	25,342	40,263	23,429	40,884	27,157	48,684	28,801	46,652	29,964	40,191
Siam	10,210	15,132	9,706	15,764	10,335	17,131	10,464	14,099	13,806	17,078
Other Countries	282	370	417	565	728	1,022	979	941	1,042	962
Total ...	39,489	60,984	36,891	62,599	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814

Exports of Tin in the years 1925—1929

—	1925		1926		1927		1928		1929	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
United Kingdom	13,970	30,815	11,101	26,785	9,453	22,986	12,910	24,843	15,395	27,159
United States of America .	45,120	99,895	44,513	108,013	46,370	114,812	56,986	109,929	57,696	103,456
Continent of Europe	13,881	30,916	14,189	34,789	19,771	48,498	19,767	38,360	20,619	36,679
British Possessions	4,203	9,312	3,819	9,337	4,968	12,347	5,312	10,297	4,998	8,937
Japan	1,185	2,628	1,613	3,910	1,922	4,744	2,399	4,617	2,045	3,631
Other Countries	723	1 636	1,099	2,692	1,289	3,184	1,679	3,233	1,273	2,267
Total ...	79,082	175,202	76,334	185,526	83,773	206,571	99,053	191,279	102,026	182,129

V.—Communications

(*a*) Shipping

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 45,435,395 as compared with 42,987,154 in 1928. *See* Table on page 48.

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1925	...	...	...	35,032,127 tons.
1926	...	...	...	38,028,630 ,,
1927	...	...	...	39,693,766 ,,
1928	...	...	...	42,987,154 ,,
1929	...	...	...	45,435,395 ,,

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures in 1929 were 66,242 in number and 2,321,889 in tons as compared with 68,530 and 2,282,501, respectively, in 1928.

One new steam-vessel and five motor-vessels, with a tonnage of 190 tons gross, and twenty-six sailing-vessels (2,716 tons) were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 16 new sailing-vessels (1,662 tons) were licensed under section 424, and 684 vessels (7,773 tons) under sections 425 and 426.

(*b*) Harbour Boards

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the last two years have been as follows:—

	Income	*Expenditure*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1928 ...	10,744,189	8,180,919
Year ended 30th June, 1929 ...	11,902,138	8,758,414

The capital debt due to the Government amounted to $52,622,268 at June 30th, 1929, in respect of which sum the Board pays interest half yearly, at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on $50,050,840 and on the balance of $2,571,428 at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In addition to this working capital the Board has expended on new works and other services of a permanent nature a sum of $7,176,332 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1929, were $2,521,655 and the expenditure was $2,000,276.

The capital debt due to the Government stood on 30th June, 1929, at $4,785,464.

Statement showing total tonnage (Arrivals and Departures) of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1928 and 1929

NATIONALITY	1928					1929					Increase in 1929 as compared with 1928	Decrease in 1929 as compared with 1928
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)		
Portuguese ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,026	...	1,026	1,026	...
Belgian ...	13,312	...	...	...	13,312	35,754	...	...	...	35,754	22,442	...
American ...	568,870	431,510	...	...	1,000,380	678,520	476,665	812	...	1,155,997	155,617	...
Austrian ...	10,710	...	...	...	10,710	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,710
Russian ...	...	...	...	...	...	14,528	...	...	...	14,528	14,528	...
British ...	12,286,244	8,068,159	408,508	220,758	20,983,669	12,552,012	8,181,147	435,506	237,038	21,405,703	422,034	...
Chinese ...	44,370	...	...	...	44,370	40,030	...	...	...	40,030	...	4,340
Danish ...	492,641	384,956	76,172	...	953,769	580,858	307,529	130,864	...	1,019,251	65,482	...
Dutch ...	6,435,707	1,491,180	2,374	7,018	7,936,279	7,054,726	1,797,757	594	2,004	8,855,081	918,802	...
French ...	2,065,290	...	...	...	2,065,290	1,874,295	...	...	...	1,874,295	..	190,995
German ...	1,576,134	782,216	...	...	2,358,350	1,699,029	847,714	17,906	...	2,564,649	206, 99	..
Italian ...	330,056	210,006	...	...	540,062	596,149	337,054	...	...	933,203	393,141	...
Japanese ...	3,841,421	1,049,340	...	102,080	4,992,841	4,118,176	953,116	...	125,870	5,197,162	204,321	...
Norwegian ...	1,196,801	207,942	71,042	...	1,475,785	1,268,120	189,086	79,238	...	1,536,444	60,659	..
Sarawak ...	156,821	...	...	3,032	159,853	167,987	...	...	1,888	169,875	10,022	..
Siamese ...	181,972	...	3,008	...	184,980	189,118	...	9,838	...	198,956	13,976	...
Spanish ...	29,572	...	...	...	29,572	30,504	...	...	...	30,504	932	...
Swedish ...	159,892	78,040	...	...	237,932	262,273	140,664	...	...	402,937	165,005	...
TOTALS ...	29,389,813	12,703,349	561,104	332,888	42,987,154	31,162,079	13,230,732	675,784	366,800	45,435,395	2,654,286	206,045
										Net Increase ...		2,448,241

(*c*) RAILWAYS

A railway, the property of the Federated Malay States Government, traverses the island of Singapore and connects, by a causeway across the Johore Straits, which was opened for traffic in October, 1923, with the peninsular system, thus affording rail communication with Johore, the Federated Malay States, Malacca, Province Wellesley, Penang, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Siam.

(*d*) ROADS

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) measure 595·92 miles, distributed as follows:—

	1928	*1929*
Singapore	103·48	*102·76
Penang and the Dindings ...	99·77	100·34
Province Wellesley ...	178·25	178·25
Malacca	184·66	198·66
Labuan	12·67	15·91

Of these 595·92 miles of metalled road 463·06 miles are now treated with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads 208·25 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path are maintained in the various Settlements.

The re-surfacing of all metalled road with granite was continued, a further 5·86 miles in Singapore, 23·47 miles in Penang and the Dindings, 16·81 miles in Province Wellesley and 14 miles in Malacca being carried out in 1929.

(*e*) POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

The work of the Postal and Telegraph Sections of the Post Office during the year 1929 continued to increase.

The Postal rates are as follows:—

—	LETTERS		POSTCARDS		PRINTED PAPERS
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	For every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 "	6 "	4 "	8 "	2 "
Local ...	2 ozs. / 4 cts.	Each succeeding 2 ozs. / 2 cts.	2 "	4 "	2 "

*The decrease is due to the Siglap area having been handed over to the Municipality and the 1929 figure does not include roads keptup by Government within the Municipal Limits. These roads total 25 miles and form the approaches to Government Buildings and Government Quarters.

The number of Postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 26,697,000, an average of 25.19 per inhabitant, as against 24.15, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 20,410,000 as compared with 18,276,000 in 1928. The number of messages forwarded over the Government Telegraph Lines during the year 1929 was 592,269, as compared with 565,150, whilst the number received was 498,518, as compared with 486,365 in 1928. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges increased from 1,836 to 2,003, excluding extensions.

The estimated amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1929, was $4,315,615.87, an increase of 8 per cent as compared with the actual amount on the 31st December, 1928. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $188.79. There was a profit on the year's working of $48,150.53. The estimated present value of investments was $4,598,543.46. These figures are subject to revision after audit.

In addition to the General Post Offices at Singapore, Penang, Malacca and the Post Office Labuan, there were on the 31st December, 1929, 47 Sub-Offices in the Colony including eight Railway Post Offices. Of these 33 were Telegraph Offices and 2 were Postal Agencies.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1929 to $8,363,146.77, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands East Indies, Ceylon, China and the United States.

Eleven Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	5,	thence to Madras	3
		,, ,, Colombo	2
		,, ,, Deli	1
Batavia	2,	,, ,, Cocos	1
Banjoewangi	1,	,, ,, Port Darwin	2
Hongkong	1,	direct, thence to Manila	1
		,, ,, North China	1
		,, ,, Macao	1
Cochin-China	1,	thence to Hongkong	1
Labuan	1,	,, ,, Hongkong	1

There are also Government Telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *viâ* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June 1909. In Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings there are 228¼ miles of Telegraph wire, 20 miles

of Submarine Cable containing 148½ miles of wire, 2,163¼ miles of overhead telephone wire, 154½ miles of spare overhead wire, 37 miles 32 chains of underground telephone cables containing 6,515¾ miles of wire.

In Singapore the route and wire mileage between the General Post Office and Woodlands (Johore Causeway) is as under:—

	Route mileage	Wire mileage
On Public Roads ...	1 mile 40 chains	9 miles 00 chain
On Posts and Telegraphs Poles (within Railway Reserve)	13 miles 00 chain	66 ,, 10 chains
On Railway Pole line (rented) ...	2 ,, 00 ,,	6 ,, 00 chain

There are 199¼ miles of Telegraph line and 1,932¾ miles of Telephone line in Malacca.

The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the Exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(*f*) Wireless Telegraphy

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony, situated respectively at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Penang). The Station at Paya Lebar carries out a point to point communication with Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island, and a ship to shore service. The Station at Penaga communicates with ships stations and receives the British Official Wireless Press transmitted by Rugby. The point to point service between Penaga and Rangoon was discontinued from the 1st August owing to lack of traffic. The machinery and apparatus at both Stations were maintained in good working order throughout the year and point to point and ship to shore communication was carried on without interruption.

At Paya Lebar and Penaga the reception tests of the short wave programmes radiated from the experimental station of the British Broadcasting Corporation at Chelmsford, England, (G5SW on 25.53 metres) indicated no improvement on those conducted in 1928. The programme

transmitted between 7 P.M. and midnight (G.M.T.) (2 A.M. to 7 A.M. local time) is generally receivable, but cannot be relied upon. The 12-30 P.M. to 1-30 P.M. (G. M. T.) programme (7-30 P.M. to 8-30 P.M. local time) is seldom received in Malaya. These tests were discontinued from the 31st October, 1929. The 8 P.M. (G. M. T.) transmissions of British Official Wireless Press from Rugby have been regularly received. The noon (G. M. T.) transmissions are readable in Malaya from November to March annually.

Simultaneous transmissions of the Rugby long wave Press are being conducted on Short Waves and observations are being made on these transmissions with a view to improving the Press service.

(*g*) Communication by Sea

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India steamers *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards, *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels, and fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon. In addition there is a weekly service to Europe by the Steamship Company "Nederland" and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and a service at frequent intervals by Holt, Chargeurs-Réunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines.

With China and Japan there is fortnightly communication by the Peninsular and Oriental and Messageries Maritimes lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin-China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and the Société des Affréteurs Indo-Chinois, monthly by Chargeurs-Réunis and frequently by vessels chartered by Chinese Agents; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong frequently, direct by Spanish Packets, Steamship Company "Nederland" and Rotterdam Lloyd by British Packets, Hamburg-Amerika Line and Norddeutscher Lloyd occasionally; with Bangkok frequently by Straits Steamship and other steamers and weekly by British India vessels; with Batavia and other Netherlands Indies ports frequently by steamers of the Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij and of the Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd Companies and frequently by other vessels chartered by Chinese Agents; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australian Steam Navigation Company, Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence by Orient Packets; with Madras (direct) and other ports on the Coromandel Coast fortnightly by the British India steamers and monthly by the Messageries Maritimes steamers and with

Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar and other steamers; with South Africa (direct) fortnightly by Japanese vessels and in the absence of direct sailings in Peninsular and Oriental week *viâ* Colombo with the sailings thence by first available steamer and in British India week *viâ* Bombay with the sailings thence by first available steamer; with the United States of America *viâ* Suez weekly by British India steamers and Peninsular and Oriental vessels and frequently viâ Hongkong by vessels of other lines and fortnightly by Peninsular and Oriental steamers.

In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc. by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons

Crime Statistics

Seizable offences reported during 1929 numbered 6,947, representing an increase of 68 over the corresponding figure for 1928. 2,589 convictions were recorded while 104 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Fifty-five murders were committed—a decrease of 22 compared with the 1928 figure—while attempted murders dropped from 41 to 25.

There was a remarkable decrease in the number of robberies and gang robberies as compared with the previous year, the figures being 122 (including 1 accompanied by murder) against 212 (including 2 accompanied by murder). In addition to the 122 there were 6 unsuccessful attempts at robbery.

Cases of causing hurt with a dangerous weapon (677) increased by 47, theft (2,080) by 116 and theft in a dwelling (1,821) by 96.

Housebreakings accompanied by theft (567) were fewer by 37 than in 1928, while there was also a decrease of 40 in the number of cases of extortion (87).

As regards seizable crime the year was a very satisfactory one. Under the more important heads, *i.e.*, murder, robbery and gang robbery, there were less than half the number of cases in 1927, the lowest figures for the last six

years. This improvement was almost entirely due to a decline in crime in Singapore. The number of reports of non-seizable offences increased by 14,960 and reached the record total of 89,781, which is nearly double the number of reports for 1924, 1925 and 1926. This is mainly due to the growth of the larger towns and the expansion of the Police Force.

Chinese Secret Societies

The year 1929 was a comparatively quiet one. No trouble on an extensive scale occurred, although faction dissensions, involving a number of cases of shooting and stabbing, continued to require attention by the Police. With the further improvement of its Intelligence service the Department was able to exercise closer supervision, particularly as regards society and gang leaders, and to effect a marked reduction in their criminal activities.

In the early part of January, a powerful gang of the Cantonese Heng Yi group was rounded up. A number of gang robberies which occurred in May in quick succession were attributed to members of another Cantonese gang, the Khuan Yi and were found to cease altogether after a raid on its headquarters.

During March a serious quarrel due to personal rivalry occurred in a section of the Gi Hong San (Sin Gi Hin society), in the course of which murder was committed. This led to the speedy suppression of the gang. The incident brought to light the fact that the society membership included Hokkiens, Chawans, Hockchias, Teo Chius and Hailams.

There was little activity amongst Teo Chiu societies and the Police Department is to be congratulated upon the continued respite from the lawless feuds of recent years.

The local Chinese Communist Party, which had been to a great extent quiescent since 1928, took every possible opportunity during the year to issue propaganda to labouring classes throughout Malaya. Intimate touch with their activities was however maintained by the Police.

Prisons.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,255 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore Penang and Malacca). Seven thousand five hundred and fifty-nine were admitted during the year as compared with

5,628 during 1928 and 7,438 were discharged. One thousand three hundred and seventy-six (1,376) remained at the end of the year. There were 211 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,041 were admitted and 1,138 were discharged. Of the 1,138 vagrants discharged 124 found employment and 900 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-grade" men at husk-beating, and the "Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Public Works

In Singapore the new Opium Packing Factory at Pasir Panjang and the Police Depôt at Thomson Road were completed and good progress was made with the new Chinese Protectorate Building.

In Penang the English Elementary School at Perak Road was practically completed and good progress was made with the reconstruction of the General Hospital and the Subordinates Quarters, 10 of which were built at Jahudi Road and 8 at Chow Thye Road.

In Province Wellesley the new Bridge at Nibong Tebal was completed and considerable progress was made with the New Ferry Road from Bagan Luar to the Prai River and the reconstruction of the road south of Bukit Tengah.

In Malacca the extensive repairs and strengthening of the Ferro Concrete Lighthouse at One Fathom Bank were completed and the construction of the new High School was begun and is progressing satisfactorily. In consequence of the death of the Contractor for the New Post Office, the contract had to be cancelled and fresh tenders were invited.

In Labuan a new 5″ water main was laid by the Department from the Reservoir to Victoria Town, a distance of 3,100 lineal yards, at a cost of $8,999.00. Coal Point Road and McArthur Road were extended at a total cost of $8,699.00.

VIII.—Public Health

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

The population of 1929 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is as follows:—

		Census Figures	*Estimated*	*Estimated*
		1921	*1928*	*1929*
Singapore	...	423,768	559,270	580,694
Penang	...	304,572	342,023	351,205
Malacca	...	153,599	194,342	200,004
		881,939	1,095,635	1,131,903

The number of births registered during the year was 42,102 as compared with 39,479, and of deaths 29,544 as against 31,516, in the previous year.

The percentage of males born was 52.22. The highest birth rate by nationalities was 40.94 per thousand amongst Malays as against 41.43 in 1928.

The corrected infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 181.92 per thousand births as against 185.06 in 1928 and 214.14 in 1927.

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year) was 4,692 as against 4,575 and 5,831 in the two previous years. Dietetic errors, tetanus and malaria are common causes of convulsions.

The crude death rate was 26.10 per thousand as against 28.76 and 33.55 in the two previous years. This is the lowest death rate yet recorded. The average for the last ten years is 29.81.

Malaria was responsible for 4,648 deaths as against 5,798 and 6,296 in the two previous years, while fever unclassified accounted for 1,764 deaths as against 1,494 in 1928 and 1,983 in 1927.

Two thousand seven hundred and ten deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,802 in the year 1928.

Pneumonia accounted for 2,502 deaths as compared with 2,679 in the previous year. Only 205 deaths were registered as due to influenza as against 204 in the year 1928.

Beri-beri accounted for 944 deaths as against 1,146, 1,531 and 1,098 in the three previous years.

Dysentery caused 673 deaths classified as follows:—

Amœbic	194
Bacillary	136
Unclassified	343
	673

The number of deaths from dysentery in the previous year was 902.

Infectious Disease.—There were three deaths from plague, three deaths from cerebro-spinal fever, and two deaths from small-pox, (one of which was an imported case). The figures for 1928 were 4 deaths from plague, 14 deaths from cerebro-spinal fever, 2 deaths from small-pox and 11 deaths from cholera.

B.—HEALTH BRANCH

One thousand five hundred and seventy-eight visits as against 1,342 in Singapore and 532 visits as against 1,821 in Penang in 1928, were paid to ships by Port Health Officers who examined 788,524 persons as compared with 758,516 in the previous year.

One hundred and forty two thousand two hundred and ninety-five persons were retained under observation in the two Maritime Quarantine Stations, mostly for short periods, as against 57,266 in 1928.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 10 for small-pox, and in Penang 3 for cholera, 4 for small-pox and 2 for cerebro-spinal fever. The figures for 1928 were—Singapore 14 for cholera and 6 for small-pox, and Penang 11 for small-pox.

Rural Conservancy

The Health Officers in each settlement continued to supervise and develop the sanitation and conservancy in rural areas.

The Rural Sanitation Campaign in Penang has resulted in the erection of 2,010 sanitary latrines, of which 76 were flush latrines, 841 pail latrines, 1,065 pit latrines and 28 latrines overhanging the sea.

Anti-malarial Work

The sum of $236,319.06 was spent on anti-mosquito work and anti-malarial measures in a general reduction of all harmful mosquitoes. The chief item of expenditure has been permanent drainage, but large areas are also controlled by temporary oiling measures.

C.—KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 238, and the number of students 104 as against 225 and 105 in the previous year. The number of new students admitted was 23 as compared with 21 in the year 1928. Thirteen students completed their course and obtained the diploma of the College in 1929.

D.—HOSPITALS

Sixty-six thousand two hundred and sixty-one in-patients were treated in the Hospitals of the Colony as compared with 66,169 in the previous year. The malaria admissions were 10,939 as compared with 13,173 in 1928. Admissions for Venereal Disease were 4,324 with 124 deaths as against 4,754 with 157 deaths in the previous year.

E.—DISPENSARIES

General Diseases

Outpatients numbered 218,101, and the attendances 404,802 as against 190,749 outpatients and 333,106 attendances in 1928. The attendances at the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 31,231 as compared with 35,222 in 1928. In the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Penang, the attendances were 15,948 as against 17,342 in the previous year.

Motor Travelling Dispensaries

The number of attendances at the Motor Travelling Dispensary in Singapore was 14,504 as against 18,415 in 1928. In Penang Island, the attendances were 31,217 and in

Province Wellesley 30,484 as against 31,688 and 17,712 respectively in the previous year. In Malacca, there were 19,776 attendances as against 15,037 in 1928.

Venereal Diseases

Outpatients treated for venereal diseases were 33,684 as compared with 28,568 in 1928. The attendances were 213,079 as against 191,534.

Yaws

The number of outpatients treated for yaws was 9,990 as compared with 7,870 in 1928.

F.—LEPERS

The number of lepers treated in the Leper Settlements was 1,186 with a total of 117 deaths as compared with 1,091 cases with a total of 128 deaths in the year 1928. With the continuance of modern treatment there is a steady fall in the death rate. Twenty-eight Lepers were discharged from Pulau Jerejak cured. The new settlement for male lepers at Trafalgar will be ready in the course of 1930.

G.—MENTAL HOSPITAL

One thousand and forty-three males and three hundred and fifty-nine females were treated during the year as compared with 1,015 males and 359 females in 1928. The numbers remaining at the end of the year were 794 males and 285 females as compared with 730 males and 270 females in 1928. Records of the Mental Hospital death rate are available for the past forty-one years. The rate for 1929, which is the first complete year spent by the patients in the New Mental Hospital—9.2 per cent—is the lowest on record.

IX.—Education

There were 22 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 9,577 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $1,064,772. The figures for 1928 were 20 schools, 8,717 pupils and $1,032,806 expenditure.

There were 28 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 15,289 pupils as against 29 schools with 15,255 pupils in 1928. The grants paid by the Government in aid

of these schools amounted to $937,691 as compared with $831,716 for the year 1928.

The expenditure on the 213 Government Vernacular Schools was $490,429 and their average enrolment was 20,459. The figures for 1928 were 215 schools, $454,611 expenditure, and average enrolment 19,421.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 28 Aided Vernacular Schools, with an average enrolment of 3,170, the grants to which for 1929 amounted to $10,043. The figures for 1928 were 19 schools, average enrolment 2,751 and grants $7,794.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,794 as against 1,499 in 1927 and 1,580 in 1928.

Forty-one students passed the final third year examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, as compared with 30 in 1928.

There was one student teacher from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense and there were 37 at Raffles College. These students on the completion of their studies are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools.

Nine candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. One candidate from Singapore and one from Penang won the scholarships. One of the successful candidates proposes to study Law and the other Medicine.

The European Staff was still short of officers chiefly owing to the creation of supernumerary appointments for officers seconded to Kedah and Johore.

During the year one European Master and one European Mistress, appointed to the Malayan Educational Service, were allocated to the Colony.

A new Elementary English School for 480 pupils was opened at Serangoon, Singapore, in 1929.

A similar school at Perak Road, Penang, was completed at the end of the year.

The new High School, Malacca, was in course of erection during the year.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils and instruction in hygiene and perhaps more than all physical education are creating an interest in public health.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continue to satisfy a local want. Instruction was given in English, Book-keeping, Shorthand and Typing, in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mechanics, Mechanical and Survey Drawing, Building Construction, Electricity and Magnetism, and Sanitary Inspection.

Nautical Classes under a European Instructor gave instruction in Malay for helmsmen, gunners and masters of local craft.

There were evening classes in Penang in commercial and technical subjects.

In Malacca there were evening classes in Typewriting and Shorthand.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of $54,000.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was $23,341 as compared with $19,607 for the year 1928.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 332 with 23,518 pupils. In 1928 there were 335 schools with 22,591 pupils.

One Chinese School in Singapore received a grant-in-aid during 1929 amounting to $620. In Penang 12 Chinese Schools received grants amounting to $21,321 and two schools in Malacca received grants-in-aid amounting to $657. In 1928 one in Singapore received $964, 12 in Penang $18,508 and one in Malacca $135.

Raffles College:—The accounts showed at the end of the year a sum of $1,931,746 to the credit of the General Fund and the Funds for Buildings and Scholarships.

A second Hostel, for the erection of which the Federated Malay States Government contributed $200,000, was nearing completion at the end of the year.

Four Professors and one Reader were in residence throughout the year and there were 72 Government students and seven private students at the College at the end of the year.

The Raffles College Ordinance was amended, mainly to revise the provisions regarding the Provident Scheme for the staff, and Regulations for the Provident Scheme were passed.

The Honourable Dr. R. O. WINSTEDT, C.M.G., D. LITT. (Oxon.), M.A., Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, continued to act as President.

X.—Lands and Surveys

A.—LANDS

(i).—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the policy hitherto has been to restrict the issue of

Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang —Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99 years but there are a few leases of 999 years and a few Statutory Grants.

Occupied land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99 year leases from the Crown in the case of Estates but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for the alienation of foreshore.

Land is obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure. Land to be held under Grant or Lease is generally sold by auction. The principal land Revenue consists of rents on Grants or Leases and of Mukim Assessment on land held under Customary tenure.

Labuan.—In Labuan Crown Land may be disposed of by public auction only.

The titles given are leases of 999 years or less.

Since 1919 leases for 30 years only have been granted.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE

The Revenue in 1928 and 1929 was distributed as follows:—

—		Land Revenue	Reimbursements	Land Sales	Total
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1928	499,806	35,028	407,394	942,228
	1929	438,168	67,831	506,283	1,012,282
Penang ...	1928	210,053	37,159	28,442	275,654
	1929	221,270	44,873	64,743	330,886
Malacca ...	1928	677,481	23,460	326,066	1,027,007
	1929	700,577	23,912	169,212	893,701
Labuan ...	1928	6,475	1,742	1,200	9,417
	1929	6,958	3,830	1,275	12,063
Total ...	1928	1,393,815	97,389	763,102	2,254,306
	1929	1,366,973	140,446	741,513	2 248,932

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants and Leases issued during the last five years, together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Singapore	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,059 1 29	441 1 00	33 3 18	7 1 32	132 1 38
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	12,183	13,738	100,915	282,451	4,542
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	41	60	101	58	86
Premia paid ...	$87,631.00	$71,241	$48,738	$196,272.00	$263,941.00
Penang	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,120 3 6·45	2,134 1 11	1,825 1 39·93	5,611 3 37	947 2 39
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	
,, Town Lots ...	19,901	Nil.	5,539	4,418	0 0 3.13
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	171 S. Grants (27-99 years' Leases.) 4-30 do.	391 Statutory Grants, 10 Penang Hill Leases 25-99 years' Leases 1-10 years' Lease	300 Statutory Grants, 99-99 years' Leases 1 Foreshore Lease for 80 years covering an area of 3,600 sq. ft.	(257 Statutory Grants, 110-99 years' Leases 4 Penang Hill Leases 1-30 years' Leases 2 Foreshore Leases for 99 years each; covering area of 677.5 sq. ft	(111 Statutory Grants, 96 99 years' Leases, 18 Penang Hill Leases, 1-30 years' Leases, 2 Foreshore Leases, one for 79 years, covering an area of 15,000 sq. ft., & the other for 99 years, covering an area of 1*a*. 0*r*. 5*p*.
Premia paid ...	$410,795.00	$14,165 72	$19,424.00	$100,173.00	26,581.00
Malacca	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P	A. R. P	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	3,686 3 11·02	737 1 03·75	8,018 0 26	6,731 3 21	3,748 3 29.884 and 54,120 sq. ft.
	sq. ft.		sq. ft.		A. R. P.
,, Town Lots ..	Nil.	6 3 35	23,720	2 0 27	0 0 33 30
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	80 & 1 Lease	48 & 34 Leases	79 Statutory Grants, 55-99 years' Leases 2-30 years' Leases and 2 Mining Leases	(148 Statutory Grants, 156-99 years' Leases 1-21 years' Lease 1-999 years' Lease	(239 Statutory Grants, 68-99 years' Lease & 1-30 years' Lease.)
Premia paid ...	$254,040.10	$57,927	$109,297 00	$468,133.00	$92,290 00
Labuan	A. R. P.	A. R. P	A R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	146 3 00	457 3 24	557 2 06	614 3 25	306 2 09
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	0 2 01	131	7 0 19	12 3 01
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	52	124		72	158
	(22 new Grants, 24 Sub-division Grants and 6 in exchange for old grants)	(87 new Grants, 34 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants)	(73 new Grants, 40 Sub-division Grants and 9 issued in exchange for old grants)	(43 new Grants, 21 Sub-division Grants and 8 issued in exchange for old grants)	(144 new Grants, 11 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants)
Premia paid ..	$217.20	$936.75	$1,360.50	$1,200.50	$1,274.50

B.—SURVEYS

(i).—General

Expenditure on Surveys amounted to $505,286 in 1929 against $509,085 in 1928. The revenue was $148,461 against $110,220.

There has been a small decrease in the demand for surveys and a considerable increase in the output of completed work. These factors, in combination, have resulted in a more favourable position than has existed for some years. In Penang, Survey arrears are negligible, in Malacca they have caused little if any inconvenience and in Singapore they have been reduced by more than a third.

During 1929 amendments to the Boundaries Ordinance, the Registration of Deeds Ordinance and the Limitation Ordinance were passed. The first permits resettlement and resurvey in areas in which unsurveyed sub-divisions exist. The second, designed to expedite final registration of deeds, permits the acceptance of Licensed Surveyor's plans for final registration but very little advantage has been taken of it by land owners or surveyors. The third extinguishes the title of any person incapacitated by the Ordinance from instituting a suit for the recovery of land.

(ii).—Meteorology

Steady progress was made by the meteorological Branch of the Department. Of the Malayan programme of seventeen second order stations fourteen were fully established by September. Difficulties were experienced in obtaining suitable sites for the remainder but these have now been overcome.

Mr. J. Dewar, Assistant Surveyor General, represented the Department at a Conference of Empire Meteorologists in London in August.

(iii) Map Production

A map of Penang Island on the scale of one mile to one inch, forming part of the Topographical series of Malaya, was published during the year. Several sheets of the Singapore four inch to one mile map were reprinted.

XI.—Labour

(i).—General

The majority of labourers in the Colony are Chinese and South Indians. The latter are chiefly engaged in agricultural work and on public services, the former in agriculture and every other form of manual labour. Skilled work is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese.

In addition there are about 4,900 Javanese labourers immigrants from the Netherlands East Indies.

Conditions of Labour in the Colony are governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 197 (Labour), and by the Netherlands Indian Labourers Protection Ordinance, 1908. These Ordinances are administered by the Labour Department under the direction of the Controller of Labour, Malaya.

During the year under review, relations between employers and labourers continued to be satisfactory.

Throughout the year, standard rates of wages for South Indians in Province Wellesley were 50 cents a day for adult male labourers and 40 cents for adult females, these rates having remained unchanged since the 1st July, 1927. In other parts of the Colony, South Indian labourers earn from 50 cents to 65 cents (men) and from 40 cents to 55 cents (women). The rates in the larger towns are higher than these.

Javanese and Malays earn from 50 to 65 cents a day and Chinese who are usually employed on contract (*i.e.*, piece work) earn considerably more.

The health on places of employment throughout the Colony was satisfactory. The average number and death-rates of Indian labourers in the various settlements were as follows:—

	Average number of labourers.		*Death-rate per mille.*	
	1928	*1929*	*1928*	*1929*
Singapore ...	16,193	16,485	3·76	2·43
Penang ...	4,096	3,801	2·93	2·63
Province Wellesley	11,888	11,881	10·51	6·39
Dindings ...	2,367	2,405	8·87	12·06
Malacca ...	12,363	15,027	17·15	10·91

The death-rate among Chinese labourers in Singapore was 2·88 per mille in a population of 15,981. The number of Chinese labourers in the other Settlements was inconsiderable.

The death-rate among labourers of other nationalities, of whom fewer are employed on estates, was low. In the Settlement of Penang it was 5·19 per mille in an average population of 2,695. In Malacca it was 8·53 per mille in an average population of 1,112.

(ii).—IMMIGRATION

Chinese.— The total number of immigrants arriving in the Colony in 1929 was 293,167, being ·8% less than the figure for 1928 and exceeding that for 1911, the highest year before the war, by 23,313 or 8·6 per cent.

Of the immigrants, adult males formed 69·9 per cent, exceeding the figure for 1928 by 4·7 per cent, and adult females 15·8 per cent, which is 3 per cent less than last year.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 139,967, which is 9,387 less than the figure for 1928. The excess of immigrants over emigrants was 153,200, which exceeds the figure for 1928 by 6,854.

Women and children arriving numbered 87,028 as against 102,891 in 1928.

Southern Indians.—The immigration of labourers from Southern India is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee (of which the Controller of Labour, Malaya, is *ex officio* Chairman) appointed by the Governor.

The Railway fares in India, Steamer passages, and transport expenses of such labourers to their places of employment are paid from the Indian Immigration Fund.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 114,252 as compared with 63,072 in 1928.

These figures include both "assisted" and "other" immigrants.

The assisted immigrants are free labourers imported at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates, mines, and elsewhere.

The other immigrants are deck passengers paying their own fares, 71 per cent of whom were of the labouring classes.

The total number of immigrants arriving from Southern India was much larger than the corresponding number for 1928. This is, in part, due to there having been a considerable excess of departures over arrivals during 1928 (approximately 28,000) and, in part, to the increased demand for labour which manifested itself as soon as the first anxiety caused by the removal of rubber restriction had disappeared.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 76,649 as against 91,252 in 1928. These figures include all deck passengers of whom it is estimated that 77 per cent were labourers.

The figures of arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1926	*1927*	*1928*	*1929*
Assisted immigrants	149,414	123,826	27,240	82,183
Other immigrants	25,381	32,306	35,832	32,069
	174,795	156,132	63,072	114,252

The assisted immigrants consisted of 70,314 adults and 11,869 minors. Of the adults 52,104 were men and 18,210 were women. About 11,394 of the assisted immigrants remained in the Colony: the others proceeded to other parts of Malaya.

The Indian Immigration Fund

The income of the Fund is derived from a quarterly assessment levied on all employers of South Indian labour throughout Malaya based upon the number of days' work done by such labourers during the quarter.

The rate of assessment was fixed at $1 for males and 50 cents for females for the first two quarters of 1929 and at $2 for males and $1 for females for the third and fourth quarters of 1929 in respect of every 72 days work done.

Repatriation

During 1929, 5,323 adult and 1,408 minor decrepit or destitute Indians were assisted with passages to India, as compared with 13,819 and 4,328 respectively during 1928.

MIGRATION

The following schedule shows total arrivals and departures by sea at Ports

ARRIVALS

—	N. E. I. Ports				China Ports			
	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
Europeans	4,741	1,947	527	7,215	1,552	384	47	1,983
Eurasians	94	26	5	125	7	3	3	13
Japanese	852	144	74	1,070	60	24	6	90
Chinese	65,844	10,700	5,162	81,706	200,330	46,930	41,977	289,237
Malays	43,727	13,921	7,010	64,658	48	11	1	60
Northern Indians	1,474	64	54	1,592	397	11	8	416
Southern Indians	2,648	131	104	2,883	80	4	1	85
Other Nationalities	817	101	85	1,003	17	5	5	27
TOTALS ...	120,197	27,034	13,021	160,252	202,491	47,372	42,048	291,911

DEPARTURES

—	N. E. I. Ports				China Ports			
	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
Europeans	4,922	2,075	571	7,568	1,899	579	152	2,630
Eurasians	73	24	7	104	2	1	...	3
Japanese	531	82	24	637	64	19	11	94
Chinese	75,588	12,553	5,202	93,343	137,031	19,585	13,757	170,373
Malays	41,816	10,725	5,175	57,716	21	1	...	22
Northern Indians	1,150	98	62	1,310	497	2	...	499
Southern Indians	3,311	148	103	3,562	84	3	7	94
Other Nationalities ...	285	30	12	327	33	5	...	38
TOTALS ...	127,676	25,735	11,156	164,567	139,631	20,195	13,927	173,753

EXCESS OR

—	N. E. I. Ports				China Ports			
	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
Europeans	−181	−128	−44	−353	−347	−195	−105	−647
Eurasians	21	2	−2	21	5	2	3	10
Japanese	321	62	50	433	−4	5	−5	−4
Chinese	−9,744	−1,853	−40	−11,637	63,299	27,345	28,220	118,864
Malays	1,911	3,196	1,835	6,942	27	10	1	38
Northern Indians	324	−34	−8	282	−100	9	8	−83
Southern Indians	−663	−17	1	−679	−4	1	−6	−9
Other Nationalities ...	532	71	73	676	−16	...	5	−11
TOTALS ...	−7,479	1,299	1,865	−4,315	62,860	27,177	28,121	118,158

Notes—(i) In the above tables the column "C" Children, includes
"Malays" include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago,
"Northern Indians" include natives of the Presidency
"Indian Ports" include ports in Burma and Ceylon.
"China Ports" include Hongkong.
The above figures do not necessarily show the final
"Deficit Arrivals," i.e. excess of departures, is connoted
(ii) Excess arrivals in 1928 were 82,614.

STATISTICS

of the Straits Settlements, from and to Foreign Ports, during the year 1929:—

FROM

Indian Ports				Miscellaneous Ports				Total Foreign Ports			
M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
1,361	701	150	2,212	6,645	3,554	748	10,947	14,299	6,586	1,472	22,357
54	58	24	136	112	39	35	186	267	126	67	460
71	7	10	88	971	315	144	1,430	1,954	490	234	2,678
1,148	250	175	1,573	17,084	3,618	2,261	22,963	284,406	61,498	49,575	395,479
335	25	17	377	8,275	3,101	1,938	13,314	52,385	17,058	8,966	78,409
15,652	1,455	1,245	18,352	1,231	41	22	1,294	18,754	1,571	1,329	21,654
44,630	8,507	9,142	62,279	2,228	273	245	2,746	49,586	8,915	9,492	67,993
195	128	43	366	1,200	349	172	1,721	2,229	583	305	3,117
63,446	11,131	10,806	85,383	37,746	11,290	5,565	54,601	423,880	96,827	71,440	592,147

TO

Indian Ports				Miscellaneous Ports				Total Foreign Ports			
M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
1,414	885	76	2,375	5,358	2,571	868	8,797	13,593	6,110	1,667	21,370
29	22	4	55	67	45	18	130	171	92	29	292
62	12	8	82	861	323	178	1,367	1,518	441	221	2,180
2,714	243	149	3,106	14,532	2,777	1,547	18,856	229,865	35,158	20,655	285,678
279	38	19	336	8,549	3,218	1,935	13,702	50,665	13,982	7,129	71,776
8,038	661	323	9,022	759	100	34	893	10,444	861	419	11,724
49,891	5,996	5,187	61,074	1,522	84	33	1,639	54,808	6,231	5,330	66,369
504	174	27	705	924	441	202	1,567	1,746	650	241	2,637
62,931	8,031	5,793	76,755	32,572	9,564	4,815	46,951	362,810	63,525	35,691	462,026

DEFICIT ARRIVALS

Indian Ports				Miscellaneous Ports				Total Foreign Ports			
M.	F.	C	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total	M	F.	C.	Total
−53	−184	74	−163	1,287	983	−120	2,150	706	476	−195	987
25	36	20	81	45	−6	17	56	96	34	38	168
9	−5	2	6	110	−13	−34	63	436	49	13	498
−1,566	7	26	−1,533	2,552	841	714	4,107	54,541	26,340	28,920	109,801
56	−13	−2	41	−274	−117	3	−388	1,720	3,076	1,837	6,633
7,614	794	922	9,330	472	−59	−12	401	8,510	710	910	9,930
−5,261	2,511	3,955	1,205	706	189	212	1,107	−5,222	2,684	4,162	1,624
−309	−46	16	−339	276	−92	−30	154	483	−67	64	480
515	3,100	5,013	8,628	5,174	1,726	750	7,650	61,070	33,302	35,749	130,121

all children under 15 years of age.
(i.e. the Malay Peninsula, the Netherlands East Indies, the Island of Borneo and the Philippines.)
of Bombay.

destination of the passengers.
by minus sign (−). Absence of sign connotes excess of arrivals.

XII.—Miscellaneous

LEGISLATION

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed during the year 1929. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and sixteen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The Ordinances which are not Supply or Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Malay States Revenue Vessels Ordinance (No. 3) which empowers revenue vessels owned by the Governments of certain Malay States to operate in the waters of the Colony.

(ii) The Retiring Allowances (Nurses) Ordinance (No. 8) which provides for the grant of retiring allowances to certain nurses in respect of public service in the Colony.

(iii) The Naval and Air Bases Ordinance (No. 9) which vests in the Admiralty and Air Council respectively certain areas of foreshore and sea-bed free from any public rights and privileges with the object of establishing a Naval Base and an Air Base.

(iv) The Estate Duty Ordinance (No. 11) which amends and consolidates the law for the levying of estate duty payable in respect of the estates of deceased persons.

(v) The Trustees Ordinance (No. 14) which consolidates and amends the law relating to Trustees. It adopts as far as may be suitable to the Colony the main provisions of the English Trustee Act, 1885, and gives wider powers to trustees in regard to investments.

(vi) The Stamp Ordinance (No. 16) which re-enacts, with amendments, those portions of Ordinance No. 103 (Stamps) relating to stamp duties as distinct from estate duties.

The Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which gives effect to a number of miscellaneous amendments to Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal).

(ii) The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which enables a contributor, who is a widower with children of pensionable age and retires or is removed from the service of the Government before he is entitled to a pension, to continue to contribute under the Ordinance. It also exempts from liability to contribute under the Ordinance officers transferred to the Colony who are contributing under a similar law in force in certain other Colonies or Protectorates.

(iii) The Boundaries and Survey Maps (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 4) which empowers the Surveyor-General to determine the boundaries of holdings which have not been demarcated and surveyed and to delineate the same upon the map.

(iv) The Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which permits the final registration of instruments if the Surveyor-General is satisfied with the accuracy of a survey performed by a licensed surveyor.

(v) The Governor's (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which exempts the Governor from the payment of rent on furniture.

(vi) The Rubber Lands Assessment (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7) which re-imposes the assessment on rubber lands of 100 acres or more for the purposes of Ordinance No. 114 (Education Board).

(vii) The Limitation (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which is based on the provisions of section 34 of the Real Property Limitation Act 1833, whereby a person holding land by adverse possession for a period of twelve years obtains an actual title, the title of the previous holder being extinguished.

(viii) The Raffles College (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12) which introduces a scheme of endowment policies in substitution for the Superannuation and Provident Fund for the staff of the College drawing a substantive salary of not less than four hundred dollars a month.

(ix) The Forests (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) which confers on additional officers the powers of a "Forest Officer". It also defines sea-sand, sea-shells, and shell-sand as "Forest Produce".

(x) The Agricultural Pests (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) which changes the title of the Head of Department from Secretary for Agriculture, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, to Director of Agriculture, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

(xi) The Railways (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which provides for the holding of inquiries into accidents occurring on a railway.

(xii) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18) which embodies the recommendations of the Paris International Sanitary Convention of 1926 regarding the pilgrim traffic, and introduces various improvements for securing the convenience and protecting the health of the pilgrims.

(xiii) The Maintenance Orders (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 20) which makes provision for the enforcement in the Colony of maintenance orders made in other British possessions or protected territories.

(xiv) The Volunteer Force (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) which enables the General Officer Commanding to place the volunteer force or any part thereof under the command of an officer of the regular forces when a state of emergency exists.

(xv) The Cinematograph Films (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 23) which confers upon the official censor the authority to censor any music, speech or other sounds which may accompany the projection of any cinematograph film.

(xvi) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 24) which provides for the payment of a drawback on the exportation of cigars made from tobacco on which import duty had been paid and introduces additional provisions for the safeguarding of revenue and punishment of fraud.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

During the year 48 new companies were registered, with a capital of $13,451,000 of which 38 were private companies with a capital of $8,951,000.

At the end of the year 518 companies remained on the register of which 33 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 468 companies carrying on business was $238,519,663.

Five hundred and sixty-four companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 450 are British, 22 are Japanese, 29 are Dutch, 2 are German and 27 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 14 British, 1 Japanese and 1 American companies have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 6 foreign companies. Seventy-six companies do fire insurance business.

BANKRUPTCIES

There were 56 trade bankruptcies, of which 48 were Chinese, as against 58 trade bankruptcies, of which 38 were Chinese, in 1928. In 17 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In 8 cases liabilities exceeded $100,000, in 5 cases $50,000 and in 28 cases $10,000.

Two deeds of arrangement were registered as against one in 1928.

CO-OPERATION

Progress was maintained in all branches of co-operation in each settlement. In Singapore, where Urban Co-operation makes more appeal, there are now 7 societies compared with 5 societies in 1928. The capital has increased from $125,562 to $235,546 and the membership from 2,106 to 3,250. The amount of loans granted has increased from $173,107 to $222,519. It is satisfactory to note that of the $235,546 subscribed no less than $149,617 is either in the Bank or invested in gilt-edged securities. The percentage of savers compared with that of borrowers rose from 55 to 58 in 1929.

In Malacca there are now 3 Thrift and Loan societies; and 6 Rural Credit Societies. In the Thrift and Loan societies the membership has increased from 675 to 927 and

the subscriptions from $38,767 to $62,557. In the Rural Credit Societies, the subscriptions are now $4,805 as compared with $1,986. During last year the membership increased by 78.

In Penang and Province Wellesley there are now 5 Thrift and Loan Societies and 8 Rural Credit Societies, an increase of 2 and 1 respectively. In the Thrift and Loan Societies the membership has increased from 1,000 to 1,338 and the subscriptions from $54,768 to $83,160. In the Rural Credit Societies the subscriptions are now $5,770 and the membership stands at 231 as compared with $4,521 and 247 respectively a year ago.

A start was made to form Co-operative Societies amongst Indian Labourers on Rubber Estates in Penang and Province Wellesley and before the end of the financial year 3 societies were in process of formation.

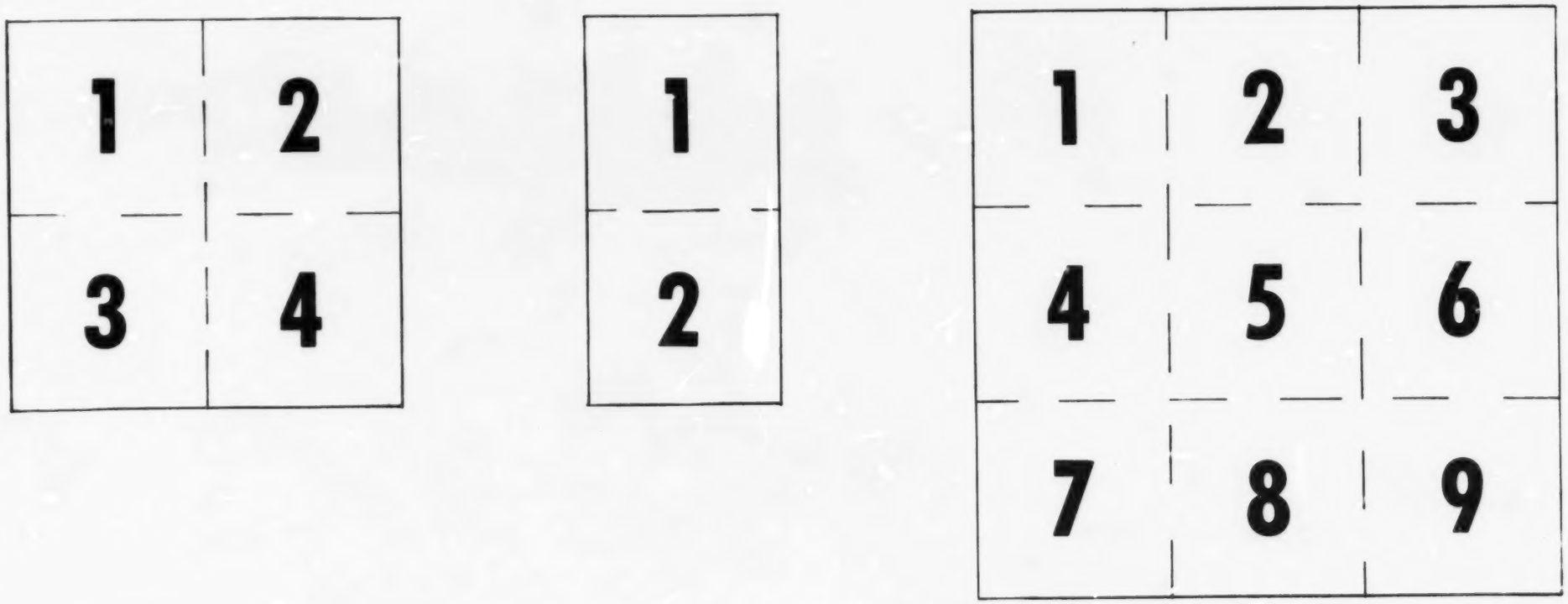
Mr. C. F. STRICKLAND, I.C.S., visited Malaya at the invitation of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Governments and, after spending approximately 3 months in the country, prepared a report regarding the organisation and extension of the movement.

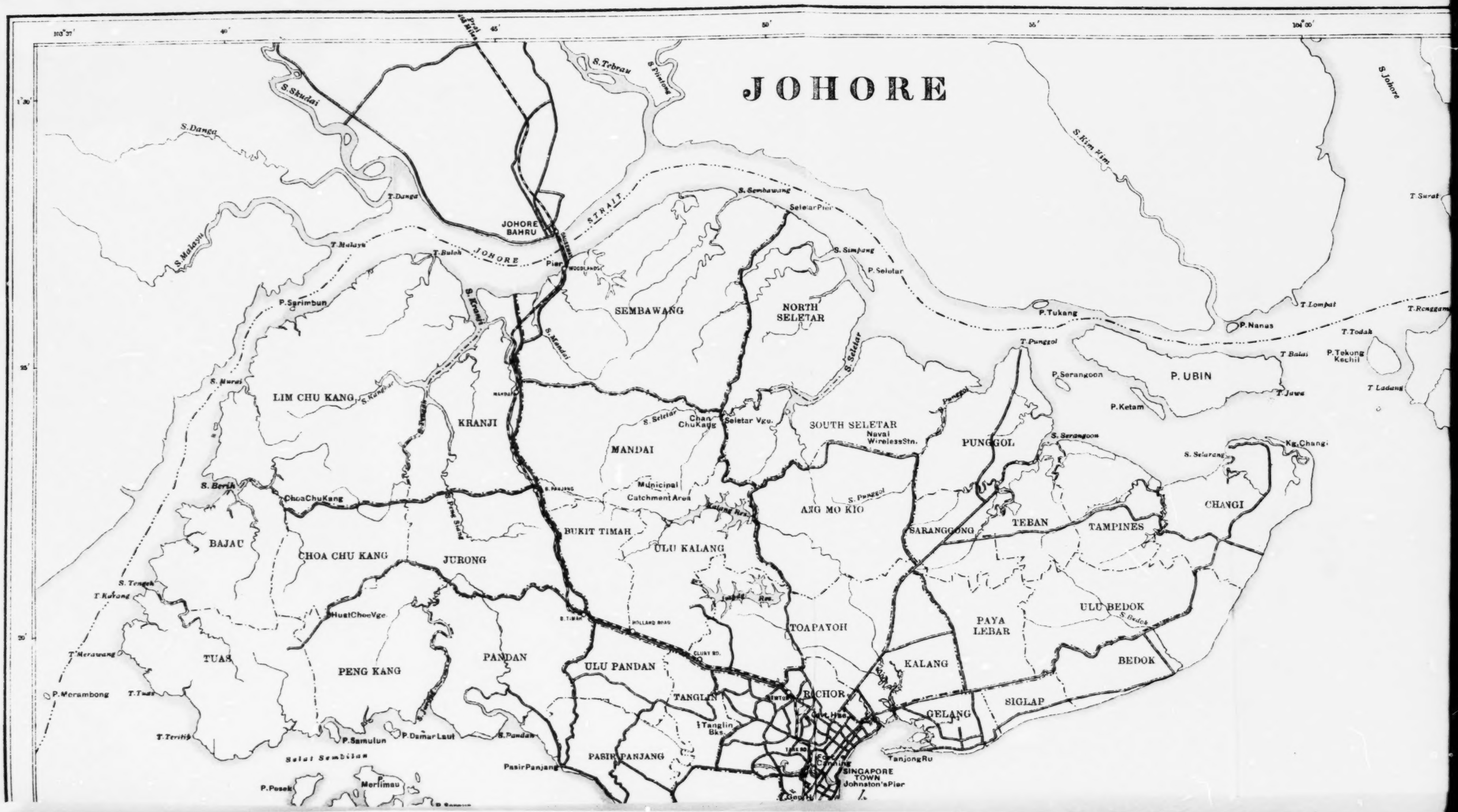
JOHN SCOTT,

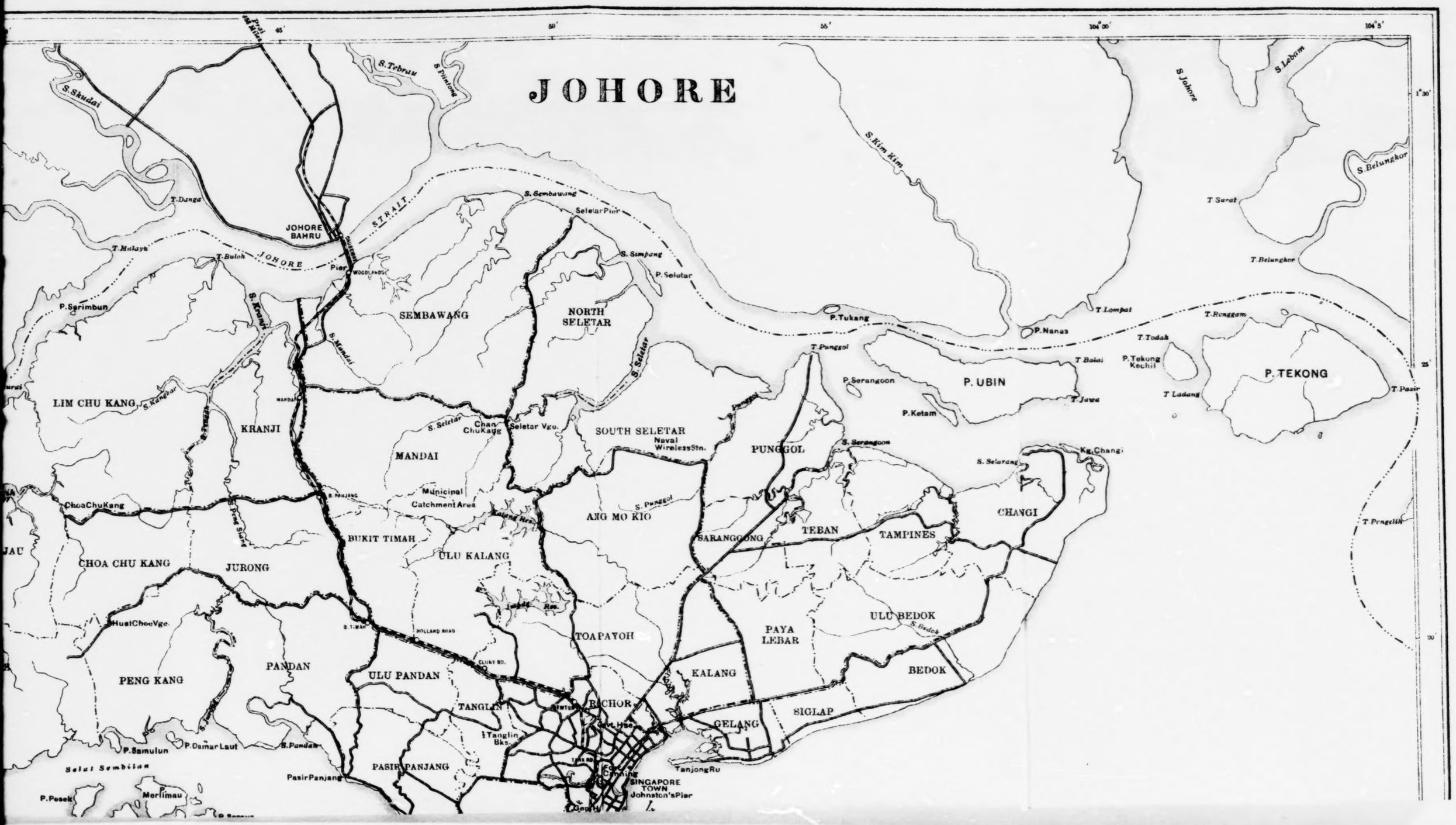
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements

SINGAPORE, *8th June*, 1930.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.




JOHORE
JOHORE BAHRU
STRAIT
JOHORE
Pier
WOODLANDS
S. Skudai
S. Tebrau
S. Pintong
S. Danga
T. Danga
S. Malayu
T. Malayu
T. Buloh
S. Kranji
S. Kendal
P. Sarimbun
S. Sembawang
Selatar Pier
S. Simpang
P. Selatar
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
S. Selatar
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
T. Surat
P. Tukang
P. Nanas
T. Lompat
T. Ronggam
T. Todak
T. Punggol
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
P. Serangoon
P. UBIN
T. Jawa
T. Ladang
P. Ketam
S. Murai
LIM CHU KANG
S. Kangkar
KRANJI
MANDAI
S. Selatar
Chan Chu Kang
Selatar Vgu.
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
S. Serangoon
Kg. Changi
S. Selarang
S. Berih
Choa Chu Kang
Municipal Catchment Area
S. Punggol
ANG MO KIO
CHANGI
BAJAU
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
SARANGOONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
S. Tengah
T. Kalang
Hust Choe Vge.
HOLLAND ROAD
TOAPAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
T. Merawang
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
P. Merambong
T. Tuas
TANGLIN
RIVER
GELANG
SIGLAP
T. Tanglin Bks.
T. Teritip
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
Selat Sembilan
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang
Tanjong Ru
SINGAPORE TOWN
Johnston's Pier
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau


JOHORE
S. Skudai
S. Tebrau
S. Plentong
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
S. Lebam
S. Belungkor
T. Danga
T. Malayh
T. Buloh
JOHORE
STRAIT
JOHORE BAHRU
Causeway
Pier
WOODLANDS
S. Sembawang
Selatar Pier
S. Simpang
P. Selatar
T. Surat
T. Belungkor
P. Sarimbun
S. Kranji
S. Mandai
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
S. Selatar
P. Tukang
T. Lompat
P. Nanas
T. Ronggam
T. Todak
T. Punggol
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
P. TEKONG
P. Serangoon
P. UBIN
T. Ladang
T. Pasir
T. Jawa
P. Ketam
LIM CHU KANG
S. Kangkar
KRANJI
MANDAI
S. Seletar
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vgu.
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
S. Serangoon
Ka. Changi
S. Selarang
CHANGI
Municipal Catchment Area
ANG MO KIO
S. Punggol
T. Pengelih
ChoaChuKang
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
SARANGGONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
HuatChooVge.
HOLLAND ROAD
TOAPAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
CLUNY RD.
KALANG
BEDOK
TANGLIN
R. CHOR
GELANG
SIGLAP
Tanglin Bks.
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
Selat Sembilan
PASIR PANJANG
PasirPanjang
TanjongRu
SINGAPORE TOWN
Johnston's Pier
P. Pesek
Merlimau

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SINGAPORE
1929
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3000
0
2
4
6
8 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
State Boundary
Municipal Boundary
Mukim
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
P. UBIN
P. TEKONG
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
ANG MO KIO
SARANGOON
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHANGI
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
KALANG
BEDOK
TANGLIN
R. CHOR
GELANG
SIGLAP
PASIR PANJANG
TELOK BLANGA
SINGAPORE TOWN
Johnston's Pier
Keppel Harbour
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
P. Seraya
P. Ayer Chawan
P. Ayer Merbau
P. Sakra
P. Brani
P. Blakang Mati
P. Busing
P. Bukum
P. Sudong
P. Semai
P. Sebarok
P. Pawai
P. Senang
P. Satumu
Raffles Lighthouse
P. Sakijang Bendera or St. John's Island
P. Sakijang Palepah
Quarantine Station
Selat Sembilan
Selat Pandan
Tanjong Ru
Tanjong Pagar
The Mole
Beri Beri Hosp.
Tanglin Bks.
Pasir Panjang
Holland Road
Cluny Rd.
Tanjong Rhu
Kallang Rivr.
Jurong Rivr.
Seletar Vge.
Chan Chu Kang
Choa Chu Kang
Hua Choo Vge.
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
P. Serangoon
P. Ketam
P. Tekong Kechil
T. Punggol
T. Balai
T. Jawa
T. Ladang
T. Todak
T. Pasir
T. Pengelih
Ks. Changi
S. Selarang
S. Serangoon
S. Punggol
S. Seletar
S. Bedok
S. Pandan
S. Mandai
S. Kangkar
S. Berih
S. Murai
T. Mat
Bedok Rd.
Tanjong Pagar Rd.
Tanglin Rd.
Pasir Panjang Rd.
Holland Road
Cluny Rd.
Jurong Rd.
Bukit Timah Rd.
Serangoon Rd.
Changi Rd.
Pasir Ris Rd.
Punggol Rd.
Seletar Rd.
Mandai Rd.
Kangkar Rd.
Berih Rd.
Murai Rd.
Pandan Rd.

LABUAN

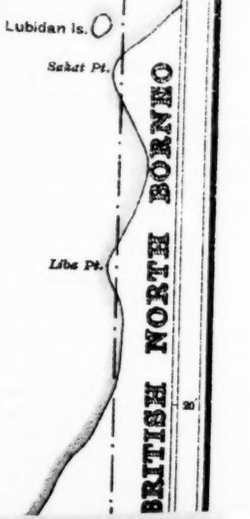
1929

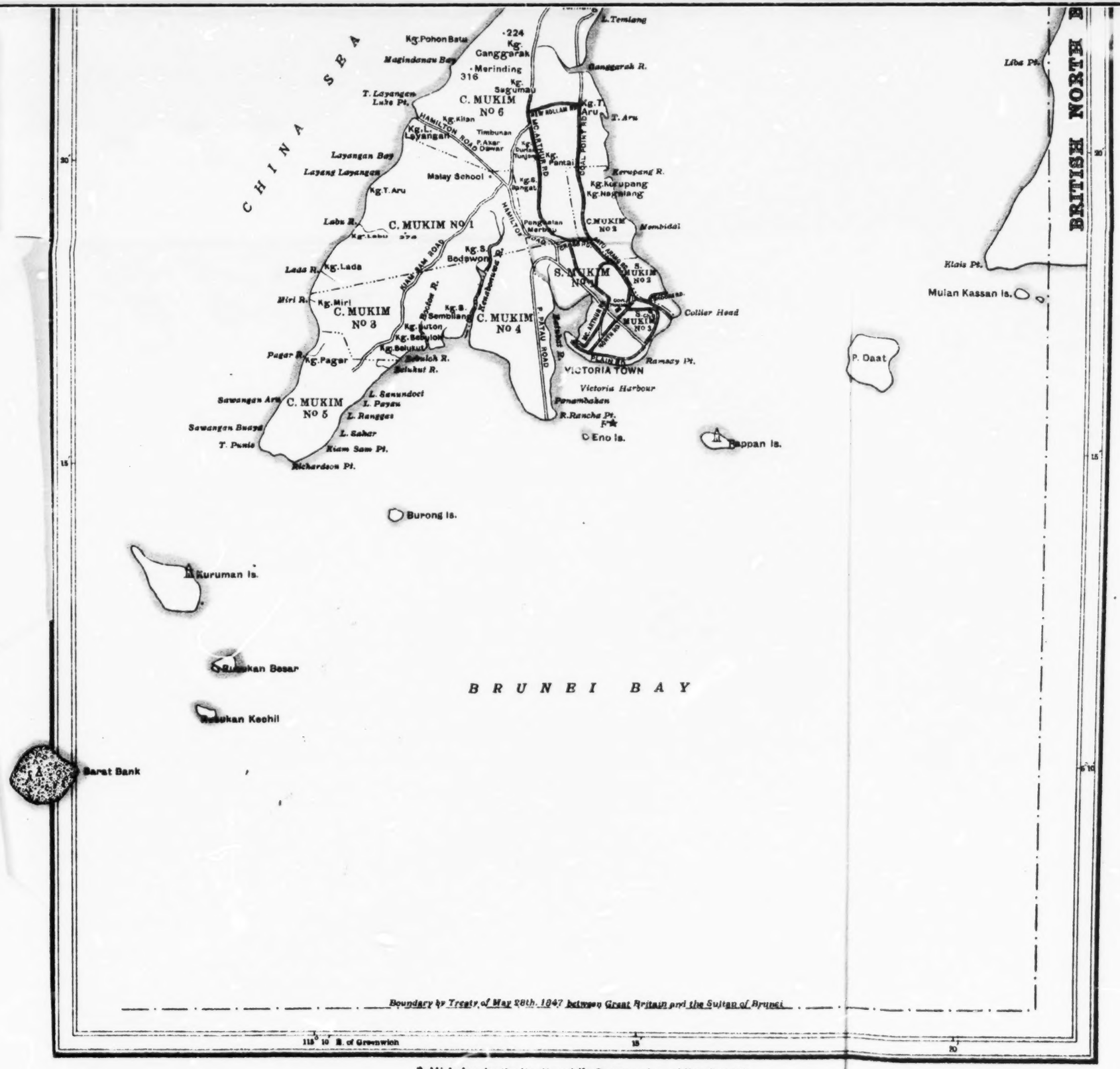
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3600 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Roads: (1) Metalled (2) Earth	(1)	(2)
Point, Tanjong, River	Pt.	T. R.
Pulau, Light House	P.	
Kampong, Lobok	Kg.	L
Flashing Light or Buoy		
Fixed Light, Sungei	P★	S
Mukim Boundary, Height		336
Country, Suburban	C.	S.
Districts: (1) Town (2) Subugban	(1)	(2)





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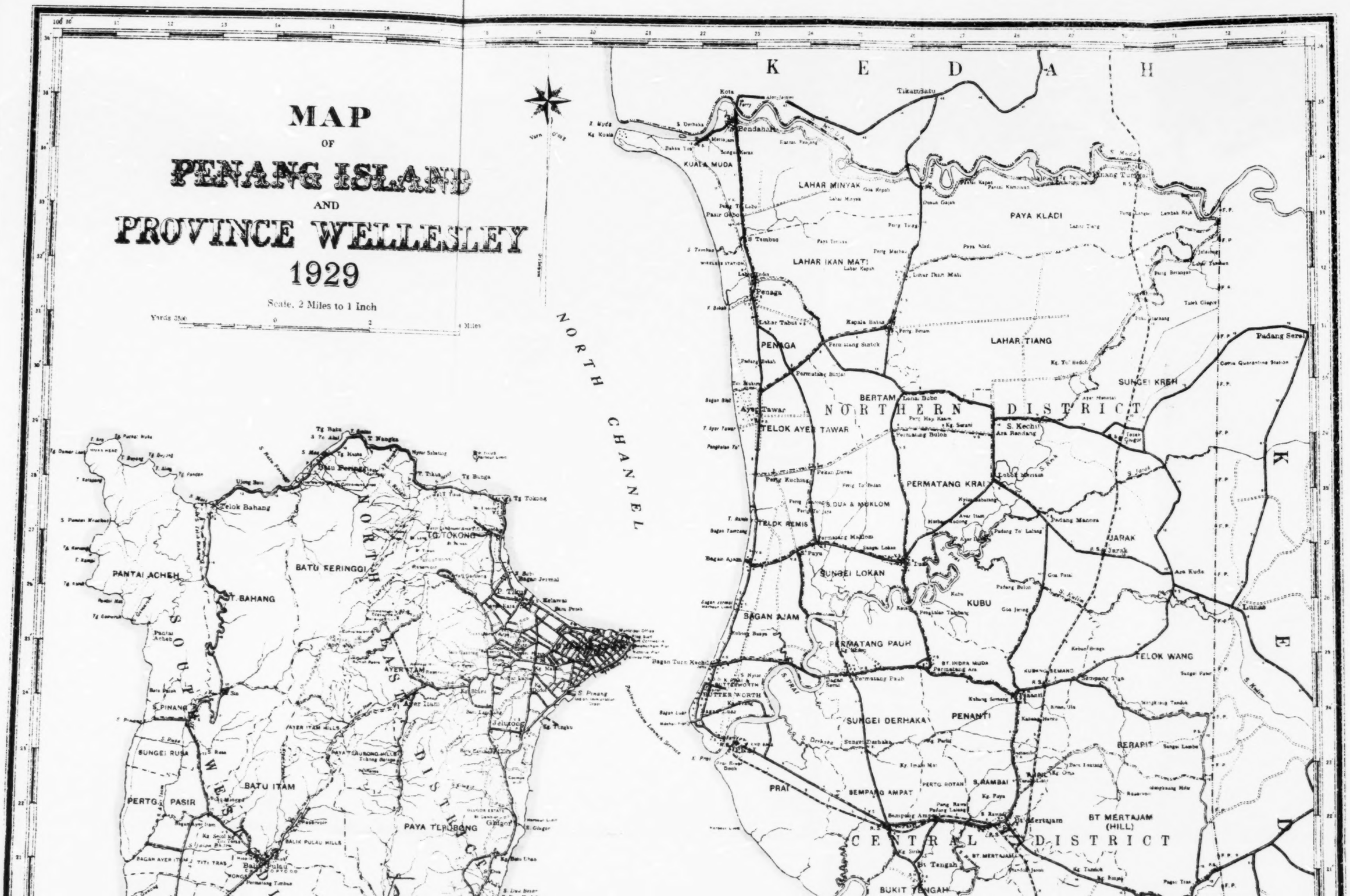
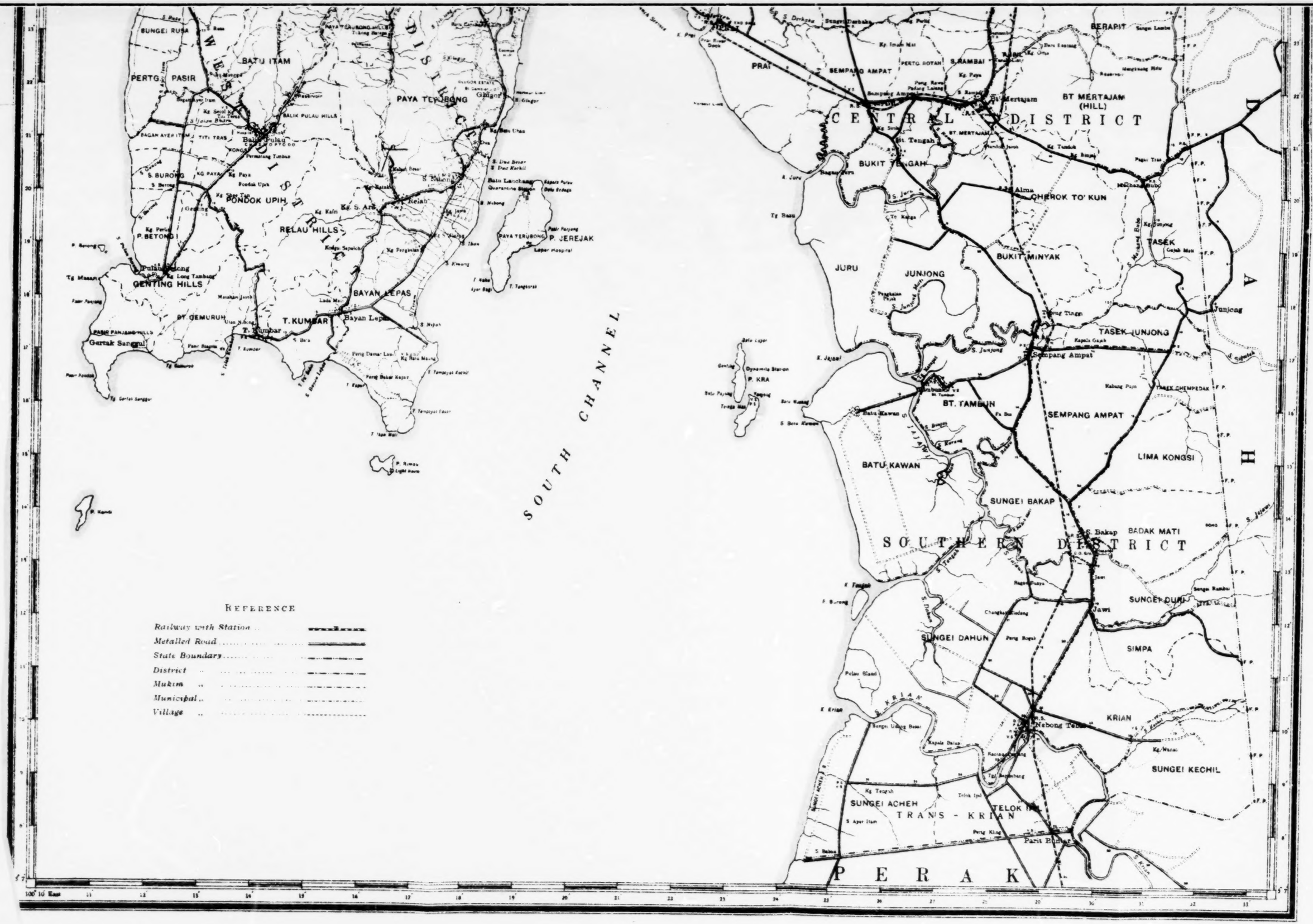
F. M. S. SURVEYS NO. 46. 1930

MAP
OF
PENANG ISLAND
AND
PROVINCE WELLESLEY
1929

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 0 2 4 Miles


K E D A H
NORTH CHANNEL
NORTHERN DISTRICT
CENTRAL DISTRICT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
KUALA MUDA
LAHAR MINYAK
PAYA KLADI
LAHAR IKAN MATI
PENAGA
LAHAR TIANG
SUNGEI KREH
BERTAM
TELOK AYER TAWAR
PERMATANG KRAI
TELOK REMIS
SUNGEI LOKAN
BAGAN AJAM
PERMATANG PAUH
KUBU
TELOK WANG
SUNGEI DERHAKA
PENANTI
BERAPIT
PRAI
BEMPANG AMPAT
BT MERTAJAM (HILL)
BUKIT TENGAH
PANTAI ACHEH
BATU KERINGGI
BATU ITAM
PERTG. PASIR
PAYA TERUBONG
Padang Serai
Tikamdatu
Telok Bahang
T. BAHANG
S. PINANG
SUNGEI RUSA
Tg. Tokong
Ayer Itam
Jelutong
Butterworth
Bagan Tuan Kechil
Bagan Jermal
Bagan Ajam
Bagan Serai
Bagan Luar
Bagan Dalam
Bagan Ayer Itam
Bagan Tiang
Bagan Sebt
Bagan Tambang
Bagan Jermal
Bagan Luar
Bagan Ajam
Bagan Serai
Bagan Tuan Kechil



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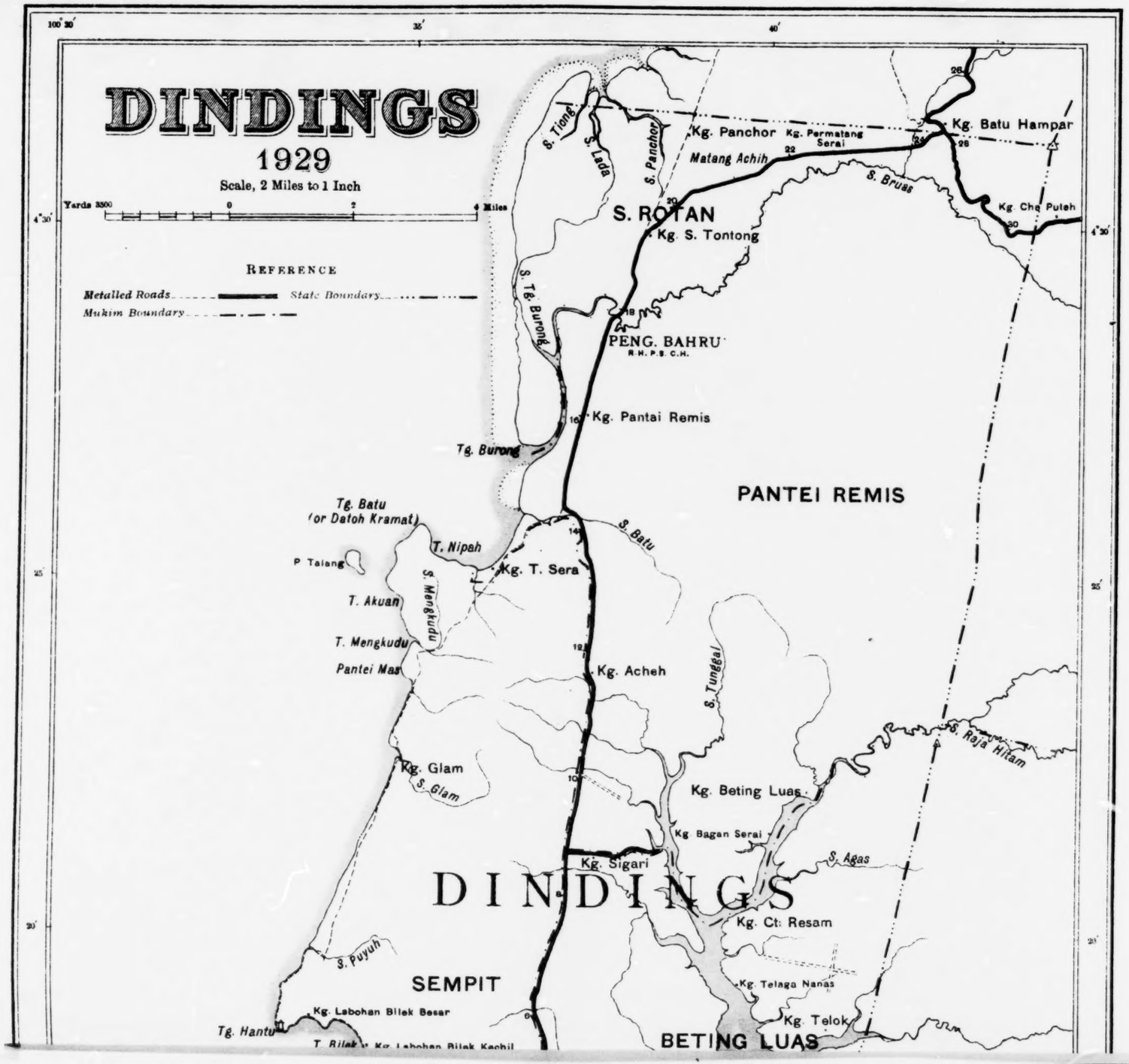
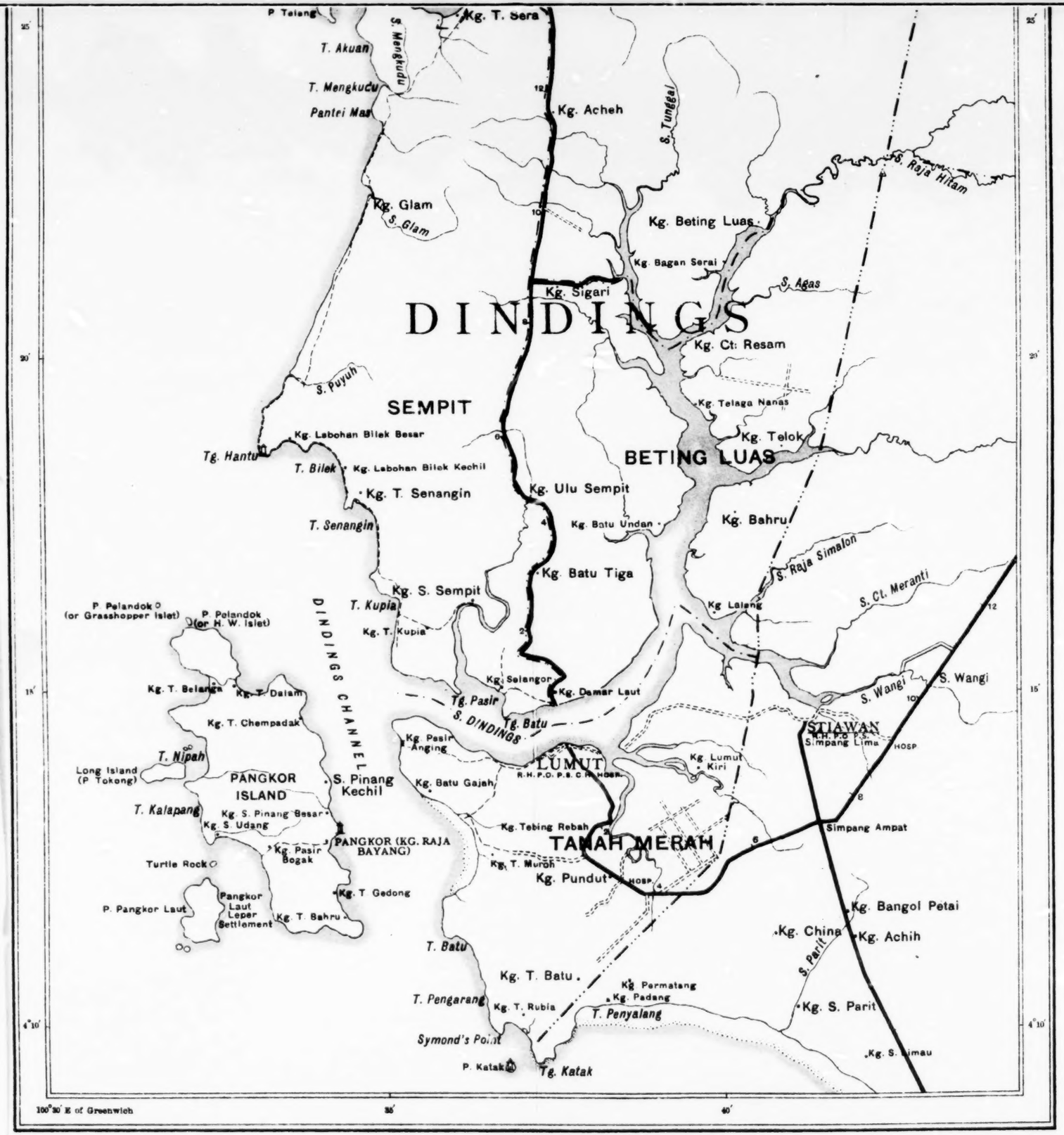

DINDINGS
1929
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3500
0
2
4 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
Mukim Boundary
S. Tiong
S. Lada
S. Panchor
Kg. Panchor
Kg. Permatang Serai
Kg. Batu Hampar
Matang Achih
S. Bruas
Kg. Che Puteh
S. ROTAN
Kg. S. Tontong
S. Tg. Burong
PENG. BAHRU
R.H.P.S.C.H.
Kg. Pantai Remis
Tg. Burong
PANTEI REMIS
Tg. Batu
(or Datoh Kramat)
T. Nipah
P. Talang
Kg. T. Sera
S. Batu
T. Akuan
S. Mengkudu
T. Mengkudu
Pantei Mas
Kg. Acheh
S. Tungkal
S. Raja Hitam
Kg. Glam
S. Glam
Kg. Beting Luas
Kg. Bagan Serai
Kg. Sigari
S. Agas
DINDINGS
Kg. Ct. Resam
S. Puyuh
SEMPIT
Kg. Telaga Nanas
Kg. Labohan Bilek Besar
Kg. Telok
Tg. Hantu
T. Bilek
Kg. Labohan Bilek Kechil
BETING LUAS



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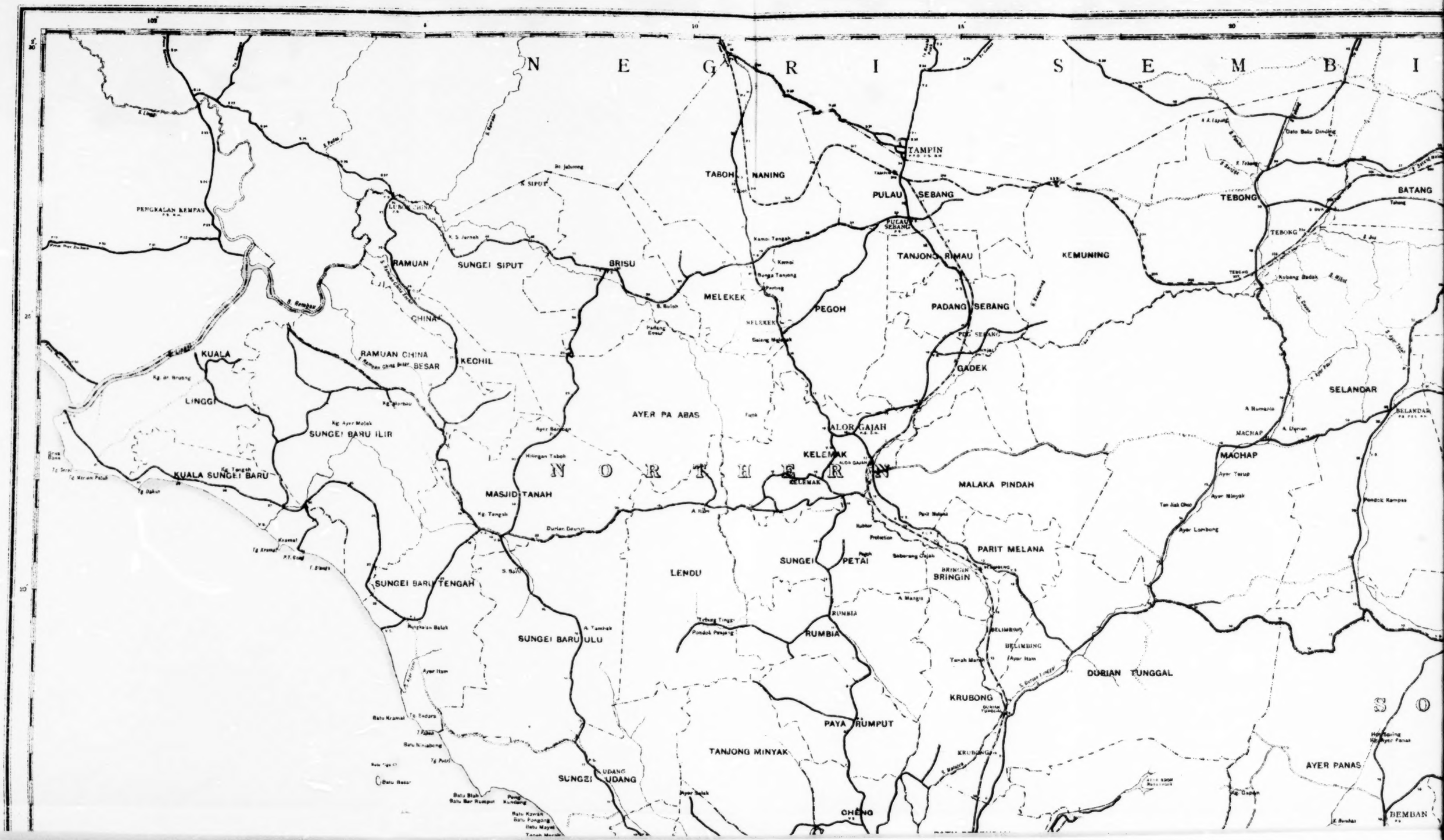
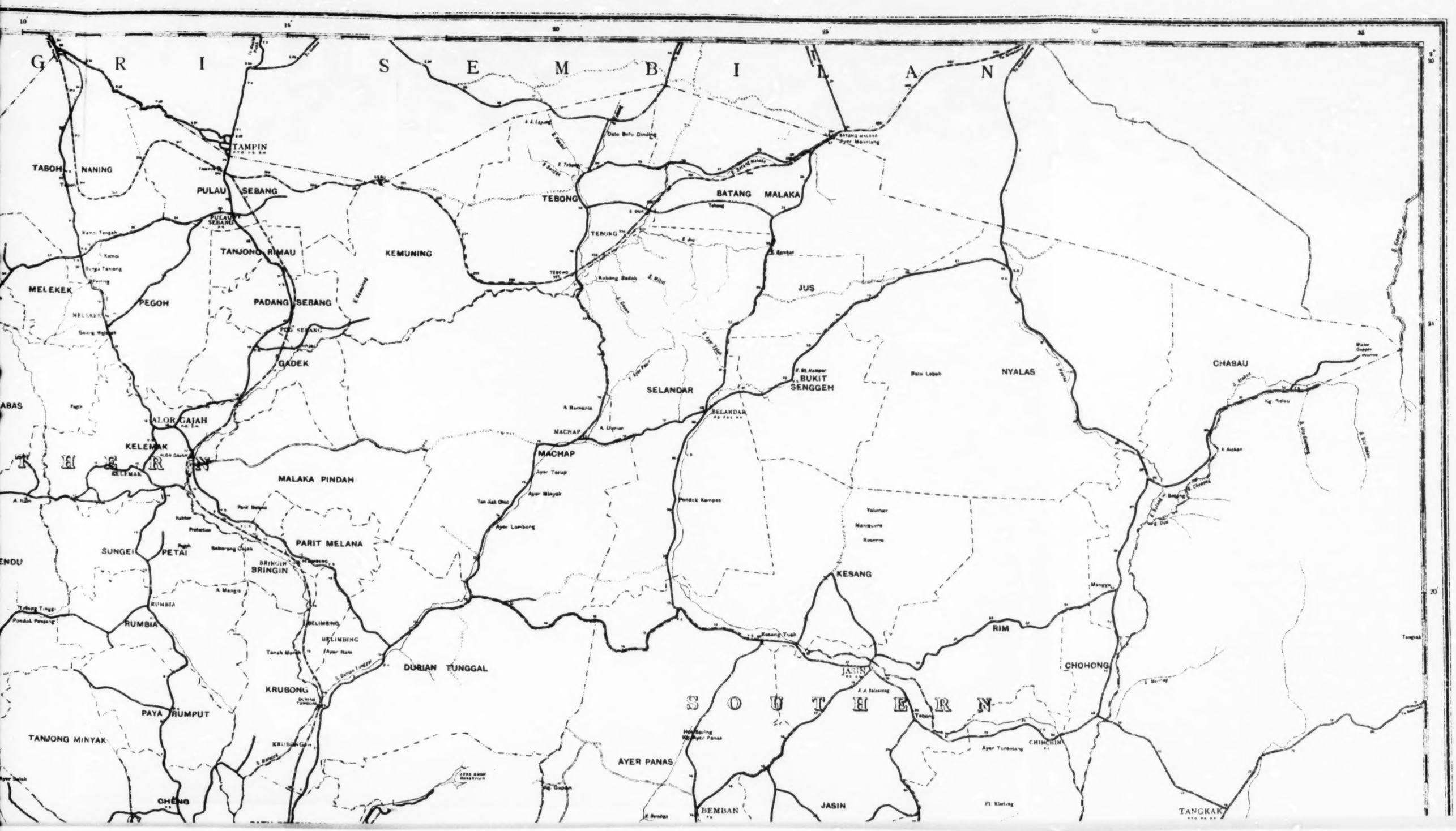

N E G R I S E M B I
N O R T H E R N
S O
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TEBONG
BATANG
PENGKALAN KEMPAS
RAMUAN
SUNGEI SIPUT
BRISU
MELEKEK
PEGOH
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
SELANDAR
KUALA
LINGGI
RAMUAN CHINA BESAR
KECIL
AYER PA ABAS
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
MACHAP
SUNGEI BARU ILIR
KUALA SUNGEI BARU
MASJID TANAH
MALAKA PINDAH
PARIT MELANA
SUNGEI PETAI
LENDU
BRINGIN
SUNGEI BARU TENGAH
SUNGEI BARU ULU
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
SUNGEI UDANG
AYER PANAS
CHENG
BEMBAN


G R I S E M B I L A N
T H E R N
S O U T H E R N
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
JUS
BUKIT SENGGEH
NYALAS
CHABAU
SELANDAR
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
MACHAP
MALAKA PINDAH
PARIT MELANA
SUNGEI PETAI
BRINGIN
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KESANG
RIM
CHOHONG
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
AYER PANAS
JASIN
BEMBAN
CHENG
TANGKAK

MALACCA TERRITORY

1929

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 0 2 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Railway with Station
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
District ,,
Mukim ,,
Municipal ,,

100° East of Greenwich 5 10 15 20

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F. M. S. SURVEYS NO. 45 - 1930

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 9*d.*).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1930

PREFATORY NOTE

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude 1° 17′ north, and longitude 103° 50′ east.

Singapore

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

Cocos or Keeling Islands

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude 11° 50′ and 12° 45′ south, and in longitude approximately 96° 50′ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

Christmas Island

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude 10° 30′ south, longitude 105° 40′ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employees of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

Labuan

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907. It became a separate Settlement in 1912.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

Labuan has a fine port, Victoria Harbour (latitude 5° 16′ north, longitude 115° 15′ east), safe, and easy of access.

The climate varies but little during the year. The rainfall recorded for the year was 150.91 inches which is the normal rainfall.

The wettest month was October with 23.62 inches and the driest February with 2.18 inches.

January 13th recorded 6.34 inches for the 24 hours.

Penang

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by

a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in 5° 24′ north latitude, and 100° 21′ east longitude.

The Dindings

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude 4° 15′ north and longitude 100° 35′ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

Malacca

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in 2° 10′ north latitude, and 102° 14′ east longitude.

Total Area

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

Climate

The climate shows but little variation during the year. The mean temperature during 1930 was:—

Singapore	81·7° F.
Penang	83·1° F.
Province Wellesley	80·8° F.
Malacca	80·1° F.
Labuan	80·5° F.

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures varied as follows:—

	Mean monthly maximum		*Mean monthly minimum*	
	Highest °*F.*	*Lowest* °*F.*	*Lowest* °*F.*	*Highest* °*F.*
Singapore	90·9 Aug.	86·8 Jan.	73·2 (Jan. Feb.)	77·3 July
Penang	92·0 Jan.	88·3 Sept.	74·0 (Sept. Nov. Dec.)	79·4 April

The extremes of temperature (Highest maximum and Lowest minimum) recorded were:—

	Highest °F.	*Lowest °F.*
Singapore	93 on several days in June, July, August and September.	70 on several days in November and December.
Penang	95 on several days in January, April and June.	70 on 2nd January.

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year. Records for the last 22 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 99·11 inches, July being the driest month with an average of 5·62 inches and January the wettest with 12·02 inches. The average number of rainfall days is 183.

Rainfall has, however, been recorded regularly in Singapore since 1862, the wettest year having been 1914 with 135·52 inches and the driest 1877 with 58·37 inches.

In Penang, the average annual rainfall for the last 7 years was 105·12 inches, October being the wettest month with an average of 22·38 inches and February the driest with 2·66 inches. The average number of rainfall days is 195.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, *viz.*:—

SW from May to October

NE from November to April

but at the coastal stations, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1929 Ins.	*1930 Ins.*	*No. of Rainfall days*
Singapore ...	79·10	83·22	169
Penang ...	82·64	95·15	195
Malacca ...	87·83	84·97	178
Province Wellesley	95·72	105·23	191
Labuan ...	127·72	130·58	157
Dindings ...	64·14	69·73	92

B. -HISTORY

MALACCA

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century, but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah, who stipulated that the sum of $6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000. This Province has been enlarged from

time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River. It is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

Singapore

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint Francis Xavier despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay is the language of the Malays of the Colony. Moreover Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca*, though to-day it shows signs of being superseded by English as the language of commerce. It belongs to the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. To the western branch of this family belong Malay as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian. With Islam

the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn. They are divided into Hokkien, (Amoy, Chiangchiu and Chuanchiu districts) spoken by 44·4% of the total Chinese population of the Colony; Cantonese, 23·4%; Teochiu, 15·4%; Hakka 7·6%; Hailam, ·6%; Foochow 1·6%; Hockchhia, ·8% Henghua, ·4% and Shanghai and other northern dialects ·4%. These figures are based on the 1921 census and will no doubt be found to require substantial alteration when 1931 census figures are available.

The Indian population of the Straits Settlements at the last census was 104,628 of whom 96,835 or 92% were Southern Indians.

There has been an increase of some 45,885 or 44% in the Indian population since 1921, but the relative proportions of the various elements remain the same. Of the Southern Indians, who form the bulk of the Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, *i.e.*, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Canarese. The vast majority (about 90%) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Telugu slightly outnumber the Malayalis, while the number of Canarese is negligible.

Three quarters of the remaining Indian population of the Colony consist of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani. The balance comprises a few hundreds from the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and also a few hundred Burmese.

D.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, ½ cent and ¼ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter two denominations. Copper coin is legal

tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5 and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for the bankers' clearances.

During the War and for some years after notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2*s*. 4*d*. Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2*s*. 4 3/16*d*. to the dollar, and, vice versa, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2*s*. 3¾*d*. to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

E.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) Standard of Extension, the Imperial yard.

(*b*) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(*c*) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese steelyards (called "dachings") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal measures used by these classes with their relation to English standards:—

Local term	*Relation to English standard*	
The chupah	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	equals	1 gallon
The tahil	equals	1⅓ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	equals	1⅓ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	equals	133⅓ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	equals	5,333⅓ lbs

I.—General

At the close of 1929 there was a Surplus of $83·2 millions. This figure decreased to $76·4 millions by the end of 1930. Ordinary Revenue showed a deficit of $6·8 millions on the Expenditure and was less than the Estimate by $3·7 millions whereas the Actual Expenditure was less than the Budget figure by $1·8 millions. The Estimated Deficit on the year's working was $5 millions.

Land values continued to drop throughout the year, and there were some sales at exceptionally low prices.

The value of the foreign trade in merchandise of Malaya declined from $1,802,017,000 in 1929 to $1,360,199,000 in 1930, a decrease of $441,818,000 or 24·5 per cent, of which $1,545,000,000 in 1929 and $1,186,000,000 in 1930 represented the direct trade of the Straits Settlements, excluding Labuan. The decrease in British Malaya trade was due principally to a general fall in commodity prices. Foreign exports of rubber decreased from 580,776 to 557,322 tons or by 4 per cent, while foreign imports of rubber decreased from 161,594 to 135,862 tons or by 16 per cent. Tin exports decreased from 102,024 to 97,214 tons or by 4·7 per cent. Foreign imports of tin-ore decreased from 48,785 to 47,167 tons or by 3·3 per cent. The average price of rubber per lb. in Singapore fell from 34·45 to 19 cents, and in London from 10·28 to 5·86 pence, a decrease of 43 per cent. The average price of tin fell in Singapore from $104 to $72 per pikul and in London from £203.18.11 to £141.17.3 per ton, a decrease of 31 per cent. Average prices and declared trade values generally declined, exceptions being gums, gambier and gutta percha. Rents fell in Singapore and Penang but continued to rise in Malacca.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory. There was a slight increase in the death-rate which may be partly accounted for by slump conditions.

Considerable progress was made in sanitation and anti-malarial work.

Sir Cecil Clementi, K.C.M.G., arrived from Hong Kong on 5th February and assumed the administration of the Government of the Colony. Prior to Sir Cecil Clementi's arrival and after his departure on leave on 19th October the Government was administered by Mr. John Scott, C.M.G.

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In August, 1930, Sir CECIL CLEMENTI visited the Governor-General of the Netherlands Indies, JONKHEER DE GRAEFF, at Buitenzorg for the purpose of the discussion of various questions common to both countries. The journeys to and from Java were made by aeroplane.

On 11th April H. R. H. the Crown Prince FREDERICK of Denmark, accompanied by Prince KNUD, Prince AXEL and Princess AXEL, travelling incognito, passed through Singapore on the way to Siam, China and Japan.

In May Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess TAKAMATSU of Japan passed through on their way to Europe.

H. M. S. *Kent*, the flagship of Admiral Sir ARTHUR K. WAISTELL, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief China Station, visited Singapore in December.

The New Years Honours List contained the following names:—

ROLAND JOHN FARRER, of the Malayan Civil Service ...	C.M.G.
GEORGE EATON STANNARD CUBITT	C.B.E. (Civil Division)
CHARLES JOHNSTON SMITH, M.B., F.R.C.S., (Edin.) ...	O.B.E. (Civil Division)

The Birthday Honours List included the following:—

Major ALFRED GORDON-LEE, M.C., S. S. V. F. ...	O.B.E. (Military Division)
Capt. HUGH RANSOME STANLEY ZEHNDER, S. S. V. F.	O.B.E. (Military Division)
Mr. HERBERT THOMAS CLARK	O.B.E. (Civil Division)
Mr. HENRY WALTER JACK ...	O.B.E. (Civil Division)

During the year the new office building of the Department for Chinese Affairs was completed. The new Railway Station at the Tanjong Pagar Docks was begun. This when completed will be the terminus station to which the main line of the Federated Malay States Railway will be deviated. A Committee was set up to consider the replanning of Empress Place and the rebuilding of the Government Offices (old building), Supreme Court and Town Hall.

Plans were drawn up and money voted for the construction of a civil aerodrome at the Kallang Basin, on the edge of Singapore town, but on the advice of Air Marshal Sir GEOFFREY SALMOND, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding

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the Royal Air Force in India, who visited Singapore on 14th November, work on the scheme was postponed pending further reference to the Air Ministry as to the suitability of this location vis à vis other possible sites in Singapore Island. The extension of Imperial Airways to Malaya and the development, by a Company, of local air communications have been under consideration.

A Malayan Communications Board under the Chairmanship of H. E. the Governor and High Commissioner for the Malay States was constituted in 1930 which considers all questions of co-ordination and development of means of communication in Malaya.

A Committee under the Presidency of the Secretary for Postal Affairs was appointed to recommend improvements in postal telegraphic and telephonic methods both business and technical having regard to the carrier system of telephony now in process of being introduced.

A Commission was issued at the end of the year to report with regard to the reduction or merger of the temporary allowances at present paid on salaries and pensions.

Major-General H. L. PRITCHARD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., remained in command of the Troops throughout the year. Captain E. C. O. THOMSON, D.S.O., R.N., was in charge of His Majesty's Naval Establishments. Group-Captain H. M. CAVE BROWN CAVE, D.S.O., D.F.C., was succeeded on 17th October by Group Captain A. H. JACKSON as Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Far East.

The year was marked by great and increasing trade depression, the low prices of the main items of produce, rubber and tin, having their effect in all branches of commerce and industry. Schemes for the repatriation of unemployed Indian and Chinese labourers were instituted, immigration was restricted and numerous public works were put in hand with a view to obviating unemployment.

II.—Finance

(i) REVENUE

The Revenue for the year 1930 amounted to $32,408,305.43 which was less than the original estimate by $3,657,862.57 but was very close to the revised estimate of $32,818,758.

The expenditure was $39,240,314.61, being $1,787,285.39 *less* than the original estimate. It will be seen therefore that in respect of the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Headings the year's working resulted in a deficit of $6.8 millions approximately.

The revenue was $22,479,985 less than that of 1929. The 1929 Revenue, however, was swelled by the transfer of $19 millions from the Currency Guarantee Fund and if allowance is made for that fact the decrease under the ordinary Revenue Headings for 1930 amounted to $3½ millions approximately as compared with 1929.

REVENUE

Heads of Revenue	1929	1930	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	2,505.82	2,529 50	23.68	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	24,143,985.48	21,576,421.14	...	2,567,564.34
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ...	1,172,536.12	1,209,820.23	37,284.11	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	2,367,950.75	2,301,230.77	...	66,719.98
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,838,626.88	1,833,196.95	...	5,429.93
6. Interest	3,443,940.34	3,488,995.43	45,055.09	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	21,157,701.52	1,202,088 32	...	19,955,613.20
Total exclusive of Land Sales	54,127,246.91	31,614,282.34	82,362.88	22,595,327.45
8. Land Sales	761,044 03	794,023.09	32,979.06	...
TOTAL REVENUE ...	54,888,290,94	32,408,305.43	115,341.94	22,595,327.45

As compared with 1929 the decline in Revenue of $2,567,564 under the head "Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" is chiefly attributable to a decrease in the revenue under the following sub-heads:—

	Decrease
	$ c.
Opium Revenue	946,260 00
Estate Duties	707,315 00
Liquors	809,765 00

The decrease under Posts and Telegraphs is due to a drop in the sales of stamps.

Miscellaneous Receipts for 1930 shew a large decrease. This is accounted for by the fact that the 1929 figures include the $19 millions from the Currency Commissioners Guarantee Fund above-mentioned, and a refund of $454,397 by the War Office on account of Military Contribution in that year.

The increase under Fees of Court, etc., is chiefly due to increases under the following items:—

	$ c.
(*a*) Contribution by the Government of British North Borneo to salary of Superintendent of Surveys (new item) ...	4,732 00
(*b*) Contributions to College of Medicine by the Governments of Johore and Kedah (new item)	3,000 00
(*c*) District and Police Courts, including Marine	26,052 00

The increase under the heading Interest is due to increased investment of Surplus Funds.

The increase under Land Sales is due to premia on Grants.

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(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Heads of Expenditure	1929	1930	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083.40	37,083.40	...	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,687,187.18	1,795,839.15	108,651.97	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	26,086.37	26,645.71	559.34	...
4. The Governor	134,920.48	144,505.31	9,584.83	...
5. Civil Service	713,641.06	671,972.50	...	41,668.56
6. General Clerical Service ...	1,028,547.38	1,018,297.86	...	10,249.52
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	163,453.31	127,528.58	...	35,924.73
8. Secretary to High Commissioner	10,978.09	10,403.52	...	574 57
9. Agricultural Department ...	60,441.81	87,865.03	27,423.22	...
10. Audit	24,152.02	28,434.34	4,282.32	...
11. Audit, External ...	8,163.29	1,224.01	...	6,939.28
12. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	74,335.47	217,860.05	143,524.58	...
13. Co-operative Societies ...	33,175.90	32,874.36	...	301.54
14. Ecclesiastical	25,030.76	24,225.45	...	805.31
15. Education	1,427,987.81	1,536,663.10	108,675.29	...
16. Fisheries	39,256.95	41,656.99	2,400.04	...
17. Forests	82,348.40	101,910.48	19,562.08	...
18. Gardens, Botanical ...	111,340.83	113,561.62	2,220.79	...
19. Labour Department ...	21,647.43	27,166.26	5,518.83	...
20. Land and District Offices ...	268,632.06	274,496.92	5,864.86	...
21. Legal	353,706.64	386,494.09	32,787.45	...
22. Marine	639,774.11	640,818.79	1,044.68	...
23. Marine Surveys ...	77,518.34	72,300.19	...	5,218.15
24. Medical	348,581.53	468,412.21	119,830.68	...
25. Medical, Health Branch ...	627,620.27	681,381.32	53,761.05	...
26. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	99,033.22	116,697.22	17,664.00	...
27. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,248,416.24	2,349,760.60	101,344.36	...
28. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,775,714.32	4,239,728.54	464,014.22	...
II. Local Forces ...	518,734.14	579,149.59	60,415.45	...
29. Miscellaneous Services ...	6,313,210.27	7,428,925.31	1,115,715.04	...
30. Monopolies	1,687,554.79	1,664,402.15	...	23,152.64
31. Museum and Library, Raffles	53,170.89	57,921.89	4,751.00	...
32. Police	2,959,125.87	3,187,680.87	228,555.00	...
33. Political Intelligence Bureau	27,211.90	...	...	27,211.90
34. Post Office	1,733,094.55	2,077,685.44	344,590.89	...
35. Printing Office ...	231,357.68	266,660.10	35,302.42	...
36. Prisons	444,337.93	492,698.69	48,360.76	...
37. Public Works Department...	517,960.82	558,728.08	40,767.26	...
38. Public Works Recurrent Expenditure ...	951,518.73	983,226.51	31,707.78	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary	5,133,967.93	5,658,712.66	524,744.73	...
40. Statistics ..	52,034.62	33,070.90	...	18,963.72
41. Survey Department ...	411,400.82	415,537.60	4,136.78	...
42. Transport	356,752.40	385,753.11	29,000.71	...
43. Treasury	103,621.46	104,068.53	447.07	...
44. Veterinary	68,167.26	70,285.58	2,118.32	...
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ...	35,711,996.73	39,240,314.61	3,699,327.80	171,009.92

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The increase under Pensions, etc., is mainly due to the commutation provisions of the Pensions Ordinance, to gratuities granted to the families of deceased officers and to new pensions of Widows and Orphans.

Under the Agricultural Department increased expenditure on Personal Emoluments and Special Expenditure accounts for the excess.

The expenses of repatriating destitute and decrepit Chinese is responsible for the increase under the Chinese Secretariat.

The increase under Education is due to the opening of new schools.

Under Forests the increase is due to improvement of Forest Reserves in the Settlement of Malacca.

Personal Emoluments of the Legal Department increased by nearly $30,000 as compared with 1929.

The increase under Medical is due to additional staff. Under the Health Branch expenses in connection with Quarantine Stations and anti-mosquito work account for the increase. Heavier charges for Personal Emoluments, cost of Medicines and Surgical Appliances account for the excesses under the Social Hygiene and Hospital Branches of the Department.

The excess under Miscellaneous Services is mostly due to payments in respect of the following items:—

	$ c.
Purchase of site at Tiong Bahru for Terrace Houses and playing fields for the Medical College Staff, Singapore	75,800 00
Share of cost of construction of road from Chancery Lane to Holland Road, Singapore	102,784 00
Share of cost of replacing the present superstructure of Read Bridge, Singapore ...	37,438 00
Acquisition of land at Butterworth, P. W. ...	13,766 00
Loss on account of minting Square Copper Coin from old round Copper Coins, Singapore	73,974 00
Creation of a Malay Settlement in Penang ...	23,405 00
Refund of interest charges to Singapore Harbour Board	100,000 00
Reclamation of work at Bagan Luar, P. W. ...	199,635 00
Acquisition of land for a Civil Aerodrome, Singapore	265,950 00
Acquisition of land for filling the site for a Civil Aerodrome, Singapore	412,372 00
Total	$1,305,124 00

The amalgamation of the Political Intelligence Bureau with the Police, together with increased Special Expenditure, account for the increase under the Police Department.

Under Post Office there was a large increase of expenditure on Telephone and Telegraph Development.

Purchase of additional Printing Machinery and the cost of converting all the linotype machines from gas to electricity explain the excess under the head of Printing Office.

A large increase in the Prison population took place during the year and involved additional expenditure on staff and accommodation for prisoners.

The large programme of work to be undertaken by the Public Works Department necessitated strengthening the personnel and this accounts for the increase shown against this head. There was also a slight increase in Recurrent Expenditure on Maintenance. The excess under Public Works Extraordinary is almost entirely due to a payment of $500,000 on account of the Fullerton Building, Singapore, in part settlement of a claim for extras from the contractors.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution, the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last five years, and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary:—

Year	*Total Expenditure*	*Public Works Extraordinary*
	$	$
1926 ...	33,325,253	5,145,540
1927 ...	33,950,061	6,184,886
1928 ...	31,047,608	5,489,873
1929 ...	31,936,283	5,133,968
1930 ...	35,000,586	5,658,712

The amounts paid as Defence Contribution for the last five years are:—

	$
1926	3,280,000
1927	5,303,000
1928	3,960,000
1929	3,775,714
1930	4,239,728

Refunds of $139,500 and $454,397 received in 1928 and 1929 in respect of overpayments in the financial years 1926 - 1927 and 1927 - 1928 respectively are not included in the above figures.

(iii).—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December,

	$	$
Liabilities		
Deposits:—		
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	46,592,880.50	
Court	1,476,997.81	
Bankruptcy	1,043,010.62	
Mercantile Marine Fund	770,442.63	
Police Reward Fund	6,708 29	
Malacca and Districts, Miscellaneous ...	226,123.58	
Penang and Districts, Miscellaneous	475,178.89	
Miscellaneous	2 019,856.33	
		52,611,198.65
Drafts and Remittances	...	33,035.09
Suspense Account:—		
Nickel Coin	768,282.51	
Coin for reminting, etc.	2,619,630.80	
Interest Currency Commissioners	62,424.80	
Other items	211,093.90	
		3,661,432.01
Investments Depreciation Account	...	25,000.00
Loans:—		
Straits Settlements 5½% War Loan 1918–1928 ...	...	1,700.00
Straits Settlements 6% Loan 1916	...	2,100.00
Straits Settlements 5½% Conversion Loan 1919–1929	...	4,600.00
Surplus	...	*a* 76,372,607.57
TOTAL ...	...	132,711 673.32

(*a*) Commitments:—

	$	
(1) *Loans—*		
Municipality, Malacca	250,000	
Trengganu Government	500,000	
Penang Harbour Board	103,000	
S. S. War Service Land Grants Scheme	76,570	
For Building Dwelling Houses	304,541	
Singapore Harbour Board	5,875,000	
		$7,109,111
Carried forward		7,109,111

LIABILITIES

1930 were as follows:—

	$	$
Assets		
Investments:—		
Colony	55,061,194.19	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	46,592,880.48	
Bankruptcy	793,133.05	
Mercantile Marine Fund	644,020.19	
Other Investments	1,053,851.30	
		104,145,079.02
Advances	...	3,195,768.90
Imprests	...	45,738.53
Cash in Transit	...	50,811.16
Suspense Account	...	254,602.50
Loans:—		
Municipalities	1,106,096.72	
Brunei Government	6,000.00	
Kelantan Government	4,680,683.98	
Trengganu Government	3,000,000.00	
Singapore Harbour Board	4,874,373.50	
Penang Harbour Board	2,763,525.50	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowments Board, Penang	54,000.00	
Singapore Cricket Club	12,922.18	
Stadium Association	14,000.00	
S. S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ...	105,125.66	
Singapore Improvement Trust	250,000.00	
		16,866,727.54
Indian Agency Account	...	83,329.13
Cash	...	8,069,616.35
TOTAL ...	...	132,711,673.32

Brought forward $7,109,111

(2) *Expenditure on certain services in Excess of Estimates*—

	$	
Singapore Town Improvement Scheme ...	6,417,401	
Land required for improvement of Railway ...	2,288,320	
Development of Penang Hill	20,003	
Barracks Maxwell Road	74,834	
New Reclamation from Bastion to Rest House, Malacca	48,681	
		$8,849,239

(3) Expenditure on Services as detailed on page 3 of 1930 Estimates 7,559,081

TOTAL ... $23,517,431

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted, on the 31st December, 1930 to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

Singapore Harbour Board ...	$47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	320,137
	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ...	3,388,205
	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was $2,079,909 in 1930. This charge is however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been alloted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1930 was approximately $11,671,993.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 stands at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on this loan is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Exchange

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1930:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)
,, Banque de l'Indo Chine
,, National City Bank of New York
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited
,, Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited
,, Ho Hong Bank, Limited
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited
,, Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited
,, Kwong Lee Banking Company
,, Eastern Bank, Limited
,, National Commercial and Savings Bank, Limited

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/3 27/32 and 2/3 11/16. The higher rate was obtainable only over a very short period at the end of the 3rd quarter and the beginning of the 4th quarter.

(vi).—Currency

No change was made in the Currency Legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $82,423,391.75 in currency notes and $5,263,037 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $137,981 as compared with $138,265 at the end of 1929.

At the end of 1929 the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $104,159,136.75. There was no demand by the public for Currency Notes during the year 1930. But there was a demand for sterling in the months of January, February, March, April, May, July, August, September and December and the consequent contraction in Currency Notes during those months amounted to $22,811,300. The value of the Currency Notes in circulation at the end of 1930 stood at $82,423,391.75.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $46,562,013.41, consisting of £328,251 in gold, $17,616,991.32 in silver and $2,619,630.80 on deposit with the Government held locally and £73,330 in gold and £2,669,714-13-0 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $84,521,443.24; the cost price of those investments having been $85,272,439.53.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form i.e. in current silver and gold coin in the Colony and in Gold, Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year was $46,675,124.11 and the investment portion amounted to $84,521,443.24. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $48,773,175.60 as compared with an excess of $39,467,012.65 at the end of 1929.

There was a net withdrawal by the Treasury of $703,849 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a net decrease of $5,759 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $10,231,358 were in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $729,841.25 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1928 was $768,391.20 and at the end of 1929 $735,627.25.

Eighteen millions six hundred and fifty-two thousand one hundred and eighty-eight and a half notes to the value of $90,750,079 were destroyed during the year as against 17,894,278¼ to the value of $96,628,037.45 in 1929.

(vii) Enemy Property

During the year a sum of $118.71 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts), London. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property so transferred to the end of 1930 amounted to $12,877,362.15. The only outstanding matter at the end of the year was that of Behn Meyer & Co., Ltd. Although the realisation of the assets of Behn Meyer & Co., Ltd., had been completed long since, the settlement of the various claims made against the Company has taken much longer time than it was anticipated, with the result that the closing of the year did not see the end of this liquidation.

Local Clearing Office

The work of the Clearing Office was concluded at the end of the year 1929 so far as German and British claims were concerned. The only outstanding matter at the beginning of the year was in respect of claims against Hungary. Dividends amounting to 5*s*. 6*d*. in the £ were declared and paid to two British nationals during the year: this closed the Austrian and Hungarian portion of the Clearing Office work.

During the year the sum of $724.53, being balance in the hands of the Local Controller, was transferred to the London Clearing Office.

III.—Production

(*a*) Agriculture

The total expenditure of the Department of Agriculture in the Colony including provision towards Head Office expenses was as follows:—

	$	*c*.
Actual Expenditure in the Colony ...	89,602	63
Estimated share of Head Office expenditure	101,154	81
The revenue collected in the Colony was	1,928	28

Rubber.—The sale price of rubber during 1930 fell to the lowest figure in the history of the industry. The average Singapore price of first grade smoked sheet during the four quarters of the year was as under:—

1st	quarter	25	cents	per lb.
2nd	,,	22¼	,,	,,
3rd	,,	15½	,,	,,
4th	,,	13¼	,,	,,

In an attempt to reduce stocks a "Tapping Holiday" was agreed upon during the month of May, but its effect upon the sale price of rubber was negligible.

The question of some form of restriction of output or export was discussed by the Governors of the Netherlands East Indies and the Straits Settlements. It was announced that no official steps to restrict the export or production of rubber were contemplated.

The amount of new planting of rubber in the Colony during 1930 was negligible.

The larger estates in general maintained the normal standard of upkeep almost throughout the year. Small holdings have been very heavily tapped and the conditions as regard upkeep have certainly deteriorated.

Imports of selected budding and planting material showed considerable decrease as compared with those of 1929.

During the unusually dry weather which prevailed for the first eight months of the year, leaf mildew disease, caused by *Oidium Heveae*, occurred in certain parts of Malacca and Province Wellesley. It disappeared on the advent of wetter weather without the aid of control measures, though the latter were investigated by the Rubber Research Institute in case the need for them should arise. A recrudescence of Mouldy Rot disease called for careful attention during the wet weather at the end of the year. Owing to the low price of rubber owners of small holdings found increasing difficulty in providing the money necessary for the efficient control of this and other diseases.

There was satisfactory co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the Rubber Research Institute throughout the year.

Coconuts.—The Singapore price of "Fair Merchantable" quality copra declined from $8.95 per picul in January to $5.66 per picul in December. The average price of this quality was $7.45 per picul and of the "Sundried" quality $7.80 per picul, as compared with $9.09 and $9.55 respectively in 1929.

The estimated total area planted with coconuts in the Colony, including Labuan, Brunei and Christmas Island is 82,047 acres of which 11,846 acres are not yet in bearing. Of the total area there are 26,658 acres on estates of over 100 acres each.

With the financial assistance of the Empire Marketing Board investigations of improved methods of preparing

copra were commenced, a chemist being specially appointed for this purpose. Good progress has been made and some preliminary results have been published.

Control of the Black beetle (Oryctes rhinoceros) continued. Sporadic outbreaks of the leaf-eating caterpillars (*Artona catoxantha*) occurred in the Island but were controlled by the insect enemies of this pest.

Padi (*Rice*).—The estimate of the total area of land plantable with wet padi in the Straits Settlements has been carefully revised and is now considered to amount to 70,813 acres. The total area under cultivation in the season 1929—30 was estimated to be 64,825 acres yielding 17,208,910 gantangs of padi. For the season 1928—29 the estimate of the area under cultivation was given as 76,074 acres which yielded 26,696,617 gantangs.

The crop harvested in Province Wellesley from the 31,694 acres planted amounted only to 5,939,990 gantangs and was only about half of the yield obtained in a normal year, owing to drought both at the beginning and the end of the padi season.

In Malacca a satisfactory crop of 9,910,320 gantangs was reaped from 29,648 acres.

In Penang a planted area of 2,842 acres gave a return of 1,201,500 gantangs, while in the Dindings also a good crop of 157,100 gantangs was obtained from 641 acres.

The area planted during the current season (1930—31) is estimated to amount to 65,019 acres, being made up of 28,876 acres in Malacca, 32,693 acres in Province Wellesley, 3,000 acres in Penang and 450 acres in the Dindings.

Investigations have been continued on the life histories and control of the different padi stem borers. Experiments are in progress to ascertain the effect, as a control measure, of producing in the laboratory large numbers of the insect *Trichogramma nanum*, parasitic on the eggs of the stem borers, and liberating them in padi areas.

Rats were unusually numerous but the rat campaigns were successful in preventing any serious damage to the standing crop.

At the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca selection and varietal tests have been continued and some promising high yielding strains of padi have been obtained. The manurial experiments which have hitherto given little definite information have been reorganised.

Standardised Test Plots to determine the suitability of selected strains to local conditions were established during the year at Glugor in Penang, Bukit Merah in Province Wellesley and Alor Gajah in Malacca. Land at Sungei Udang was cleared for the establishment of a second Test Plot in Malacca. Selected strains have also been distributed to a number of padi growers for trial.

A Committee was appointed by H. E. the Governor, with the Director of Agriculture as Chairman, to enquire into Rice Cultivation in Malaya. This Committee visited and issued separate reports on each of the padi growing areas in the Straits Settlements.

The Committee issued a Progress Report containing the results of their deliberations up to the end of October towards the end of the year, and its final report will, it is anticipated, be submitted early in 1931.

Pineapples.—The prices of fresh and tinned pineapples fell to a very low level during the year. In the main cropping season 100 ordinary fruit sold for 80 cents to $1.20 and 100 selected fruit for $1.50 to $2.50. The closing prices for 1½ lb. tins of pineapple cubes were about $3.30—$3.40 per case of 48 tins. These prices are hardly sufficient to pay for the cost of cultivation and transport of the fruit or to have any margin of profit for the factories. As a result two of the five factories in Singapore have been closed during the greater part of the year.

The planted area in Singapore remains at about 8,000 acres of which very little is newly planted and a great part is too old for maximum production. Present prices offer little inducement for replanting and a reduction of the planted area is anticipated.

The Malayan Information Agency staged exhibits of Malayan tinned pineapples at the Antwerp Exhibition and at various Exhibitions and Shows in Great Britian. These displays have helped materially to increase the demand for the local produce.

Careful enquiries have been made into the economic side of the industry more particularly in relation to hygenic conditions of canning, grading, and the development of markets.

Provision was made jointly by the Governments of the Federated Malay States, Johore and the Colony for a Pineapple Experiment Station at Lim Chu Kang in Singapore

Island. A site comprising 33 acres was selected and development of the Station was commenced.

Coffee.—The area planted with coffee is estimated at 355 acres in Malacca and 200 acres in the Dindings.

Fruit.—In Malacca the fruit crop was poor. In Penang and Province Wellesley it was somewhat better. Fruit cultivation in Singapore Island and the more closely adjoining portions of Johore would appear to be worthy of attention owing to the large and continuous demand of the town markets.

Tobacco.—Chinese market-gardeners in Province Wellesley have successfully grown tobacco which is sold in Penang to manufacturers of low priced cheroots.

Cloves and Nutmegs.—Prices for cloves were $40 per pikul and for nutmegs $40—$50 per pikul. The cultivation of these crops still persists at Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley and on the western slopes of the Penang Hill, but the number of trees becomes fewer every year.

Agricultural Instruction.

(*a*) *Demonstration Stations.*—Arrangements have been made to commence the establishment of small demonstration stations of about 10 acres each in suitable centres for the cultivation of crops which are suitable for growth on small holdings. A site at Sungei Udang in Malacca has been cleared for one such station and another has been obtained at Segari in the Dindings. The purchase of a third site near Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley is under consideration.

The small fruit station at Pringgit in Malacca has been well maintained and will soon be ready to supply planting material for distribution. A part of the Pineapple Demonstration Station in Singapore has been reserved as a fruit nursery for the supply of young plants.

(*b*) *Publications.*—The Malayan Agricultural Journal which is the monthly publication of the Department was reorganised and enlarged at the beginning of the year and obtained a satisfactory increase in circulation. Six Special Bulletins containing accounts of research work have been published. The two quarterly journals of the Department, one in Malay and one in Chinese, have been published regularly and have been of considerable assistance to native agriculturists.

(*c*) *Shows.*—The Malacca branch of the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association held a show on the 26th July.

(*d*) *School Gardens.*—There are 62 school gardens in Malacca, 15 in Province Wellesley, 4 in Penang Island, 1 in the Dindings and 10 in Singapore Island. All these were regularly supervised by agricultural officers.

(*e*) *Chinese Sub-Inspector of Agriculture.*—Since the agricultural community in Singapore Island consists almost entirely of Chinese provision was made for the appointment of a Chinese officer through whom their needs could be ascertained and instruction and advice be given them.

Dairying.—With a view to providing a fresh milk supply for Singapore the Singapore Cold Storage Co., Ltd. has commenced the establishment of a dairy to be run in conjunction with its local pig farm and to be conducted on the most hygienic and modern lines.

(*b*) Forestry.

The area of reserved forests was increased by the addition of 682 acres to the Tuas reserve in Singapore. In the Dindings the Gunong Tunggal and Tanjong Hantù reserves were resurveyed and the revised areas show increases of 142 and 20 acres respectively.

In Province Wellesley the Bukit Goa Ipoh and Bukit Langkap reserves, 292 and 231 acres respectively, were revoked and handed over for allotment to market gardeners. In Singapore Island the Bukit Timah reserve was revoked and reconstituted to include only forest.

Minor decreases totalled 94 acres, occasioned by excisions for house sites and kampongs and by revisions of area on resurvey.

The area of reserved forests at the end of the year was 115,823 acres, representing 12% of the area of the Straits Settlements.

Proposals for the complete abandonment of all the reserves in Singapore Island, other than Bukit Timah, were made during the year and are still under consideration.

The scheme, inaugurated in 1928, for the improvement of the Malacca forests by means of departmental girdlings and cleanings, combined where possible with commercial fellings, was continued with promising results. Revenue and expenditure were $66,860 and $125,772 respectively, as

compared with $60,426 and $105,081. The deficit was $58,912 as compared with $44,655 in 1929 and is accounted for entirely by the cost of the 4-inch topographical survey of the Malacca reserves, which was completed during the year. There was a welcome increase of revenue in Malacca of 10%.

The outturn of timber was 9,785 tons and of firewood and charcoal 55,931 tons, as compared with 11,586 and 36,657 tons in 1929. Minor forest produce yielded $5,412, as compared with $5,397.

Eighty-six cases of breaches of the forest law were reported, in forty-nine of which the offenders were not detected. Fines amounted to $419, the sale of confiscated property realised $84, and fines for breaches of leases and agreements $442.

Changes of titles of officers under the Forest Ordinance were made during the year.

(*c*) Fisheries

Steps have been taken to put into operation a long overdue and urgently necessary reform *viz*:—the proper compilation of Fishery Statistics throughout Malaya. The plan has been drawn up in conjunction with the Registrar-General of Statistics and aims at ascertaining the total weight of fish landed at every town or fishing village in Malaya. The fish dealers are compelled by law to make a return of all fish which they purchase from the fishermen. This return is sent free by post to headquarters in Singapore, where the figures are totalled and entered. It is hoped that quarterly returns will be available for 1932.

The scheme has been tried out on a small scale for about two years and results are most encouraging. Figures will be available for this year's report for Singapore, Penang, Dindings, Selangor and Perak, and not only will they state quantities of fish landed, value of boats and gear, and number of persons employed, but will state the relative abundance of each kind of fish and seasonal fluctuations in quanties of each particular kind.

The distribution and preservation in Malaya of some of the cheaper—and often high class—fish is receiving attention.

Research work on other aspects of the sea fisheries *i.e.*, migrations, fluctuations, development of fish and crustacea, etc., is at present handicapped by lack of staff, equipment

and a suitable sea-going vessel. Plans for such a vessel, an experimental station and the employment of skilled assistance have been drawn up and submitted to Government and will be reviewed in 1931.

Experiments are being carried out on the growth of mullet in captivity with a view to assessing their value as cultivable product, while the cultivation of carp has now reached a stage at which its adoption as an industry can be considered.

(*d*) Mining

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca.

There was no revival of mining in 1930.

The Revenue from Tin was $564 as against $708 in 1929.

IV.—Trade and Economics

Prices.—Tables of Average Prices and Declared Trade Values for 1929 were published during the year, and material for 1930, including statistics to show movements in the general cost of living, was collected.

The following remarks are a Summary of the material collected for 1930:—

(i) Average wholesale prices of principal articles quoted locally continued to show as in the previous year a general downward tendency. Exceptions were gambier, gutta percha and gum benjamin. Prices of articles regarded as Straits Produce, quoted by the London Chamber of Commerce, also showed a downward tendency, except petroleum and tapioca. The average price of rubber over the year, as compared with the average price for the previous year, decreased in London from 10.28 to 5.86 pence, in New York from 20.37 to 11.79 cents, and in Singapore from 34.45 to 19 cents per lb., representing a fall of about 43%.

(ii) Declared values in foreign trade returns also showed a downward tendency, except gambier and gutta percha. The index number of the value of 20 principal exports was 80.3 as compared with 102.5 in 1929, and of 40 principal imports was 82.4 as compared with 91 in 1929.

(1924=100), representing a fall of about 21.7% for exports and 9.5% for imports, respectively.

(iii) The average for the year of the demand rate on London was 27.75 pence, or 0.90 per cent in favour of sterling, as compared with the same figure for 1929 and 27.815 pence or 0.67 per cent in 1928.

(iv) The value in circulation of Straits Settlements Currency Notes was 84.3 million dollars on the 1st of December, 1930, as compared with 105.2 million dollars at the end of 1929.

(v) The index number of market (retail) prices declined in Singapore from 105 to 91, (or by 13.3%), in Penang from 124 to 105, (or by 15.3%) and in Malacca from 119 to 105, (or by 11.7%) as compared with 100 in 1923. The index number in the General Table of the Food Budget, based on Singapore market prices, was 126 as compared with 140 in 1929 and 100 in 1914

(vi) Municipal assessment values for 1931, indicating rent movements during 1930, showed in Singapore a decrease of 8.0 per cent, in Penang a decrease of 6.6 per cent, and in Malacca an increase of 3.2 per cent at the end of 1930 as compared with 1929. There had previously been, since 1914, a general rise in rent values, which in Malacca appears to be still maintained.

(vii) There was at the end of the year, a slight increase in the cost of cold storage supplies, a slight decrease in the cost of clothing, and a decrease in the cost of kerosene (paraffin).

General Trade.—The trade of Malaya* including bullion and specie, amounted in 1930 to $1,384 millions, as compared with $1,825 millions in 1929, a decrease of 24·2%. Of this, $1,209 millions represented the direct trade of the Straits Settlements as compared with $1,568 millions in 1929. Imports amounted to $716 millions and exports to $668 millions thus showing an unfavourable balance of $48 millions. Of this trade, $184 millions or 13% was with the United Kingdom, $240 millions or 18% with British Possessions and $960 millions or 69% with Foreign Countries. The principal trade was with the

*Excluding Labuan and Christmas Island.

United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands East Indies, Siam, India and China.

Of principal imports of merchandise, the first in value was motor spirit $103 millions, followed by rice $88 millions, rubber $42 millions, tin-ore $41 millions, cigarettes $22 millions, and cotton piece goods $21 millions. (See Table V below).

Of principal exports, the first was rubber $240 millions, followed by tin $124 millions, motor spirit $83 millions, copra $26 millions and rice $23 millions. (*See* Table VI below.)

Rubber.—The quantity of rubber imports, as declared, amounted to 135,862 tons valued at $42,038,000, as compared with 161,594 tons at $81,285,000 in 1929, the average import for the last five years being 156 thousand tons. Imports were principally from the Dutch Indies, Sarawak, Siam, Indo-China, British North Borneo and Burma.

Exports of rubber (including latex) decreased from 581 to 557 thousand tons, and in value from $435,325,000 to $241,797,000, exports being principally to the United States of America 60%, the United Kingdom 21%, the Continent of Europe 13%, Japan 5%, British Possessions 1%, and a negligible quantity to other countries. Exports of latex decreased from 1,708,529 gallons valued at $1,910,000 to 815,486 gallons valued at $861,000.

Tin.—Imports of tin-ore decreased from 48.8 to 47.2 thousand tons, and in value from $63 to $41 millions, imports being principally from the Netherlands Indies. Exports of tin decreased from 102 to 97 thousand tons, values declining from $182 to $124 millions, being principally to the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

Cotton Piece Goods.—Imports of cotton piece goods decreased from 167 to 118 million yards, and in value from $39 to $21 millions. Exports fell from 40 to 33 million yards and in value from $9,335,000 to $6,342,000.

Pineapples.—Exports of canned pineapples declined slightly from 58,692 to 57,959 tons and in value from $9,234,000 to $7,859,000.

Other Articles.—Other principal imports are indicated in Table V, of which increases in volume were shown by copra, benzine, pepper, kerosene, rice and sago. Of other principal exports, as shown in Table VI, there were increases in volume in benzine, pepper, kerosene and sago.

The following Tables show different aspects of Malayan foreign trade during the last five years:—

I. Distribution of trade between States and Settlements, 1926-1930;

II. Changes of imports and exports of merchandise in 1930, as compared with 1929;

III. Division of trade, including bullion and specie, between the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries;

IV. Values of imports and exports of merchandise between Malaya and principal countries for each year, 1926-1930;

V. Principal imports: quantities and values, 1926-1930;

VI. Principal exports: quantities and values, 1926-1930;

VII. Bullion and specie: imports and exports, 1926-1930;

VIII. Coal: imports and exports, by countries, and bunker coal shipped on steamers for use in foreign trade, 1926-1930;

IX. Cotton piece goods: imports and exports, by countries, 1926-1930;

X. Kerosene: imports and exports, by countries, 1926-1930;

XI. Liquid fuel: imports and exports, by countries, 1926-1930;

XII. Lubricating Oil: imports and exports, by countries, 1926-1930;

XIII. Motor Spirit: imports and exports, by countries, 1926-1930;

XIV. Motor Cars: imports and exports, distinguishing passenger and commercial vehicles, 1926-1930;

XV. Rice: imports and exports, by countries, 1926-1930;

XVI. Rubber: imports and exports, by countries, 1926-1930;

XVII. Tin Ore and Tin: imports of tin-ore and exports of tin, by countries, 1926-1930.

TABLE I

Distribution of the Foreign Trade of Malaya, including bullion and specie, between States and Settlements

(In millions of Dollars)

—	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	F. M. S.	U. M. S.	Total
1930—						
Imports	528−	107−	6−	72+	3−	716
Exports	406−	140+	22−	85+	15+	668
Total Trade ...	934	247	28	157	18	1,384
1929—						
Imports	655−	154+	5+	80−	3+	898
Exports	517−	202+	34+	157−	17+	927
Total Trade ...	1,171	357	40	236	21	1,825
1928—						
Imports	648−	143−	5−	81−	3−	879
Exports	518−	197+	23−	100+	11−	848
Total Trade ...	1,165	340	28	181	13	1,727
1927—						
Imports	780−	161+	4−	68−	4+	1,017
Exports	649+	220+	38−	143+	15−	1,065
Total Trade ...	1,429	382	41	211	19	2,082
1926—						
Imports	815	172	3+	56+	2+	1,049
Exports	728+	249+	60	214+	18−	1,270
Total Trade ...	1,543	421	63	271	20	2,319

Note:—The figures are those compiled by the Divisional Registries and exclude transhipment trade at the ports. Malay States produce consigned to dealers in the Colony and exported by them, appears as Colony trade. The trade of the Malay States is direct trade, either *via* Port Swettenham or *via* Shipping Agents (as distinct from dealers) at Colony ports. The trade returns of the Malay States will indicate what proportion of Colony foreign trade was in Malay States produce.

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TABLE II

CHANGES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE IN 1930, AS COMPARED WITH 1929

(In millions of Dollars)

—	Imports	Reason	Exports	Reason
	$		$	
Class I (Animals, Food, Drink and Tobacco) ...	− 56	Reduction in total values of Arecanuts, Cigarettes, Milk. Pepper, Rice and Sugar, etc.	− 30	Reduction in total values of Arecanuts, Cigarettes, Fish Dried and Salted, Pepper, Pineapples and Rice
Class II (Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) ...	− 81	Reduction in total values of Coal, Copra. Para Rubber and Tin Ore	−211	Reduction in total values of Copra, Para Rubber and Rattans
Class III (Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured)	− 38	Reduction in total values of Cotton piece goods, Machinery and Sarongs	− 26	Reduction in total values of Cotton piece goods, Sarongs and Tin
Total Merchandise	−175		−267	

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TABLE III

Division of Trade between United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries

(In millions of Dollars)

IMPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion and Specie	Grand Total
1929—						
United Kingdom ...	34	2	107	143	5	148
British Possessions and Protectorates ...	77	28	58	163	10	173
Foreign Countries ...	193	176	205	574	2	576
Total ...	304	206	370	880	17	897
1930 -						
United Kingdom ...	27	1	70	98	...	98
British Possessions and Protectorates ...	66	15	42	123	8	131
Foreign Countries ...	156	109	220	485	2	487
Total ...	249	125	332	706	10	716

EXPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion and Specie	Grand Total
1929—						
United Kingdom ...	17	87	28	132	...	132
British Possessions and Protectorates ...	35	17	52	104	1	105
Foreign Countries ...	75	399	211	685	5	690
Total ...	127	503	291	921	6	927
1930—						
United Kingdom ...	11	56	14	81	5	86
British Possessions and Protectorates ...	28	7	68	103	6	109
Foreign Countries ...	58	229	184	471	2	473
Total ...	97	292	266	655	13	668

TABLE IV

VALUES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE BETWEEN MALAYA AND PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1926—1930

(In thousands of Dollars)

—	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom	136,864	205,918	132,538	158,633	138,896	98,246	143,002	132,997	97,510	80,396
British Possessions and Protectorates	189,616	131,505	194,341	125,270	168,291	108,302	163,113	104,611	122,711	103,074
Continent of Europe	61,646	115,784	59,718	113,793	56,596	100,400	69,372	119,799	41,941	95,196
United States of America ...	34,830	597,885	31,776	466,998	27,566	353,371	31,822	393,207	23,377	226,864
Japan	34,895	38,461	30,214	36,821	20,147	32,183	23,189	36,667	24,937	40,213
Other Countries	544,867	168,958	541,716	156,354	448,333	149,067	449,727	134,511	395,120	108,860
TOTAL ...	1,002,718	1,258,511	990,303	1,057,869	859,829	841,569	880,225	921,792	705,596	654,603

TABLE V

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED 1926—1930

Articles	How Stated	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
			(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Arecanuts	Tons	40,497	9,397	32,110	5,876	45,185	6,981	47,646	8,198	42,543	6,246
Cigarettes	lbs.	12 436,126	27,102	11,383,420	26,334	11,131 284	26,636	11,368,117	27,443	8,706,291	21,933
Coal	Tons	793,111	9,542	876,248	10,971	811,929	9,766	830,483	9,614	685,435	7,039
Copra	,,	80,751	15,136	56,393	10 016	87,763	15,418	85,940	13,226	89,374	10,908
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	150,282,095	41,264	154,958,482	37,154	125,699,332	29,846	166,506,593	38,562	117,988,240	20,706
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Tons	56,449	15,671	52,573	15,421	50,995	13,966	47,104	13,174	46,341	11,752
Machinery	Value	...	19,609	...	22,900	...	27,578	...	21,559	...	13,637
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	1,271,946	15,857	1,283,771	15,141	1,368,091	15,491	1,548,726	15,896	1,315,858	12,747
Motor Spirit (Benzine) ...	Tons	273,270	75,269	269,319	65,426	290,886	55,310	280,485	53,937	546,771	103,304
Para Rubber ...	,,	151,246	170,193	182,842	171,456	149,787	88,218	161,594	81,285	135,862	42,038
Pepper	,,	14,350	12,224	11,914	15,028	12,708	16,378	13,959	18,087	14,086	8,286
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	,,	91,317	15,114	134,985	18,950	147,074	15,640	153,819	17,386	158,410	16,906
Rattans	,,	21,076	4,468	20,786	3,990	20,771	3,722	18,354	3,018	17,987	2,297
Rice	,,	755,379	98,378	839,959	104,355	803,914	95,473	785,556	95,461	800,444	87,667
Sago	,,	35,836	3,158	40,613	3,637	37,674	2,694	38,412	2,486	51,629	2,835
Sarongs	Nos.	12,324,594	17,361	10,673,439	14,148	9,617,809	12,847	10 165,086	13,219	6,101,669	7,627
Sugar	Tons	108,829	15,169	110,683	15,367	111,731	12,905	114,481	12,316	112,901	9,465
Tin Ore	,,	36,891	62,599	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814	47,167	40,745

TABLE VI

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED 1926—1930

Articles	How Stated	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
			(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Arecanuts	Tons	63,012	17.287	49,873	10,299	69,303	12,196	72,118	14,411	65,799	11,394
Benzine (Motor Spirit) ...	"	205,427	57,478	202,397	48,824	184,310	34,937	194,255	36,516	443,332	83,211
Copra	"	185,404	36,988	143,042	26 578	182,854	34,165	198,638	32,925	191,704	26,243
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	51,885,483	12,977	51,325,767	12,417	40,365,005	9,855	40,027,329	9,335	32,906,868	6,342
Cigarettes	lbs.	5,318 634	9,833	4,180,588	8,422	3,927,356	7,886	3,633,718	7,281	2,603,331	4,917
Fish, Dried and Salted ..	Tons	60,178	15,137	57,423	14,293	57,521	14,458	54,690	13,990	53,138	12,372
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	247,004	3,219	218,028	2,678	209,568	2,503	214,330	2,226	155,810	1,501
Pepper	Tons	14,454	13,292	13,515	16,762	13,506	18,413	12,877	17,656	13,714	9,012
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	"	61,076	9,202	92,005	12,481	111,243	11,974	99,716	10,465	118,868	12,759
Para Rubber ...	"	391,337	711,302	37[illegible],307	519,465	408,693	329,790	577,202	432,644	554,394	240,225
Preserved Pineapples ...	"	40,634	7,670	40,134	8,297	46,400	8,421	58,692	9,234	57,959	7,859
Rubber Latex ..	Gallons	2,087,845	6,650	1,560,976	3,523	919,909	1,297	1,708,529	1,910	815,486	861
Rice	Tons	277,147	36,150	290,717	35,521	276,581	32,304	230,317	27,550	206,597	23,112
Rattans	"	16,714	4,729	15,959	4,321	16,432	4,335	15,227	3,820	12,684	2,714
Sago	"	41,680	4,497	44,278	4,663	44,201	3,991	46,758	3,742	55,031	3,943
Sarongs	Nos.	5,482,881	7,717	6,059,440	7,747	5,190,201	6.549	4,424,234	5,690	2,871,133	3,534
Sugar	Tons	19,515	2,868	17,322	2,417	19,529	2.421	13,868	1,545	12,506	1,132
Tin	"	76,334	185,526	83,773	206,571	99,052	191,279	102,024	182,129	97,214	123,772

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TABLE VII

Imports and Exports of Bullion and Specie for the years 1926—1930

(In thousands of Dollars)

Description	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Gold Bullion	21,766	4,672	11,195	3,542	6,643	4,275	7,719	3,391	3,695	10,837
„ Specie	21,746	3,377	15,413	2,480	8,736	1,979	8,793	1,760	4,053	1,566
Silver Bullion	731	461	504	316	613	494	714	441	1,126	543
„ Specie	1,969	2,337	119	429	2,869	214	157	96	959	604
Copper coin	50	31	20	197	2	...	12	1	8	3
Nickel coin	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Total ...	46,262	10,878	27,251	6,964	18,863	6,962	17,397	5,689	9,841	13,553

TABLE VIII

Imports of Coal, in thousands of tons, for the years 1926—1930, distinguishing sources of supply

Country from which imported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
United Kingdom ...	12	60	56	92	43
Australia and New Zealand	15	28	19	7	11
British India and Burma ...	112	139	76	70	32
Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei	...	...	...	...	...
Union of South Africa ...	163	182	235	183	162
Japan	237	200	147	226	204
French Indo-China ...	3	1	5	2	25
China	13	9	17	4	8
Dutch Borneo	126	174	168	155	113
Sumatra	61	48	53	90	87
Other Places	51	35	35	1	1
Total (thousands of Tons)	793	876	811	830	686

Bunker Coal shipped on board for the use of steamers engaged in the Foreign Trade—

	Tons	$
1926	559,728	8,330,368
1927	529,997	8,235,833
1928	571,433	8,840,372
1929	563,066	8,645,011
1930	436,958	6,325,493

Exports of Coal for the years 1926—1930

—	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
Total Number of Tons	15,318	4,728	2,540	2,148	5,474
Value in $ ..	218,261	58,848	32,078	27,267	66,769

TABLE IX

Imports of Cotton Piece Goods during the years 1926—1930

Country from which imported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
United Kingdom ...	80,618,127	80,881,885	65,867,796	86,012,340	32,097,685
British India and Burma	3,945,307	4,174,341	3,400,374	4,102,648	2,365,156
Hong Kong ...	2,894,982	6,173,836	6,661,461	6,619,096	4,827,256
Italy ...	6,576,339	5,286,813	4,398,404	6,495,401	2,248,434
Netherlands ...	3,648,315	3,855,791	3,483,050	4,761,259	3,378,595
Switzerland ...	...	443,791	1,512,795	1,685,982	380,208
United States of America	649,216	1,021 143	1,147,393	1,630,998	1,362,539
China ...	17,205,632	14,167,044	13,877,478	18,128,000	13,997,488
Japan ...	31,297,040	35,607,466	23,098,804	34,722,075	56,337,403
Other Countries ...	3,436,982	3,346,370	2,251,777	2,348,794	993,476
Total Yards ...	150,271,940	154,958,480	125,699,332	166,506,593	117,988,240
Value $ ...	41,259,231	37,154,034	29,846,460	38,561,671	20,705,813

Exports of Cotton Piece Goods during the years 1926—1930

Country to which exported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
British North Borneo ...	2,461,049	2,488,169	2,421,832	2,493,198	1,655,369
Sarawak ...	2,490,112	2,741,970	2,382,731	2,718,731	1,720,466
Other British Possessions	1,308,851	712,177	930,290	925,867	889,779
Netherlands East Indies	18,690,615	27,352,341	22,585,337	24,805,350	22,742,435
Siam ...	15,800,145	17,000,454	11,185,029	8,326,475	4,939,882
Other Foreign Countries	11,134,711	1,030,656	859,786	757,708	958,937
Total Yards ...	51,885,483	51,325,767	40,365,005	40,027,329	32,906,868
Value $ ...	12,977,459	12,417,371	9,854,861	9,335,448	6,342,458

TABLE X

IMPORTS OF KEROSENE, DISTINGUISHING SOURCES OF SUPPLY, DURING THE YEARS 1926—1930

Country from which imported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Dutch Borneo ...	7,019	29,236	22,218	26,095	30,373
Sumatra ...	36,311	45,758	63,878	65,018	77,325
United States of America ...	12,786	10,136	12,950	16,137	662
Sarawak ...	34,752	49,733	40,797	42,525	42,840
Other Countries ...	449	121	7,231	4,044	7,210
Total Tons ...	91,317	134,984	147,074	153,819	158,410
Value $	15,114,252	18,949,734	15,639,681	17,386,348	16,905,809

EXPORTS OF KEROSENE DURING THE YEARS 1926—1930

Country to which exported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British North Borneo ...	931	1,001	911	1,135	634
Sarawak	3,037	5,034	2,663	3,133	2,390
British India and Burma	1,902	6,792	7,104	10,313	2,357
Ceylon	940	2,456	774	5,949	9,876
Hongkong	585	1,063	3,601	2,013	3,207
Australia	22,022	34,264	43,248	34,911	41,863
New Zealand ...	3,200	1,942	2,101	3,818	2,740
Union of South Africa	95	516	3,063	3,310	2,169
Other British Possessions	4,135	4,026	3,985	5,989	8,031
China	717	2,921	13,881	...	5,421
French Indo-China ...	5,246	6,206	8,658	4,573	2,931
Japan	2,491	3,356	1,430	2,252	7,514
Netherlands East Indies	3,158	6,540	3,885	4,844	6,982
Siam	11,898	15,176	15,107	16,645	21,017
Other Foreign Countries	719	712	832	831	1,736
Total Tons ...	61,076	92,005	111,243	99,716	118,868
Value $ ...	9,201,685	12,481,125	11,974,440	10,464,876	12,759,094

TABLE XI

Imports of Liquid Fuel distinguishing sources of supply during the years 1926—1930

Country from which imported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak ...	83,095	44,320	4,727	29,493	38,766
United States of America ...	...	32,582	7,340	17	...
Egypt ...	...	...	...	4,189	...
Dutch Borneo ...	172,651	280,775	379,601	368,829	365,998
Sumatra ...	60,871	98,603	114,134	133,952	228,974
Other Countries ...	29,966	18,741	19,056	10,079	5
Total Tons ...	346,583	475,021	524,858	546,559	633,743
Value $	13,055,816	18,983,567	21,045,744	22,220,705	25,616,181

Exports of Liquid Fuel during the years 1926—1930

Country to which exported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India and Burma	157	6,653	3,979	4,028	4,051
Ceylon ...	...	...	14	4,593	13
Australia ...	1,061	473	647	1,492	1,465
Other British Possessions	913	6,099	1,216	1,289	18,812
Egypt ...	27,404	14,064	16,539	22,868	14,745
China ...	...	134	57	2,208	3,721
French Indo-China	3,084	3,183	5,959	6,985	7,544
Netherlands East Indies	5,832	13,179	15,383	13,997	19,660
Siam ...	7,389	11,518	18,162	26,632	26,528
Other Foreign Countries	93	70	353	1,201	994
Total Tons ...	45,933	55,373	62,309	85,293	97,533
Value $	1,855,060	2,287,277	2,682,191	3,639,186	3,979,759

TABLE XII

IMPORTS OF LUBRICATING OIL DISTINGUISHING SOURCES OF SUPPLY, DURING THE YEARS, 1926—1930

Country from which imported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
United Kingdom ...	143,022	250,833	290,485	395,894	271,446
British India and Burma	44,497	99,832	66,454	66,636	54,427
Hong Kong ...	12,351	37,160	20,707	17,246	2,256
United States of America ...	1,574,351	1,590,329	2,022,626	2,437,355	1,546,867
Netherlands India :—					
Dutch Borneo ...	3,654,006	3,449,232	2,916,084	2,722,958	1,224,241
Java ...	443,365	70,821	87,045	2,019	5,448
Sumatra ...	232,752	388,420	246,853	409,171	931,568
Other Countries ...	11,682	39,063	32,904	39,631	47,381
Total Gallons ...	6,116,026	5,925,690	5,683,158	6,090,910	4,083,634
Value $	4,931,787	5,147,210	4,528,238	5,182,673	3,711,114

EXPORTS OF LUBRICATING OIL DURING THE YEARS 1926—1930

Country to which exported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
British North Borneo ...	12,538	16,954	18,994	20,369	18,777
Sarawak	113,904	135,836	99,507	105,381	77,432
British India & Burma	346,159	208,026	75,275	24,000	18,806
Ceylon	46,414	39,666	48,069	34,705	10,954
Australia	47,450	63,644	33,788	25,632	13,674
Hongkong ...	10,398	9,335	14,247	8,706	8,371
Mauritius	...	2,352	22,322	4,700	16,316
Union of South Africa	102,722	63,640	51,464	45,411	33,994
Other British Possessions	10,810	9,440	17,246	26,110	16,758
China	148,813	79,510	36,548	79,024	26,134
French Indo-China ...	479,632	109,937	139,598	146,330	6,596
Netherlands East Indies	708,354	964,800	490,712	390,011	282,235
Philippines and Sulu ...	27,228	4,561	12,921	5,062	7,873
Siam	348,762	415,853	467,053	518,075	358,361
Other Foreign Countries	43,993	1,190	25,848	30,614	44,931
Total Gallons ...	2,447,177	2,124,744	1,553,592	1,467,130	941,212
Value $ ...	1,748,430	1,632,387	1,200,397	1,187,159	795,136

TABLE XIII

Imports of Motor Spirit, distinguishing sources of supply, during the years 1926—1930

Country from which imported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak ...	44,006	47,542	83,146	57,560	38,338
United States of America ...	2,576	5,217	542	407	6,464
Dutch Borneo ...	59,921	57,944	30,083	36,612	65,229
Java ...	...	...	8,208	5,655	4,515
Sumatra ..	166,635	158,477	168,905	179,737	430,803
Other Countries ...	132	139	2	514	1,422
Total Tons ...	273,270	269,319	290,886	280,485	546,771
Value $	75,268,955	65,426,497	55,310,235	53,936,681	103,304,145

Exports of Motor Spirit during the years 1926—1930

Country to which exported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Ceylon ...	2	3,507	4,312	4,577	18,586
Australia ...	79,250	88,275	82,001	74,839	82,489
New Zealand ...	8,886	17,996	5,697	6,751	3,562
Union of South Africa ...	3,853	9,155	17,393	20,797	58,192
Other British Possessions	53,342	40,135	39,447	30,368	77,705
France ...	...	...	...	4,165	8,031
Italy ...	...	...	...	6,849	33,833
Netherlands ...	...	..	...	...	5,164
French Indo-China ...	10,300	8,198	8,951	1,343	...
Egypt ...	7,025	...	...	11,421	11,567
China ...	...	...	...	1,370	9,645
Japan ...	2,873	44	6,501	17,534	104,290
Argentine Republic ...	...	...	...	7,840	...
Netherlands East Indies	35,085	28,559	14,313	2,867	18,357
Siam ...	3,594	6,507	5,695	2,999	7,848
Other Foreign Countries	1,217	21	...	535	4,063
Total Tons ...	205,427	202,397	184,310	194,255	443,332
Value $	57,478,480	48,824,016	34,936,867	36,516,372	83,210,520

TABLE XIV

Imports and Exports of Motor Cars during the years 1926—1930

—	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial
Imports ...	9,139	2,126	6,196	1,857	4,291	1,438	5,751	1,658	3,540	1,187
Exports ...	743	83	572	117	568	98	453	79	505	211
Consumption ...	8,396	2,043	5,624	1,740	3,723	1,340	5,298	1,579	3,035	976

TABLE XV

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RICE DURING THE YEARS 1926—1930

A. IMPORTS

Country from which imported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India & Burma	258,952	218,362	209,047	266,799	342,820
French Indo-China ...	69,772	69,506	78,400	103,603	81,776
Siam	422,651	549,866	513,718	414,193	374,491
Other Countries ...	4,004	2,225	2,149	961	1,357
Total Tons ...	755,379	839,959	803,914	785,556	800,444
Value $ ...	98,378,188	104,354,775	95,472,838	95,461,036	87,666,723

B. EXPORTS

Country to which exported	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British North Borneo	10,259	12,047	12,232	9,810	7,186
Sarawak ...	14,855	19,972	18,692	15,174	18,638
British India & Burma	205	17,106	13,960	696	505
Ceylon ...	21,563	37,631	16,250	4,413	1,080
Other British Possessions ...	972	1,021	1,341	5,707	4,458
Netherlands East Indies	222,019	198,746	211,519	191,887	172,337
Other Foreign Countries	7,274	4,194	2,587	2,630	2,393
Total Tons ...	277,147	290,717	276,581	230,317	206,597
Value $ ...	36,150,196	35,520,679	32,304,089	27,549,607	23,112,176

TABLE XVI

Imports of Para Rubber in the years 1926—1930

—	1926		1927		1928		929		1930	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
British North Borneo and Sarawak	11,462	18,496	13,869	18,373	12,995	10,133	14,098	9,876	13,045	5,197
Burma	1,717	2,802	2,625	3,505	2,053	1,816	2,543	1,821	2,193	1,007
Netherlands Indies	132,986	141,587	157,837	139,286	126,403	69,941	131,732	62,895	108,830	31,470
French Indo-China ...	449	699	2,249	3,204	2,893	2,574	4,393	3,225	5,361	2,162
Siam	4,028	5,654	5,471	6,026	4,818	3,269	5,024	2,916	5,461	1,819
Other Countries	604	955	791	1,062	625	485	804	552	972	383
Total ...	151,246	170,193	182,842	171,456	149,787	88,218	161,594	81,285	135,862	42,038

Exports of Para Rubber and Latex in the years 1926—1930

—	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
United Kingdom	83,994	155,483	76,399	111,234	60,996	50,311	106,234	82,197	118,178	52,044
United States of America ...	254,346	461,945	241,351	333,456	284,199	229,721	367,771	271,947	331,317	144,607
Continent of Europe	27,537	49,033	26,375	36,813	29,380	22,740	60,549	46,111	69,835	29,751
British Possessions	7,942	15,382	7,389	10,616	7,259	5,882	11,525	8,986	5,534	2,337
Japan	17,325	29,167	19,622	27,043	26,380	20,623	29,934	22,411	28,029	10,815
Other Countries	143	292	171	303	479	512	1,189	992	1,501	671
Total ...	391,337	711,302	371,307	519,465	408,693	329,789	577,202	432,644	554,394	240,225
Latex (including Concentrated Latex and Revertex)	3,262	6,650	2,629	3,807	2,245	1,973	3,574	2,681	2,928	1,572
Total ...	394,599	717,952	373,936	523,272	410,938	331,762	580,776	435,325	557,322	241,797

TABLE XVII

Imports of Tin-ore and Exports of Tin, 1926—1930

IMPORTS OF TIN-ORE

—	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
Burma	1,802	2,967	2,226	3,614	2,307	3,033	2,321	2,806	1,974	1,641
Union of South Africa ...	1,537	2,419	1,808	2,911	1,859	2,225	1,651	1,777	1,032	767
Netherlands Indies	23,429	40,885	27,157	48,684	28,798	46,652	29,963	40,191	26,943	24,060
Siam	9,706	15,763	10,335	17,131	10,465	14,099	13,807	17,078	15,628	13,401
Other Countries	417	565	728	1,022	980	941	1,043	962	1,590	876
Total ...	36,891	62,599	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814	47,167	40,745

EXPORTS OF TIN

—	1926		1927		1928		1929		1930	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
United Kingdom	11,101	26,785	9,453	22,986	12,908	24,843	15,392	27,159	9,398	12,768
United States of America .	44,513	108,013	46,370	114,812	56,984	109,929	57,695	103,456	57,894	72,526
Continent of Europe	14,189	34,789	19,771	48,498	19,769	38,360	20,622	36,679	22,361	28,875
British Possessions	3,819	9,337	4,968	12,347	5,311	10 297	4,998	8,937	4,929	6,198
Japan	1,613	3,910	1,922	4,744	2,401	4,617	2,045	3,631	1,552	1,939
Other Countries	1,099	2 692	1,289	3,184	1,679	3,233	1,272	2,267	1,080	1,466
Total ...	76,334	185,526	83,773	206,571	99,052	191,279	102,024	182,129	97,214	123,772

Migration.—Statistics of direct foreign migration at Straits Settlements ports show an excess of departures of 14,510, as compared with an excess of arrivals of 130,121 in 1929, the excesses of arrivals of Europeans, Eurasians, Japanese, Chinese and Malays being off set by heavy departures of Southern Indians due principally to the reduction of labour forces on rubber estates. Net arrivals of Chinese were 28,586 as compared with 109,801 in 1929. The immigration of Chinese labourers was by proclamation dated 31st July and subsequent proclamation restricted with effect from 1st August to one third of the rate shown by the total arrivals of adult male Chinese immigrants in the quarter ending 14th July.

The following Tables show particulars of migration:—

Table XVIII: Movements by Sea.

Table XIX: Movements by Air.

Migration by air, which commenced by the Royal Dutch Air Mail Service in February, 1930, between Singapore and Batavia, shows an excess of departures of 39 persons.

TABLE

MALAYA MIGRATION STATISTICS.—ARRIVALS (DISEMBARKATIONS) AND
PORTS, FOR THE YEAR, 1930,

ARRIVALS

—	N. E. I. Ports				China Ports			
	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
Europeans	5,188	2,229	665	8,082	1,376	415	53	1,844
Eurasians	95	36	22	153	12	5	2	19
Japanese	950	160	98	1,208	63	24	5	92
Chinese	75,329	9,763	6,574	91,666	150,665	42,968	38,369	232,002
Malays	35,513	11,185	6,755	53,453	43	2	1	46
Northern Indians	2,774	86	103	2,963	419	7	12	438
Southern Indians	2,810	127	110	3,047	23	1	...	24
Other Nationalities	573	76	62	711	24	6	4	34
TOTALS ...	123,232	23,662	14,389	161,283	152,625	43,428	38,446	234,499

DEPARTURES

—	N. E. I. Ports				China Ports			
	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
Europeans	4,857	2,237	582	7,676	1,505	471	70	2,046
Eurasians	106	35	20	161	6	1	...	7
Japanese	833	147	66	1,046	73	25	14	112
Chinese	76,083	10,151	6,541	92,775	161,555	25,360	15,925	202,840
Malays	38,365	10,036	6,233	54,634	4	1	...	5
Northern Indians	2,950	197	150	3,297	442	12	14	468
Southern Indians	2,503	99	88	2,690	49	...	...	49
Other Nationalities ...	1,583	148	131	1,862	14	2	4	20
TOTALS ...	127,280	23,050	13,811	164,141	163,648	25,872	16,027	205,547

EXCESS OR

—	N. E. I. Ports				China Ports			
	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
Europeans	331	− 8	83	406	− 129	− 56	− 17	− 202
Eurasians	− 11	1	2	− 8	6	4	2	12
Japanese	117	13	32	162	− 10	− 1	− 9	− 20
Chinese	− 754	− 388	33	− 1,109	− 10,890	17,608	22,444	29,162
Malays	− 2,852	1,149	522	− 1,181	39	1	1	41
Northern Indians	− 176	− 111	− 47	− 334	− 23	− 5	− 2	− 30
Southern Indians	307	28	22	357	− 26	1	...	− 25
Other Nationalities ...	− 1,010	− 72	− 69	− 1,151	10	4	...	14
TOTALS ...	− 4,048	612	578	− 2,858	− 11,023	17,556	22,419	28,952

NOTES:—1. Children are under 12 (English)
2. Malays include all natives of the
3. Southern Indians are natives of the
4. Ind an Ports include Burma and
5. China Ports include Hongkong.
6. Excess of Foreign Arrivals 1929:
7. Europeans include Americans.

XVIII

DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, FROM AND TO FOREIGN AT STRAITS SETTLEMENTS PORTS.

FROM

Indian Ports				Miscellaneous Ports				Total Foreign Ports			
M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
1,261	596	119	1,976	6,762	3,916	1,024	11,702	14,587	7,156	1,861	23,604
35	27	20	82	75	53	57	185	217	121	101	439
96	9	5	110	1,358	384	153	1,895	2,467	577	261	3,305
1,235	236	214	1,685	13,827	2,516	1,806	18,149	241,056	55,483	46,963	343,502
249	36	33	318	6,009	2,428	1,513	9,950	41,814	13,651	8,302	63,767
13,468	1,247	1,140	15,855	1,099	45	52	1,196	17,760	1,385	1,307	20,452
32,483	5,668	5,994	44,145	1,808	81	100	1,989	37,124	5,877	6,204	49,205
402	104	65	571	1,285	547	286	2,118	2,284	733	417	3,434
49,229	7,923	7,590	64,742	32,223	9,970	4,991	47,184	357,309	84,983	65,416	507,708

TO

Indian Ports				Miscellaneous Ports				Total Foreign Ports			
M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
1,271	813	91	2,175	6,309	3,116	1,099	10,524	13,942	6,637	1,842	22,421
36	40	21	97	48	31	31	110	196	107	72	375
95	15	6	116	1,038	320	190	1,548	2,039	507	276	2,822
3,326	433	249	4,008	11,519	2,418	1,356	15,293	252,483	38,362	24,071	314,916
246	8	...	254	4,304	1,818	994	7,116	42,919	11,863	7,227	62,009
8,942	776	326	10,044	985	40	30	1,055	13,319	1,025	520	14,864
75,603	9,607	11,490	96,700	853	103	57	1,013	79,008	9,809	11,635	100,452
464	116	53	633	1,062	511	271	1,844	3,123	777	459	4,359
89,983	11,808	12,236	114,027	26,118	8,357	4,028	38,503	407,029	69,087	46,102	522,218

DEFICIT ARRIVALS

Indian Ports				Miscellaneous Ports				Total Foreign Ports			
M.	F	C	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
− 10	− 217	28	− 199	453	800	− 75	1,178	645	519	19	1,183
− 1	− 13	− 1	− 15	27	22	26	75	21	14	29	64
1	− 6	− 1	− 6	320	64	− 37	347	428	70	− 15	483
−2,091	− 197	− 35	−2,323	2,308	98	450	2,856	− 11,427	17,121	22,892	28,586
3	28	33	64	1,705	610	519	2,834	−1,105	1,788	1,075	1,758
4,526	471	814	5,811	114	5	22	141	4,441	360	787	5,588
−43,120	−3,939	−5,496	−52,555	955	− 22	43	976	− 41,884	−3,932	−5,431	−51,247
− 62	− 12	12	− 62	223	36	15	274	− 839	− 44	− 42	− 925
−40,754	−3,885	−4,646	−49,285	6,105	1,613	963	8,681	−49,720	15,896	19,314	−14,510

years of age.
Malayan Archipelago.
Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore.
Ceylon.

TABLE XIX

MALAYA MIGRATION STATISTICS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY AIR, FROM AND TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, DURING THE YEAR 1930.

Nationality	From N. E. I.				To N. E. I				Net Arrivals (+) and Departures (−)			
	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total	M.	F.	C.	Total
Europeans	112	15	...	127	139	15	...	154	— 27	...	...	— 27
Japanese	6	...	...	6	4	...	...	4	2	..	...	2
Chinese	6	1	...	7	18	2	...	20	— 12	— 1		— 13
Other Nationalities	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	— 1	...	...	— 1
TOTAL ...	125	16	...	141	163	17	...	180	— 38	— 1	...	— 39

Notes:—1. Passengers by the Royal Dutch Air Mail Service, Batavia-Palembang-Singapore, commencing 10th February, 1930.
2. Europeans include Americans.

V.—Communications

(*a*) Shipping

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 46,588,856 as compared with 45,435,395 in 1929. *See* Table on page 56.

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels of over 50 tons net register have been as follows:—

1926	...	...	...	38,028,630 tons.
1927	...	...	...	39,693,766 ,,
1928	...	...	...	42,987,154 ,,
1929	...	...	...	45,435,395 ,,
1930	...	...	...	46,588,856 ,,

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures in 1930 were 53,608 in number and 1,942,704 in tons as compared with 66,242 and 2,321,889, respectively, in 1929.

One new steam-vessel and six motor-vessels, with a tonnage of 219 tons gross, and twenty-three sailing-vessels (1,957 tons) were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 6 new sailing-vessels (632 tons) were licensed under section 424, and 527 vessels (5,920 tons) under sections 425 and 426.

(*b*) Harbour Boards

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the last two years have been as follows:—

	Income	*Expenditure*
	$	$
Year ended 30th June, 1929 ...	11,902,138	8,758,414
Year ended 30th June, 1930 ...	10,731,423	8,081,476

The capital debt due to the Government amounted to $52,594,899 at June 30th, 1930, in respect of which sum the Board pays interest half yearly, at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on $50,023,471 and on the balance of $2,571,428 at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In addition to this working capital the Board has expended on new works and other services of a permanent nature a sum of $7,895,925 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year end d 30th June, 1930, were $2,296,384 and the expenditure was $1,839,093.

The capital debt due to the Government stood on 30th June, 1930, at $4,940,464.

Statement showing total tonnage (Arrivals and Departures) of Merchant Vessels of over 50 Tons Net Register for the Years 1929 and 1930

Nationality	1929					1930					Increase in 1930 as compared with 1929	Decrease in 1930 as compared with 1929
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christmas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)		
British ...	12,552,012	8,181,147	435,506	237,038	21,405,703	12,303,400	8,350,619	591,160	239,580	21,484,759	79,056	...
American ...	678,520	476,665	812	...	1,155,997	806,406	462,241	...	...	1,268,647	112,650	...
Belgian ...	35,754	...	...	...	35,754	67,502	...	...	...	67,502	31,748	...
British North Borneo ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,750	4,750	4,750	...
Brunei ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	700	700	700	...
Chinese ...	40,030	...	...	...	40,030	56,822	...	...	...	56,822	16,792	...
Danish ...	580,858	307,529	130,864	...	1,019,251	677,298	469,484	49,370	...	1,196,152	176,901	...
Danzig ...	...	...	...	...	...	21,784	...	...	...	21,784	21,784	...
Dutch ...	7,054,726	1,797,757	594	2,004	8,855,081	7,306,623	1,452,711	72,310	1,468	8,833,112	...	21,969
Finnish ...	...	..	...	...	...	5,466	...	...	...	5,466	5,466	...
French ...	1,874,295	...	...	.	1,874,295	1,885,711	...	...	...	1,885,711	11,416	...
German ...	1,699,029	847,714	17,906	...	2,564,649	1,802,965	881,612	237,008	...	2,921,585	356,936	...
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	...	6,792	...	...	...	6,792	6,792	...
Italian ...	596,149	337,054	...	..	933,203	519,561	265,766	...	...	785,327	...	147,876
Japanese ...	4,118,176	953,116	.	125,870	5,197,162	4,125,389	1,152,384	61,258	...	5,342,031	144,869	.
Norwegian ...	1,268,120	189,086	79,238	...	1,536,444	1,618,701	252,649	78,024	...	1,949,374	412,930	...
Portuguese ...	...	...	1,026	...	1,026	...	...	...	...	...	.	1,026
Russian ...	14,528	...	...	...	14,528	39,534	...	...	...	39,534	25,006	...
Sarawak ...	167,987	...	...	1,888	169,875	142,205	...	...	...	142,205	...	27,670
Siamese ...	189,118	...	9,838	..	198,956	186,851	...	13,016	...	199,867	911	...
Spanish ...	30,504	...	...	...	30,504	11,996	...	...	...	11,996	...	18,508
Swedish ...	262,273	140,664	...	...	402,937	244,096	120,644	...	...	364,740	...	38,197
Totals ...	31,162,079	13,230,732	675,784	366,800	45,435,395	31,829,102	13,408,110	1,105,146	246,498	46,588,856	1,409,707	255,246

* Figures for Christmas Island are not available.

Net Increase ... 1,153,461

(c) Railways

A railway, the property of the Federated Malay States Government, traverses the island of Singapore and connects, by a causeway across the Johore Straits, which was opened for traffic in October, 1923, with the peninsular system, thus affording rail communication with Johore, the Federated Malay States, Malacca, Province Wellesley, Penang, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Siam.

(d) Roads

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) measure 680.84 miles, distributed as follows:—

	1929	*1930*
Singapore	102.76	105.92
Penang and the Dindings ...	100.34	101.56
Province Wellesley ...	178.25	178.87
Malacca	198.66	276.75*
Labuan	15.91	17.74

Of these 680.84 miles of metalled road 500.90 miles are now treated with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads 147.37 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path are maintained in the various Settlements.

The re-surfacing of all metalled roads with granite was continued. a further 4.72 miles in Singapore, 7.07 miles in Penang and the Dindings, 18.70 miles in Province Wellesley and 14.75 miles in Malacca being carried out in 1930.

(e) Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones

The Postal rates were as follows:—

—	Letters		Postcards		Printed Papers
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	Every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 "	6 "	4 "	8 "	2 "
Local ...	4 cts. per 2 ozs.	2 cts. per 2 ozs.	2 "	4 "	2 "

* The increase of 78.09 miles is due to the addition of laterite road which was not included in the 1929 figures. The 276.75 miles do not include 1.25 miles of Ujong Pasir Road which have been handed over to the Municipality.

The volume of work dealt with by the Post Office during the year 1930 generally showed a decline as compared with that of the previous year.

The number of Postal Articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony during 1930 was 22,072,144 a decrease of 17 per cent as compared with the figure for 1929. The number received for delivery was 20,316,610 a decrease of ·5 per cent as compared with 1929.

The number of messages forwarded over the Government Telegraph lines during the year 1930 was 542,808 and the number of messages received was 444,651. These totals represent decreases of 8 per cent and 11 per cent respectively on the corresponding figures for the previous year. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone system in the Colony in 1930 was 1,928 as compared with 2,003 for 1929.

The estimated amount standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1930 was $4,544,683.08 an increase of 5·5 per cent over the amount to credit at the end of 1929. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was $181.32. The estimated present value of Investments on the 31st December, 1930 was $4,392,332.37.

In addition to the General Post Offices at Singapore, Penang, Malacca and the Post Office, Labuan, there were on the 31st December, 1930, 50 Sub-Post Offices in the Colony including Railway Post Offices and other Postal Agencies, of which 37 were Telegraph Offices and 13 were Postal Agencies.

The operations of the Money Order Branch in 1930 amounted to $7,895,246.28 the principal business being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherland East Indies, Ceylon, China and the United States of America.

Eleven submarine cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	5,	thence to	Madras	2
		,, ,,	Colombo	2
		,, ,,	Deli	1
,, Batavia	2,	,, ,,	Cocos	1
,, Banjoewangi	1,	,, ,,	Port Darwin	2
,, Hongkong	1,	,, ,,	Manila	1
		,, ,,	North China	1
		,, ,,	Macao	1
,, Cochin China	1,	,, ,,	Hongkong	1
,, Labuan	1,	,, ,,	Hongkong	1

There are also Government Telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. In Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings there are 323¾ miles of Telegraph wire, 20 miles of Submarine cable containing 148½ miles of wire, 2,747½ miles of overhead telephone wire, 34 miles of underground telephone cables containing 6,261½ miles of wire.

In Singapore the wire mileage between the General Post Office and Woodlands (distance 17 miles) is 82 miles.

There are 199¼ miles of Telegraph Line and 2,020¾ miles of Telephone line in Malacca.

The telephone exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company; the Exchanges at Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca by the Post Office.

(*f*) Wireless Telegraphy

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony, situated respectively at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Penang). The machinery and apparatus at both stations were maintained in good working order throughout the year and point-to-point and shore-to-ship communication was carried on without interruption. The station at Paya Lebar carries out point-to-point communication with Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island, in addition to a shore-to-ship service. The station at Penaga communicates with ship stations and receives the British Official Wireless Press transmitted by Rugby. Point-to-point communication is established between Penaga and Bangkok and telegraph business between Malaya and Siam can be conducted by this means when there is a failure of the telegraph line between Penang and Bangkok.

There was a considerable and increasing volume of wireless communication with aircraft in the course of the year.

Plans and estimates for the complete re-organisation of the Paya Lebar Station were drawn up early in the year, but on account of negotiations with the Imperial Communications Merger Company the proposed re-organisation scheme is held in abeyance.

Communication by Sea

Over 50 lines of seagoing steamers touch at Singapore. The following table shows the main lines of communication:—

Line	Service
Europe.	
1. Holt (Blue Funnel) ...	Weekly.
2. British India Steam Navigation Co.	Fortnightly *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards.
British India Steam Navigation Co.	Fortnightly *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards.
3. Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. ...	Fortnightly.
4. Messageries Maritimes ...	Fortnightly.
5. Rotterdam Lloyd	Fortnightly.
6. Stoomvaart Maatschappij "Nederland"	Fortnightly.
7. Chargeurs Reunis, Glen and Shire. Japanese and other lines	Frequently.
China and Japan.	
1. P. &. O. Steam Navigation Co. and Messageries Maritimes	Fortnightly.
2. By other lines	Frequently.
Cochin China.	
1. Messageries Maritimes and the Societa des Affreteurs Indo Chinois	Fortnightly.
2. Chargeurs Reunis Steam Navigation Co.	Monthly.
3. By other lines	Occasionally.
Manila.	
1. Compania Trasatlantica Spanish Royal Mail Line. Stoomvaart Maatschappij "Nederland" and Rotterdam Lloyd (J. P. L.) Holt ...	Frequently.
2. British Packets, Hamburg Amerika Line and Norddeutscher Lloyd	Occasionally.
Bangkok.	
1. Straits Steamship Co. ...	Weekly.
2. British India	Weekly.
3. By other lines	Frequently.
Batavia and other Nederland East India Ports.	
1. Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij, Netherlands and Rotterdam Lloyd Co. ...	Frequently.
2. By other vessels chartered by Chinese Agents ...	Frequently.

LINE	SERVICE
AUSTRALIA.	
1. British India, Burns Philp and Co., Ocean Steamship Co., West Australia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij and other Lines ...	Frequently.
2. Orient Packets	Occasionally (*viâ* Colombo).
MADRAS.	
1. British India Steam Navigation Co.	Fortnightly.
OTHER PORTS ON THE COROMANDEL COAST.	
1. British India Steam Navigation Co.	Fortnightly.
2. Messageries Maritimes ...	Monthly.
RANGOON AND CALCUTTA.	
1. Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., British India, Apcar and other steamers ...	Weekly.
SOUTH AFRICA.	
1. Osaka Shosen Kaisha and Nippon Yusen Kaisha ...	Fortnightly (*viâ* Colombo) thence by first available steamer.
2.—(*a*) in the absence of direct sailings P. &. O. week ...	Fortnightly (*viâ* Colombo) thence by first available steamer.
(*b*) in the absence of direct sailings on British India week	*Viâ* Bombay.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.	
1. British India Steam Navigation and P. &. O. Steam Navigation Co.	Weekly *viâ* Suez.
2. By other vessels	Frequently *viâ* Hongkong.

In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons

Crime Statistics.

Seizable offences reported during 1930 numbered 7587, representing an increase of 646 over the corresponding figure for 1929.

Singapore is mainly responsible for the higher figures although the increase in the number of admitted reports recorded in Province Wellesley is proportionately still higher. The return for Malacca remains practically stationary and in Penang Island there was a slight decrease.

Compared with 1929 there was a considerable increase in the number of crimes of violence classified as murder, attempted murder and robbery. Cases of causing hurt with dangerous weapons decreased slightly.

House-breakings accompanied by theft were considerably more than in 1929 and there was also an increase in the number of reports of simple theft. This is to be expected, as long periods of severe economic depression frequently lead to an increase in the number of offences committed under these headings.

Although the incidence of serious crime cannot be said to be so satisfactory as at the close of 1929, it is gratifying to note that the Police obtained a relatively greater measure of success in dealing with it than in the previous year.

The number of reports of non-seizable offences again shewed a large increase, the figure being 99,121 or 9,371 in excess of the number for 1929. The number of prosecutions by the Police for non-seizable offences was 65,952, an increase of 4,999.

Chinese Secret Societies.

The year 1930 was an extremely satisfactory one and it may safely be asserted that the situation has never been better during recent years. The intelligence service respecting societies continued to improve.

In Singapore, Hokkien societies have been inactive and have not seriously menaced the good order of the Settlement. Very few serious crimes can be attributed to their intrigues. The older organisations appear to be steadily declining in importance and influence. Smaller and more active groups have been responsible for a certain amount

of extortion and minor robbery but counter measures have been successful and many of the leaders have been accounted for.

There were occasional indications that serious trouble was pending among Teo Chiu societies, but steps were taken to render their plans abortive and there has been no prolonged recurrence of lawless acts. There have not been any important changes in the various societies and their branches.

The greatest measure of success has probably been achieved in repressive action against Cantonese societies. These societies have now definitely degenerated into criminal organisations or gangs. One group committed a number of armed robberies in the first quarter of the year, but from March onwards there was no repetition of these crimes.

Action against brothels following on the recent amendment of the law is proving of assistance in dealing with the secret society problem as it helps to cripple the societies by robbing them of one of their principal sources of income.

Penang and Malacca were practically free from society troubles during the year. There were a few minor assaults due to society intrigue in both Settlements, and in Penang an initiation ceremony of the Sin Gi Hin society was successfully raided in November.

Prisons.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,377 prisoners in the five Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island.) 11,874 were admitted during the year as compared with 7,588 during 1929 and 11,480 were discharged. 1,771 remained at the end of the year. There were 114 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year, during the year 1,276 were admitted and 1,161 were discharged. Of the 1,161 vagrants discharged 76 found employment and 949 were repatriated.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-Grade" men at husk-beating and the "Short-Sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Public Works

In Singapore the new Chinese Protectorate Building, the new Police Station and Barracks at Joo Chiat and the Police Barracks at Maxwell Road were completed.

In Penang 14 Quarters for Local Teachers and the Crag Hotel Dining Room and New Staff Quarters were completed and modern sanitation introduced into the Bungalows. Good progress was made with the reconstruction of the new General Hospital.

In Province Wellesley the new Police Station at Butterworth was completed and a start was made with the work on the proposed new reservoirs at Bukit Mertajam and the Filtration Plant for the Bukit Panchor Reservoir.

In Malacca the first portion of the new General Post Office has been completed and occupied. The work of demolition of the second portion is now in progress. The new High School is nearing completion. One Class III Quarters at Pringiit has been completed and occupied and another Class III and one Class II are nearly completed.

VIII.—Public Health

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

The population of 1930 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is as follows:—

	Census Figures 1921	*Estimated 1929*	*Estimated 1930*
Singapore ...	423,768	580,694	602,365
Penang ...	304,572	351,205	360,621
Malacca ...	153,599	200,004	205,820
	881,939	1,131,903	1,168,806

The number of births registered during the year was 44,703 as compared with 42,102 and of deaths 31,928 as against 29,544 in the previous year.

The percentage of males born was 52·43. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 42·48 per thousand amongst the Malays as against 40·94 in 1929.

The corrected infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 193·94 per thousand births as against 181·92 in 1929 and 185·06 in 1928.

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year) was 5,136 as against 4,692 and 4,575 in the two previous years. Dietetic errors, malaria and tetanus are the commoner causes of infantile convulsions.

The crude death-rate was 27·32 per thousand as against 26·10 and 28·76 in the two previous years. The lowest death-rate on record 26·10 per thousand of population was in 1929. The average for the last ten years is 29·22. It is probable that the death-rate of the Straits Settlements, especially in Singapore, was heightened by the economic depression which lead to the congregation of out of work Chinese coolies from all over Malaya in Singapore to which port three out of four of them drifted.

Malaria was responsible for 5,018 deaths as against 4,648 and 5,798 in the two previous years, while fever unclassified accounted for 1,995 deaths against 1,764 in 1929 and 1,494 in 1928.

2,795 deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,710 in the year 1929.

Pneumonia accounted for 2,343 deaths as compared with 2,502 in the previous year. 281 deaths were registered as due to influenza as against 205 in the previous year.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,047 deaths as against 944, 1,146 and 1,531 in the three previous years.

Dysentery caused 770 deaths classified as follows:—

Amœbic	172
Bacillary	158
Unclassified	440
	770

The number of deaths from dysentery in the previous year was 673.

Infectious diseases.—There were 59 deaths from small-pox (of which three were imported cases) and twenty-three deaths from cerebro-spinal fever which included two imported cases. There was no plague or cholera during the year.

The figures for 1929 showed 3 deaths from plague, three deaths from cerebro-spinal fever and two deaths from small-pox.

B.—HEALTH BRANCH

1,186 visits in Singapore, and 480 visits in Penang (as against 1,578 and 532 respectively in 1929) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers, who examined 647,142 persons as compared with 788,524 in the previous year.

83,046 persons were retained under observation in the two Maritime Quarantine Stations, mostly for short periods, as against 142,295 in 1929.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 5 for small-pox and 2 for cerebro-spinal fever, and in Penang 3 for cerebro-spinal fever. The figures for 1929 were—Singapore 10 for small-pox and Penang 3 for cholera, 4 for small-pox and 2 for cerebro-spinal fever.

Rural Conservancy

The Health Officers in each Settlement continued to supervise and develop the sanitation and conservancy in rural areas.

Conservancy work in rural Singapore has been well carried out during the year and the sanitary conditions are gradually improving. In the past twelve months, 130 new pit latrines have been excavated and are functioning well. 337 insanitary latrines have been abolished and replaced by latrines of approved type while 311 have been reconstructed. An average of 2,570 cubic feet of refuse per month has been destroyed in the village incinerators.

Anti-malarial Work

The sum of $213,558.43 was spent on anti-mosquito work and anti-malarial measures in a general reduction of all harmful mosquitos. The chief item of expenditure was permanent drainage, but large areas were also controlled by temporary oiling measures.

C.—KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 245, and the number of students 120 as against 238 and 104 in the previous year. The number of new students admitted was 37 as compared with 23 in the year 1929. Seven students completed their course and obtained the diploma of the College in 1930.

D.—HOSPITALS

74,039 patients were treated in the Hospitals of the Colony as compared with 69,310 in the previous year. The malaria admissions were 12,997 as compared with 10,939 in 1929. Admissions for venereal disease were 4,743 with 162 deaths as against 4,324 with 124 deaths in the previous year.

E.—DISPENSARIES

General Diseases

Out-patients numbered 244,620 and the attendances 466,380 as against 218,101 out-patients and 404,802 attendances in 1929. The attendances at the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 32,200 as compared with 31,231 in 1929. In the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Penang, the attendances were 14,832 as against 15,948 in the previous year.

Motor Travelling Dispensaries

The number of attendances at the Motor Travelling Dispensary in Singapore was 19,891 as against 14,504 in 1929. In Penang Island, the attendances were 33,775 as against 31,217 in 1929, and in Province Wellesley 26,892 as against 30,484 in the previous year. In Malacca, there were 20,661 attendances as against 19,776 in 1929.

Venereal Diseases

Out-patients treated for venereal diseases were 36,388 as compared with 33,684 in 1929. The attendances were 267,746 as against 213,079 in the previous year.

Yaws

The number of out-patients treated for yaws was 6,076 as compared with 9,990 in 1929. This disease is undoubtedly decreasing owing to the vigorous measures taken against it and the willingness of Malays to accept treatment.

F.—LEPERS

The number of lepers treated in the Leper Settlements of the Colony was 1,537 with a total of 144 deaths, as compared with 1,186 with 117 deaths in the year 1929. With the continuance of modern treatment there is a steady fall in the death-rate. Twenty lepers were discharged apparently cured (12 from the Leper Settlements in Singapore and 8 from the Penang Leper Settlements at Pulau Jerejak and Jelutong).

G.—MENTAL HOSPITAL

1,083 males and 395 females were treated during the year as compared with 1,043 males and 359 females in 1929. The numbers remaining at the end of the year were 881 males and 306 females as compared with 794 males and 285 females in 1929. Records of the Mental Hospital death-rate are available for 42 years. The rate for 1930, the second complete year spent by the patients in the New Mental Hospital, is 7·9 per cent, the lowest on record.

IX.—Education

There were 22 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 9,972 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was $1,149,635. The equivalent figures for 1929 were 22 schools, 9,577 pupils and $1,064,772 expenditure.

There were 29 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 15,731 pupils as against 28 schools with 15,289 pupils in 1929. The grants paid by the Government in aid of these schools amounted to $1,038,721 as compared with $937,691 for the year 1929.

The expenditure on the 219 Government Vernacular Schools was $502,796 and their average enrolment was 22,487. The equivalent figures for 1929 were 213 schools, $490,429 expenditure, the average enrolment being 20,459.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 32 Aided Vernacular Schools, with an average enrolment of 1,534, the grants to which for 1930 amounted to $12,413. The figures for 1929 were 24 schools, average enrolment 1,283 and grants $10,043.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 2,081 as against 1,580 in 1928 and 1,794 in 1929.

Sixty-two students passed the final third year examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, as compared with 42 in 1929.

There were 41 private schools in Singapore with an enrolment of about 6,500 pupils.

Sixty-one student teachers from English Schools were studying at Raffles College at Government expense. These students on the completion of their studies are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools.

Sixteen candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a Selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. One candidate from Singapore and one from Penang won the scholarships. One of the successful candidates proposes to study Medicine and the other Law. Miss Maggie Tan is the first girl to win a Queen's Scholarship.

During the year 15 European Masters and 3 European Mistresses, appointed to the Malayan Educational Service, were allocated to the Colony. In addition a Mechanic Instructor was recruited for the Trade School, Singapore.

A Woman Supervisor of Physical Education was also appointed. She supervises Physical Training in English and Malay Girls' Schools.

Mr. H. T. Clark, Inspector of Schools, Singapore and Labuan, retired on 30th June after over 25 years' service, and was awarded the M. B. E. for long and valuable services.

The following new buildings in Singapore were completed and occupied in 1930:— St. Anthony's Convent (Aided), Government Trade School, Tanah Merah Besar Malay Boys' School. Extensions to Malay Schools at Siglap, Geylang and Tanglin Besar were also carried out. Two Elementary English Schools for 480 pupils each were in course of erection at Pasir Panjang and Bukit Panjang.

More English school accommodation for girls was available owing to the opening of a branch Convent School at Butterworth, and a new annexe at the Penang convent

The new High School, Malacca, was nearly completed during the year. The Portuguese Convent (Aided) opened its new building.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils and instruction in hygiene and, perhaps more than all, physical education are creating an interest in public health.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continue to satisfy a local want. Instruction was given in English, Book-keeping, Shorthand and Typing, in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mechanics, Mechanical and Survey Drawing, Building Construction, Electricity and Magnetism, and Sanitary Inspection. A new class in Architectural Design was started.

Nautical Classes under a European Instructor gave instruction in Malay for helmsmen, gunners and masters of local craft.

There were evening classes in Penang in Commercial and Technical subjects.

In Malacca there were evening classes in Typewriting and Shorthand.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of $52,873 as compared with $54,000 paid in 1929.

A Trade School in Singapore was opened in September 1930 with an enrolment of 40. It is meant primarily for boys aged 14 to 17 in Standards V or VI of the English Schools who have no bent for literary education. Selected candidates are given a three year course in Mechanical Workshop practice and Motor Mechanics. No fees are charged but parents must support their children. The school is open to children of all races. Excluding P.W.D. expenditure a sum of $16,245 was spent on this school during 1930.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was $30,961 as compared with $23,341 for the year 1929.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 341 with 23,874 pupils. In 1929 there were 332 schools with 23,518 pupils.

Three Chinese Schools in Singapore received grants-in-aid during 1930 amounting to $2,047. In Penang 20 Chinese Schools received grants amounting to $26,841 and two schools in Malacca received grants-in-aid amounting to $1,024. In 1929 one in Singapore received $620, 12 in Penang $21,321 and 2 in Malacca $657.

Raffles College:—The accounts showed at the end of the year a sum of $1,883,063 to the credit of the General Fund and the Funds of Buildings and Scholarships.

A second Hostel, for the erection of which the Federated Malay States Government contributed $200,000, was completed during the year.

Four Professors, one Reader, three Lecturers and one Demonstrator were on the staff and there were 115 Government students, 12 private students and one Anderson Scholarship student at the College at the end of the year.

The Honourable Mr. M. B. SHELLEY, B.A. (Cantab.) was acting as President until 9th August, when the Honourable Dr. R. O. WINSTEDT, C.M.G., D. LITT. (Oxon.), M.A., Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, returned from leave and resumed duty as President.

X.—Lands and Surveys

A.—LANDS

(i).—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the policy hitherto has been to restrict the issue of

Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99 years but there are a few leases of 999 years and a few Statutory Grants.

Occupied land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99 year leases from the Crown in the case of Estates, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for the alienation of foreshore.

Land is obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure. Land to be held under Grant or Lease is generally sold by auction. The principal land Revenue consists of rents on Grants or Leases and of Mukim Assessment on land held under Customary tenure.

Labuan.—In Labuan Crown Land may be disposed of by public auction only.

The titles given are leases of 999 years or less.

Since 1919 leases for 30 years only have been granted.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE

The Revenue in 1929 and 1930 was distributed as follows:—

—		Land Revenue	Reimbursements	Land Sales	Total
		$	$	$	$
Singapore ...	1929	438,168	67,831	506,283	1,012,282
	1930	342,399	64,140	708,868	1,115,407
Penang ...	1929	221,270	44,873	64,743	330,886
	1930	214,804	34,101	59,757	308,662
Malacca ...	1929	700,577	23,912	169,212	893,701
	1930	697,879	16,912	33,229	748,020
Labuan ...	1929	6,958	3,830	1,275	12,063
	1930	6,770	612	...	7,382
Total ...	1929	1,366,973	140,446	741,513	2 248,932
	1930	1,261,852	115,765	801,854	2,179,471

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants and Leases issued during the last five years, together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
Singapore	A. R. P	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	441 1 00	33 3 18	7 1 32	132 1 38	74 1 03
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
,, Town Lots ...	13,738	100,915	282,451	4,542	98,725
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	60	101	58	86	35
Premia paid ...	$71,241	$48,738	$196,272.00	$263,941.00	$702,234.55
Penang	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,134 1 11	1.825 1 39·93	5,611 3 37	947 2 39	1,979 0 35.65
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.		
,, Town Lots ...	Nil.	5,539	4,418	0 0 3.13	0 2 32.7 and 21,509 sq. ft.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	591 Statutory Grants, 10 Penang Hill Leases 25-99 years' Leases 1-10 years' Lease	300 Statutory Grants, 99-99 years' Leases 1 Foreshore Lease for 80 years covering an area of 3,600 sq. ft.	(257 Statutory Grants, 110-99 years' Leases 4 Penang Hill Leases 1-30 years' Leases 2 Foreshore Leases for 99 years each; covering area of 677.5 sq. ft.	(111 Statutory Grants, 96 99 years' Leases, 18 Penang Hill Leases, 1-30 years' Leases, 2 Foreshore Leases, one for 79 years, covering an area of 15,000 sq. ft, & the other for 99 years, covering an area of 1*a*. 0*r*. 5*p*.	178 Statutary Grants, 137-99 years' Leases, 13 Penang Hill Leases 1-30 year Lease
Premia paid ...	$14,165.72	$19,424.00	$100,173.00	$26,581.00	$30,037.00
Malacca	A. R. P.	A. R. P	A. R. P	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	737 1 03·75	8,018 0 26	6,731 3 21	3,748 3 29.884 and 54,120 sq. ft.	4,533 2 23.902
		sq. ft.		A. R. P.	
,, Town Lots ..	6 3 35	23,720	2 0 27	0 0 33.30	2 0 34
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	48 & 34 Leases	79 Statutory Grants, 55-99 years' Leases, 2-30 years' Leases and 2 Mining Leases	(148 Statutory Grants, 156-99 years' Leases 1-21 years' Lease 1-999 years' Lease	(239 Statutory Grants, 68-99 years' Lease & 1-30 years' Lease.)	99 Statutary Grants, 91-99 years' Leases, 1-30 year Lease
Premia paid ...	$57,927	$109,297.00	$468,133.00	$92,290.00	$264,365.70
Labuan	A. R. P	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	457 3 24	557 2 06	614 3 25	306 2 09	Nil.
,, Town Lots ...	0 2 01	131	7 0 19	12 3 01	
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	124	...	72	158	15
	(87 new Grants, 34 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants)	(73 new Grants, 49 Sub-division Grants and 9 issued in exchange for old grants)	(43 new Grants, 21 Sub-division Grants and 8 issued in exchange for old grants)	(144 new Grants, 11 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants)	(Sub-division Grants)
Premia paid ...	$936.75	$1,360.50	$1,200.50	$1,274.50	Nil.

B.—SURVEYS

(i).—General

Expenditure on Surveys amounted to $494,111 in 1930 against $505,286 in 1929. The revenue was $142,674 against $148,461.

The year was noteworthy for the virtual disappearance of arrears in Singapore and Penang while the position in Malacca remained quite satisfactory. There was however little change in the demand for surveys.

In order to accelerate the process of placing Singapore surveys on a satisfactory and permanent basis a proposal temporarily to increase the establishment by nine Senior Officers was considered and approved. The revisionary survey of Malacca involving the determination of the boundaries of over 70,000 holdings was, by the end of the year, almost complete so far as field work is concerned.

Under arrangements made by the Secretary of State the Survey Department was inspected, in the course of a Colonial tour, by Brigadier H. St. J. L. Winterbotham, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E. His report testified to the efficiency of the Department and advocated radical changes in the system of land tenure. These are under consideration.

(ii).—Meteorology

The first stage in the organisation of the Meteorological Branch of the Department ended in March with the completion of the last of the seventeen second order stations. The full programme of observations was carried out at each station from the 1st April and daily weather reports were supplied regularly to the press and Harbour Authorities.

Proposals for the extension of the organisation involving the opening of offices at Penang and Singapore were considered during the year and approved.

Meteorological reports were supplied to aircraft in flight, but it was found that, with the limited communication facilities available, the value of such reports was to some extent discounted by the time taken in transit.

The Superintendent of the Meteorological Branch attended a conference at Hongkong in January held for the purpose of making suitable meteorological arrangements for the Fleet on the China station. Effect has been given to some of the recommendations of the Conference; others are still under consideration.

XI.—Labour

(i) General

The majority of labourers in the Colony are Chinese and South Indians. The latter are chiefly engaged in agriculture and every other form of manual labour. Skilled work is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese.

In addition there are about 4,269 Javanese labourers, immigrants from the Netherlands East Indies.

Conditions of labour in the Colony are governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 197 (Labour), and by the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908. These Ordinances are administered by a Labour Department under the direction of the Controller of Labour, Malaya.

During the year under review, relations between employers and labourers continued to be satisfactory.

From 1st January to 4th October, 1930, standard rates of wages for South Indians in Province Wellesley were 50 cents a day for adult male labourers and 40 cents for adult females. These rates were changed to 40 cents and 32 cents respectively from 5th October, 1930. In other parts of the Colony South Indian labourers earn from 40 cents to 50 cents (men) and from 35 cents to 40 cents (women). The rates in the larger towns are higher than these.

Javanese and Malays earn from 45 to 55 cents a day, and Chinese who are usually employed on contract (*i.e.*, piece work) earn considerably more.

The health on places of employment throughout the Colony was satisfactory. The average number and death rates of Indian labourers in the various settlements were as follows:—

	Average number of labourers	*Death rate per mille*
Singapore ...	... 17,364	3.34
Penang ...	... 3,728	1.07
Province Wellesley	... 10,407	7.78
Dindings ...	... 2,472	1.45
Malacca ...	... 14,898	11.67

The death-rate amongst Chinese labourers in Singapore was 2.43 per mille on a population of 14,424. The number of Chinese labourers in the other Settlements was inconsiderable.

The death-rate among labourers of other nationalities was low. In the Settlement of Penang it was 2.41 per mille on an average population of 2,490. In Malacca it was 2.89 per mille on an average population of 3,803.

(ii).—IMMIGRATION.

Chinese.— The total number of immigrants arriving in the Colony in 1930 was 242,149, a decrease of 20·2% compared with the previous year and of 32·6% compared with 1927, the record year.

Of the immigrants, adult males formed 65·3% which is less than the figure for 1929 by 4·6% and adult females 18·3% which is 2·5% more than last year.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 167,903 which is 27,936 more than the figure for 1929.

The excess of immigrants over emigrants was 74,246, which is less than the figure for 1929 by 78,954.

Women and children arriving numbered 84,070 as against 87,028 in 1929.

From 1st August, 1930, the immigration of adult male labourers was restricted, by proclamation under the Immigration Restriction Ordinance, to a total of 6,016 per month, distributed pro rata among the shipping companies and individually chartered ships that had been regularly carrying on immigration business between China ports and Singapore. The total for the year (242,149) is made up of 197,831 pre-restriction, monthly average 28,261, and 44,318 post-restriction, monthly average 8,863. The immigration of women and children, although not restricted, has fallen proportionately to that of the adult males.

Since 1st June, 1930, the repatriation of decrepits and destitutes has been undertaken by the Chinese Secretariat department, a total of 13,288 having been sent back at a cost of just under $12 per head.

Southern Indians.—The immigration of labourers from Southern India is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee (of which the Controller of Labour, Malaya, is *ex-officio* Chairman) appointed by the Governor.

The railway fares in India, steamer passages, and transport expenses of such labourers to their places of employment are paid from the Indian Immigration Fund.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from South India during the year was 65,647 including 57,963 adults and 7,684 minors as compared with 114,252 in 1929.

These figures include both "assisted" and "other" immigrants. They brought with them 3,467 infants. In previous years no record of the number of infants was maintained.

The assisted immigrants are free labourers imported at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates, mines and elsewhere.

The other immigrants are deck passengers paying their own fares 74% of whom were of the labouring classes.

The total number of immigrants arriving from South India was much lower than the number for 1929. This is due to a reduction in facilities for their employment on estates owing to the low price of rubber. In many cases during the year estates found themselves with a surplus of labour and recruiting in India was accordingly stopped on the 1st August, 1930, after which date only those labourers who wished to rejoin their families on estates in Malaya were assisted to emigrate from India. There was a considerable excess of departures over arrivals during the year.

The number of Indians leaving Malaya for South India was 142,221 including 121,792 adults and 20,429 minors as against 76,649 in 1929. These figures include all deck passengers of whom it is estimated that 88% were labourers. They brought with them 9,514 infants.

The figures of arrivals for the last 4 years are as follows:—

	1927	*1928*	*1929*	*1930*
Assisted immigrants	123,826	27,240	82,183	42,771
Other immigrants ...	32,306	35,832	32,069	26,343
	156,132	63,072	114,252	69,114

The assisted immigrants consisted of 34,041 adults 5,832 minors and 2,898 infants. Of the adults 25,108 were men and 8,933 were women. About 6,507 of the assisted immigrants remained in the Colony; the others proceeded to other parts of Malaya.

The Indian Immigration Fund

The income of the Fund is derived from a quarterly assessment (levied on all employers of South Indian labourers throughout Malaya) based upon the number of days work done by such labourers during the quarter.

The rate of assessment was fixed as follows:—

	Males	*Females*
	$	$
1st quarter	2.88	2.16
2nd quarter	2.16	1.44
3rd quarter	1.44	0.72
4th quarter	0.36	—

in respect of every 72 days' work done.

Repatriation

During 1930, 56,063 adults with 15,873 minors and 5,825 infants were repatriated from the whole of Malaya to India as compared with 5,323 adults and 1,408 minors during 1929. No record is available of the number of infants taken back to India in 1929 by repatriates. The majority of these labourers were fit unemployed for whom work could not be found in Malaya.

XII.—Miscellaneous

LEGISLATION

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed during the year 1930. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and sixteen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The Ordinances which are not Supply or Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (No. 10) which replaces Ordinance No. 77 (Cruelty to Animals), the latter Ordinance having been found to be defective in many respects.

(ii) The Malacca Agricultural Medical Assessment Ordinance (No. 12) which amends and consolidates the law relating to the constitution of a Board for providing an Estate Medical Service in the Settlement of Malacca and for purposes connected therewith.

(iii) The Census Ordinance (No. 14) which provides for the taking of a Census of the Colony from time to time.

(iv) The Women and Girls Protection Ordinance (No. 15) which amends and consolidates the law relating to the protection of women and girls and makes provision for the suppression of brothels.

The Amending Ordinances are:—

(i) The Passengers Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which deals with the exemption from the provisions of Ordinance No. 169 (Passengers Restriction) of certain ships.

(ii) The Wild Animals and Birds (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which enables the Governor in Council, by order, to prohibit the importation into the Colony, except under licence, of any specified wild animal or bird or the skin or plumage of any specified wild animal or bird.

(iii) The Noxious Plants (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which changes the title of the Head of the Agriculture Department from "Secretary to Agriculture" to "Director of Agriculture".

(iv) The Forests (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 4) which alters the titles of certain officers in the Forests Department.

(v) The Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which gives effect to a number of amendments the majority of which are designed to bring the local procedure into line with the procedure in England.

(vi) The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which extends the jurisdiction of the Controller of Labour so as to enable him to adjudicate in all disputes between an employer and his Chinese labourers irrespective of the character or place of employment.

(vii) The Printing Presses (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7) which remedies certain defects in the existing law and facilitates the supervision of licensed presses.

(viii) The Telegraphs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8) which confers on the Governor the power to compel the disclosure of telegraphic messages sent to or received from any place out of the Colony.

(ix) The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which gives effect to certain amendments relating to the admission of Advocates and Solicitors and the appointment of Police Magistrates and Justices of the Peace.

(x) The Seditious Publications (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 11) which provides for the forfeiture of printing presses which are used or intended to be used for the printing of seditious newspapers or documents.

(xi) The Singapore Improvement (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) which removes certain defects from the Principal Ordinance.

(xii) The Volunteer Force (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) which extends the scope of the existing law by permitting the enrolment of any male person who is of pure European descent.

(xiii) The Agricultural Loans (Repeal) Ordinance (No. 17) which repeals Ordinance No. 105 (Agricultural Loans) as it is considered that the objects for which that Ordinance was passed can now be better attained through the medium of Co-operative Societies.

(xiv) The Chandu Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) which gives legislative effect to Article II of an International Agreement signed at Geneva in 1925.

(xv) The Lepers (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 20) which makes adequate legal provision for the transfer of lepers from one asylum to another.

(xvi) The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) which increases the maximum pension which may be earned by a public officer from £1,300 to £2,000 per annum.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

During the year 41 new companies were registered, with a capital of $13,424,000 of which 38 were private companies with a capital of $9,974,000.

At the end of the year 492 companies remained on the register of which 55 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 448 companies carrying on business was $237,195,877.

Five hundred and seventy companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 458 are British, 22 are Japanese, 36 are Dutch, 1 is German and 31 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 14 British, 1 Japanese and 1 American companies have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 6 foreign companies. Seventy-nine companies do fire insurance business.

BANKRUPTCIES

There were 91 trade bankruptcies, of which 70 were Chinese, as against 56 trade bankruptcies, of which 48 were Chinese, in 1929. In 39 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In 1 case liabilities exceeded $1,000,000, in 5 cases $100,000, in 6 cases $50,000 and in 25 cases $10,000.

Eight deeds of arrangement were registered as against 2 in 1929.

CO-OPERATION

In Singapore the seven Thrift & Loan Societies increased their paid-up share capital from $235,546 to $325,124. Membership declined slightly from 3,250 to 3,149.

The amount of loans granted decreased from $222,519 to $205,182. A satisfactory advance is again to be recorded in the amount of subscribed capital deposited in the Bank or invested in trustee securities. On June 30th, 1929, this amount was $149,617. At June 30th, 1930, it was $243,901.

In Malacca one new Thrift & Loan Society and one new Rural Credit Society were formed. In the Thrift & Loan Societies the membership increased from 927 to 990 and paid-up share capital from $62,557 to $87,846. In the Rural Credit Societies paid-up share capital amounted to $7,633 at the close of the year, as compared with $4,805 on June 30th, 1929. The membership at the close of the year was 342.

In Penang and Province Wellesley 9 Thrift and Loan and 8 Rural Credit Societies were functioning at the close of the year. In the Thrift & Loan Societies the membership has increased from 1,338 to 2,577 and the subscriptions from $83,160 to $127,655. In the Rural Credit Societies share capital now totals $6,446 and the membership stands at 208, compared with $5,770 and 231 respectively a year ago.

Co-operative Societies amongst Indian Estate labourers increased from 3 under formation to 7 registered. Membership was 2,110 and paid-up share capital $12,769. The uncertainty existing in the rubber planting world towards the end of the year caused the formation of several other societies to be postponed.

The steady fall in the prices of agricultural produce during the year has made regular repayment difficult in the Rural Credit Societies, but as the societies are using only their own paid-up capital and have not borrowed from outside, an unavoidable delay in repayment does not seriously affect a society. The Thrift & Loan Societies made satisfactory progress during the year.

ANALYST

The greater part of the work for the year was done for the Monopolies Department and included the examination of 9,262 samples of chandu dross, 2,546 of dutiable liquors, 620 of illicit liquor, 893 of toddy, 108 of supposed deleterious drugs, 100 of brandy, exhibits in 500 prosecutions under the Chandu Revenue Ordinance, and 380 miscellaneous analyses.

The work for the Medical Department included the analyses of 366 specimens chiefly connected with toxicology, clinical examinations, drugs and drinking water.

Assistance was given to the Police in many investigations and steps have been taken towards a closer co-operation between the Departments.

The Department has also carried out the chemical work of the Municipality of Penang and that connected with the Monopolies and Customs of the States of Johore and Kedah.

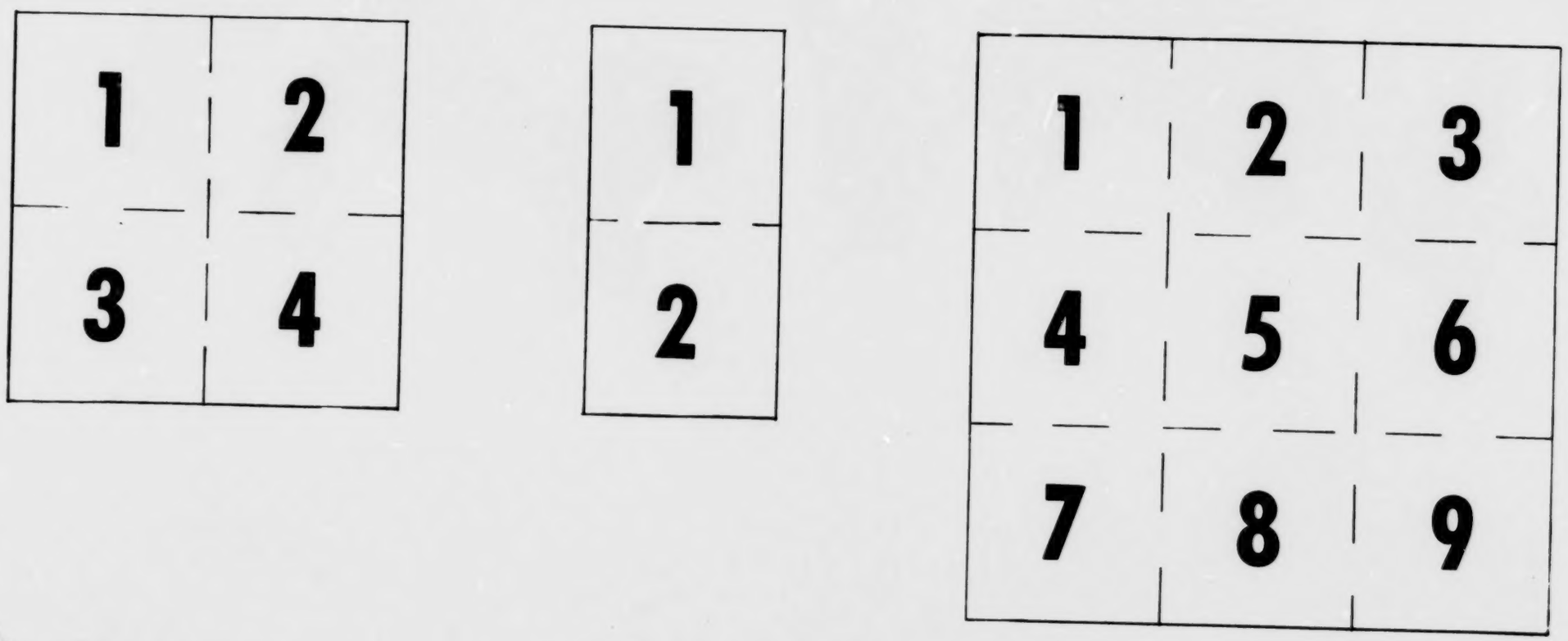
682 samples of petroleum were tested as to Flash Point, 117 ships were tested for inflammable vapour, and analyses made of 46 samples of fuel oil for the Navy.

M. B. SHELLEY,

Acting Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements

SINGAPORE, *27th April*, 1931.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



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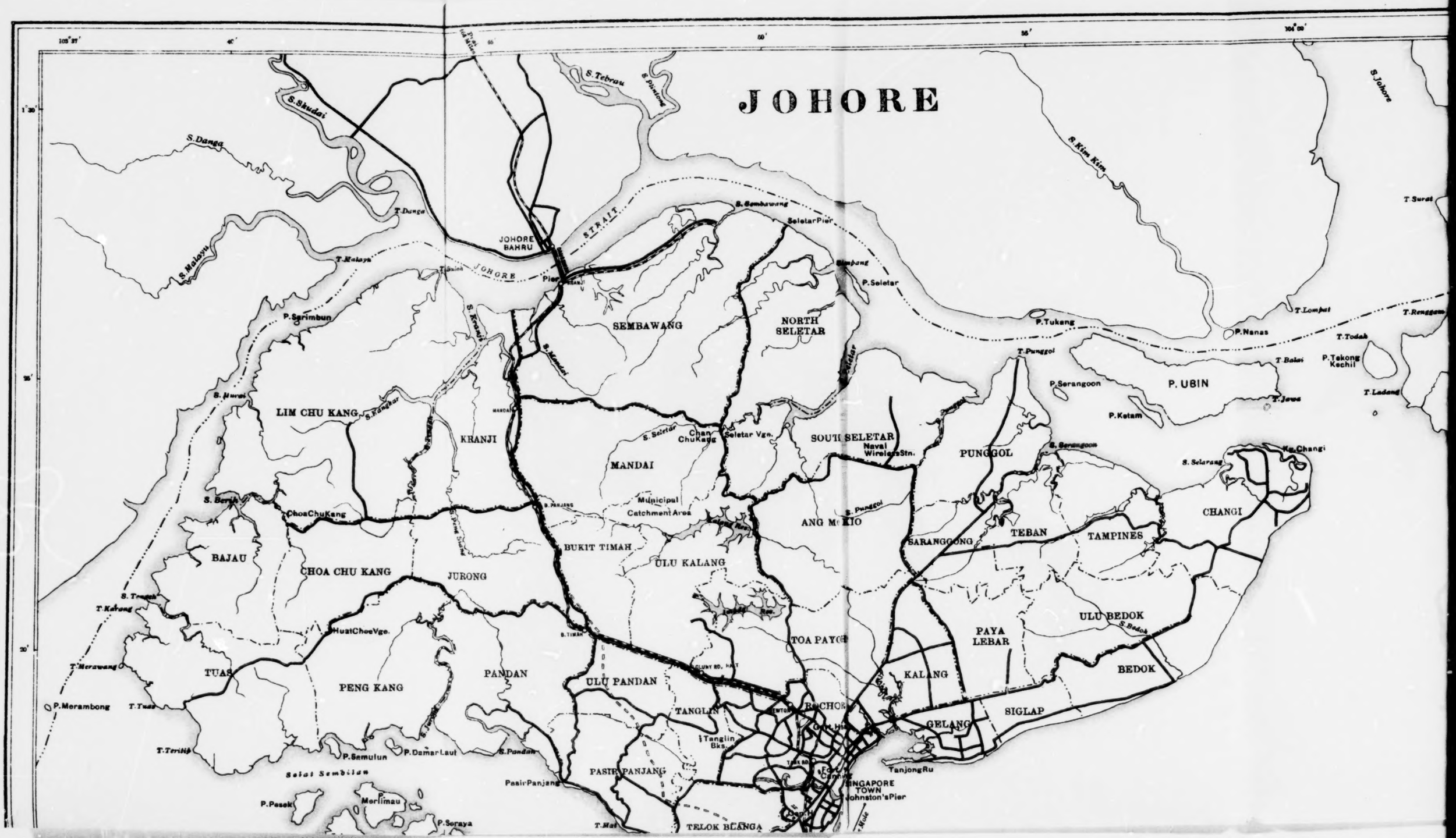
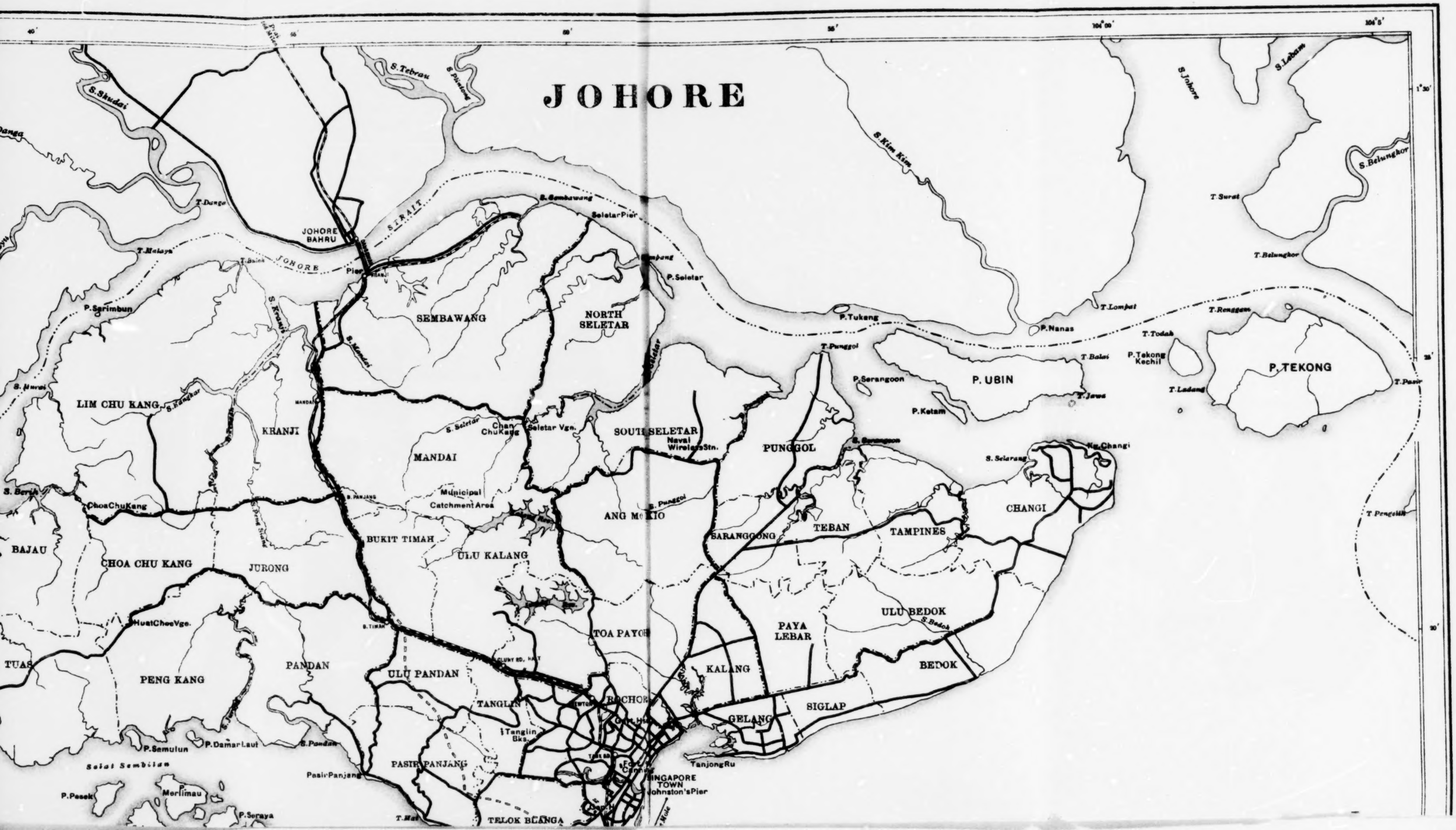
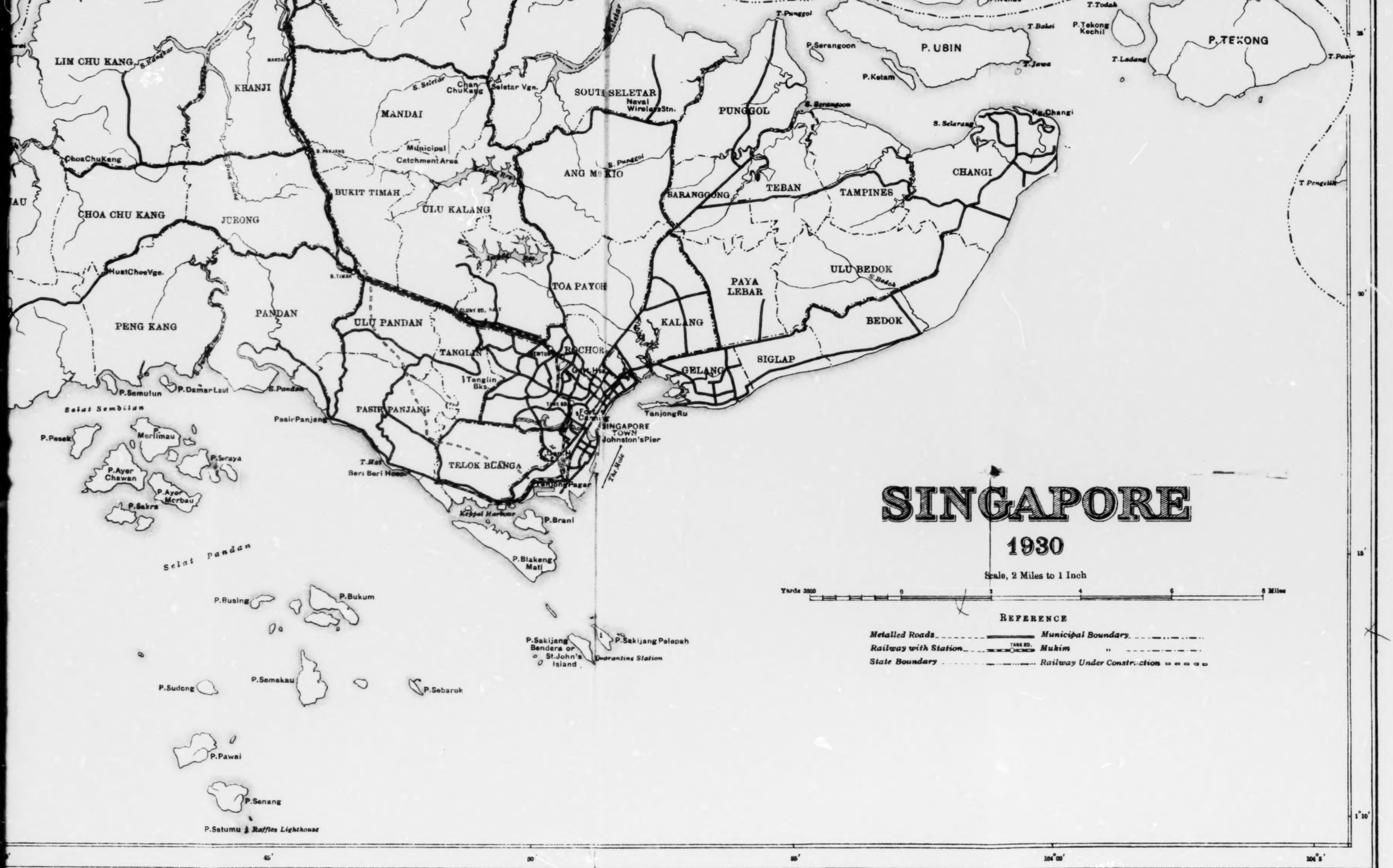

JOHORE
S. Skudai
S. Danga
T. Danga
S. Malayu
T. Malayu
P. Sarimbun
S. Tebrau
S. Plentong
JOHORE BAHRU
Pier
STRAIT
JOHORE
S. Kesang
S. Kesang
SEMBAWANG
S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
NORTH SELETAR
Simpang
P. Seletar
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
T. Surat
T. Lompat
T. Renggam
P. Tukang
P. Nanas
T. Todak
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
T. Ladang
T. Punggol
P. Serangoon
P. UBIN
T. Jawa
P. Ketam
S. Serangoon
Ng. Changi
S. Selarang
CHANGI
TAMPINES
TEBAN
SARANGGONG
PUNGGOL
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
Seletar Vge.
Chan Chu Kang
S. Seletar
S. Pungol
ANG MO KIO
MANDAI
Municipal Catchment Area
S. Panjang
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
BEDOK
KALANG
SIGLAP
GELANG
TanjongRu
SINGAPORE TOWN
Johnston's Pier
Fort Canning
Tanglin Bks.
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
ULU PANDAN
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang
TELOK BLANGA
S. Pandan
PANDAN
PENG KANG
TUAS
T. Tuas
P. Merambong
T. Merawang
T. Kelang
S. Tuas
S. Berih
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
Choa Chu Kang
JURONG
Huat Choe Vge.
LIM CHU KANG
S. Kangkar
S. Hurai
KRANJI
Chan Chu Kang
T. Teriah
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
Selat Sembilan
P. Pesek
Merlimau
P. Soraya
S. Mole


JOHORE
S. Tebrau
S. Pintong
S. Studai
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
S. Lebam
S. Belunghor
T. Surat
T. Belunghor
T. Dunga
T. Malaya
JOHORE BAHRU
Pier
STRAIT
JOHORE
S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
P. Seletar
P. Sarimbun
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
P. Tukang
T. Lompat
P. Nanas
T. Renggam
T. Todak
T. Punggol
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
P. TEKONG
P. UBIN
P. Serangoon
P. Ketam
T. Ladang
T. Pasir
T. Jawa
S. Mandai
S. Kranji
S. Seletar
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
S. Serangoon
Ng. Changi
S. Selarang
CHANGI
S. Berih
Choa Chu Kang
Municipal Catchment Area
ANG MO KIO
S. Punggol
BAJAU
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
SARANGOONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
T. Pengelih
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
Hut Choa Vge.
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
GELANG
SIGLAP
Tanglin Bks.
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
Selat Sembilan
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang
Tanjong Ru
SINGAPORE TOWN
Johnston's Pier
P. Pesek
Merlimau
P. Seraya
T. Mat
TELOK BLANGA

SINGAPORE
1930
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3600
0
2
4
6
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
State Boundary
Municipal Boundary
Mukim
Railway Under Construction
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
SELETAR
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
P. UBIN
P.Tukang
P.Nanas
T.Todak
P.Tekong Kechil
T.Ladang
T.Punggol
P.Serangoon
P.Ketam
T.Jawa
T.Renggam
Ks.Changi
S.Selarang
CHANGI
TAMPINES
TEBAN
SARANGGONG
ANG MO KIO
Municipal Catchment Area
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
BEDOK
KALANG
SIGLAP
GELANG
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
PASIR PANJANG
TELOK BLANGA
SINGAPORE TOWN
Johnston's Pier
Tanjong Ru
Tanjong Pagar
Keppel Harbour
P.Brani
P.Blakang Mati
P.Sakijang Bendera or St.John's Island
P.Sakijang Pelepah
Quarantine Station
P.Merambong
P.Samulun
P.Damar Laut
Selat Sembilan
P.Pesek
P.Merlimau
P.Seraya
P.Ayer Chawan
P.Ayer Merbau
P.Sakra
Selat Pandan
P.Busing
P.Bukum
P.Sudong
P.Semakau
P.Sebarok
P.Pawai
P.Senang



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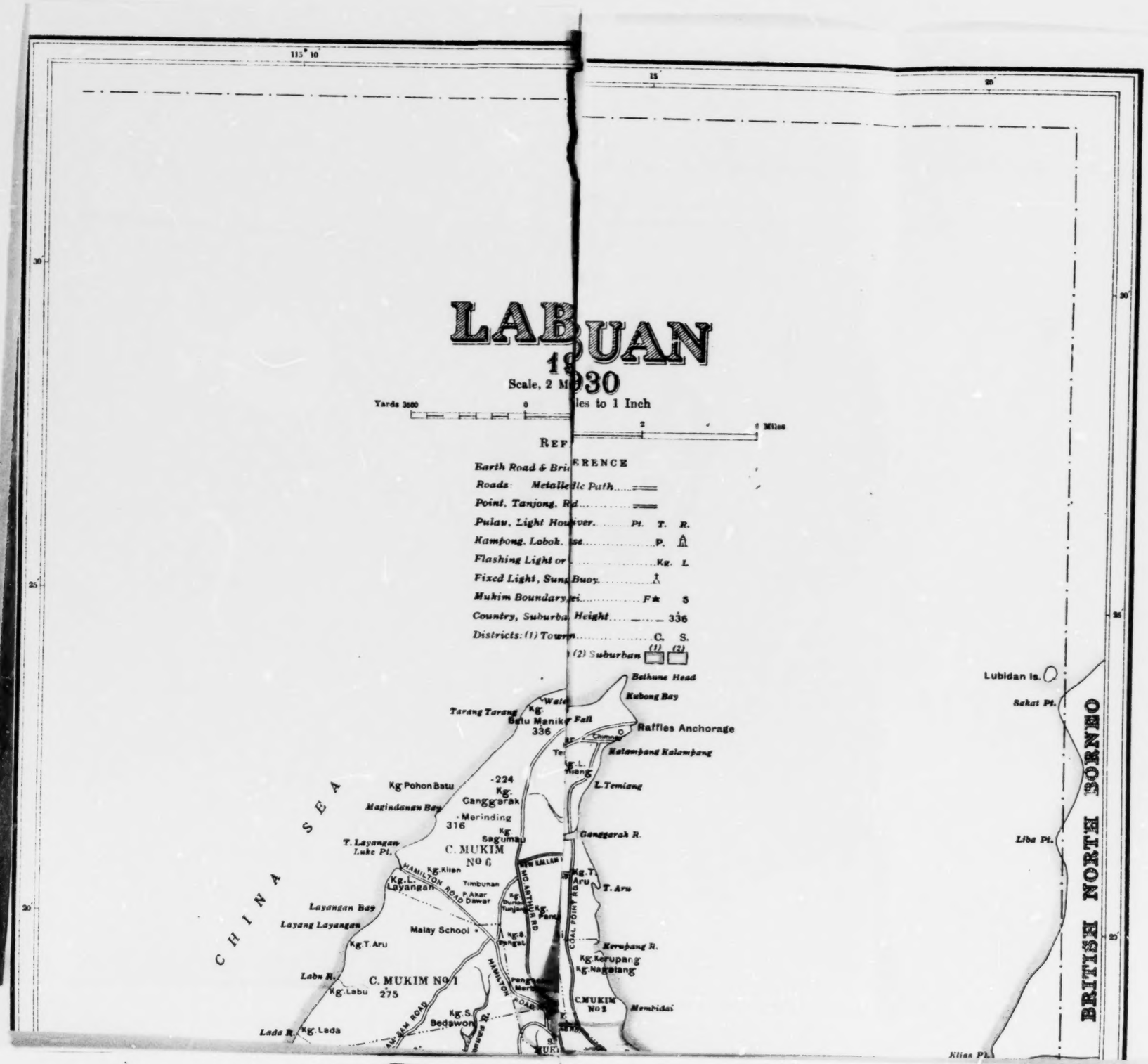
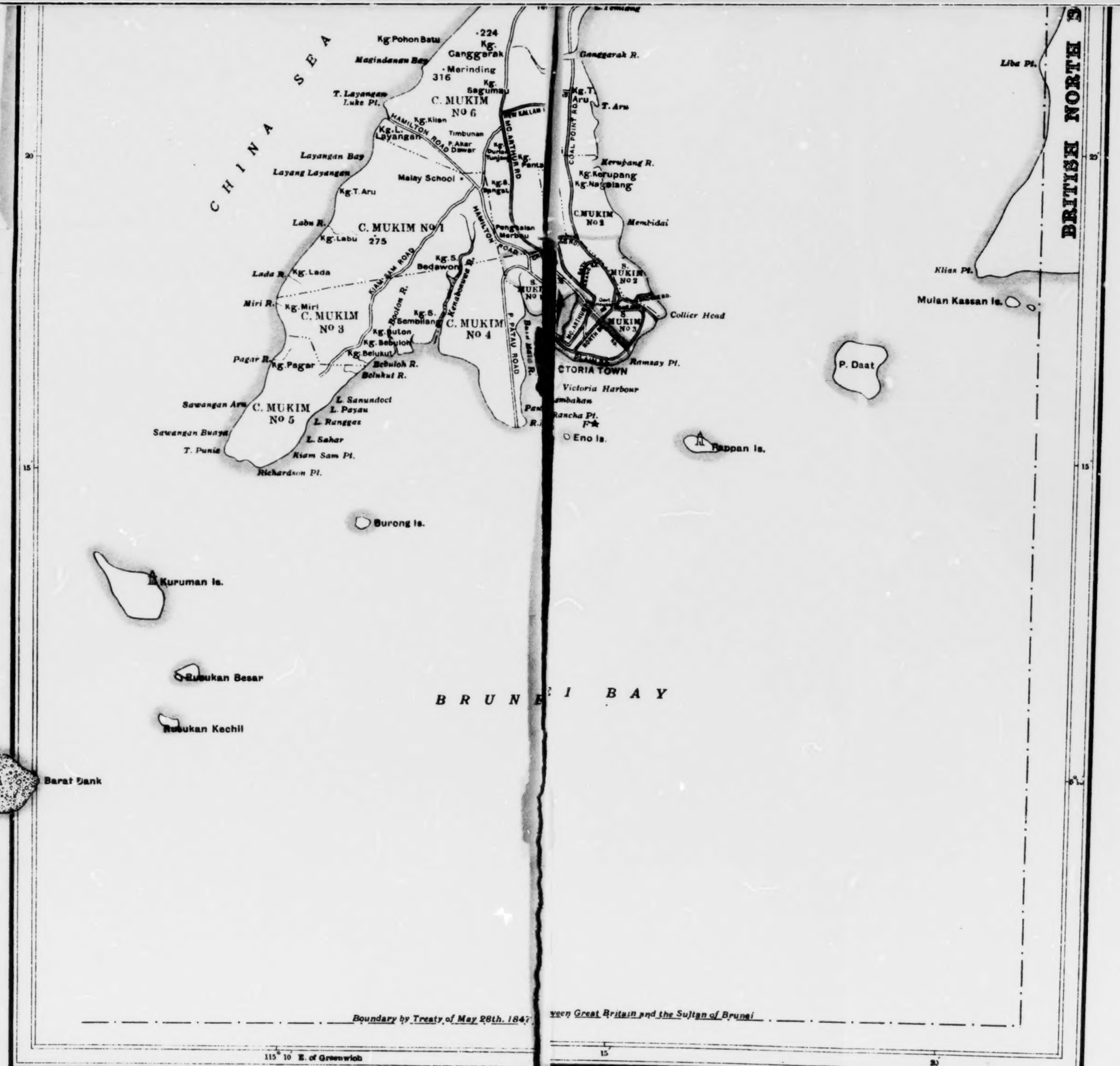
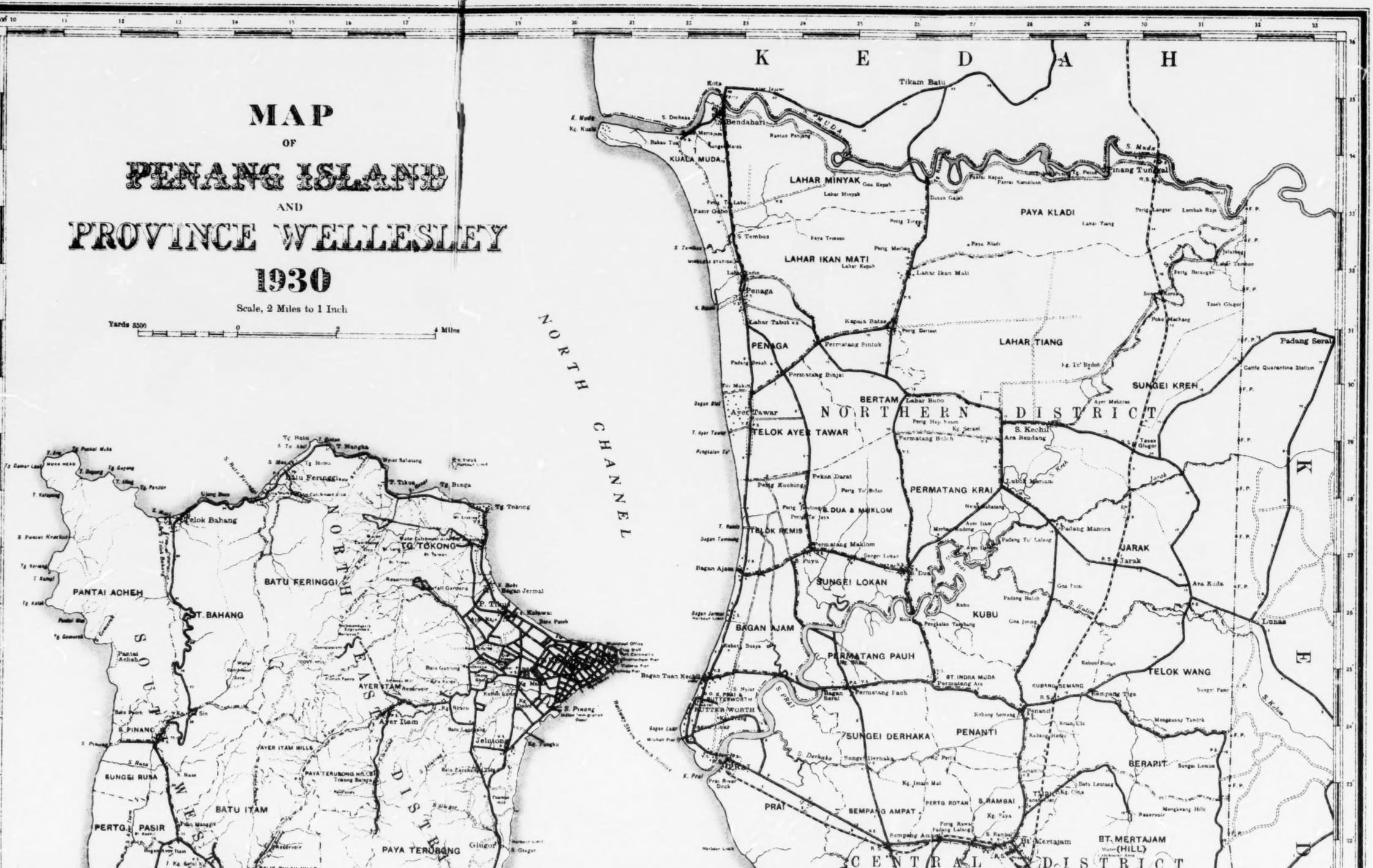

LABUAN
1930
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3000
0
2
6 Miles
REFERENCE
Earth Road & Bridge
Roads: Metalled
Path
Point, Tanjong, Rd
Pulau, Light House
Pt.
T.
R.
Kampong, Lobok, Mosque
P.
Flashing Light or
Kg.
L
Fixed Light, Sung Buoy
Mukim Boundary
F★
S
Country, Suburban Height
336
Districts: (1) Town
C.
S.
(2) Suburban
(1)
(2)
115° 10'
15'
20'
30'
25'
20'
25'
20'
CHINA SEA
BRITISH NORTH BORNEO
Lubidan Is.
Sahat Pt.
Liba Pt.
Klias Pt.
Belhune Head
Kubong Bay
Raffles Anchorage
Kalambang Kalambang
L. Temiang
Ganggarak R.
Tarang Tarang
Kg. Batu Manikar
336
Fall
Kg Pohon Batu
Magindanan Bay
224
Kg. Ganggarak
Merinding
316
Kg Sagumau
C. MUKIM NO 6
T. Layangan
Luke Pt.
Kg. Klian
Timbunan
Kg. L. Layangan
HAMILTON ROAD
P. Akar Dawar
Layangan Bay
Layang Layangan
Malay School
Kg. T. Aru
T. Aru
Kg. T. Aru
Kerupang R.
Kg. Kerupang
Kg. Nagelang
Labu R.
Kg. Labu
C. MUKIM NO 1
275
Lada R.
Kg. Lada
AM-SAM ROAD
Kg. S. Bedawon
C. MUKIM NO 2
Membidai
COAL POINT RD
MC ARTHUR RD

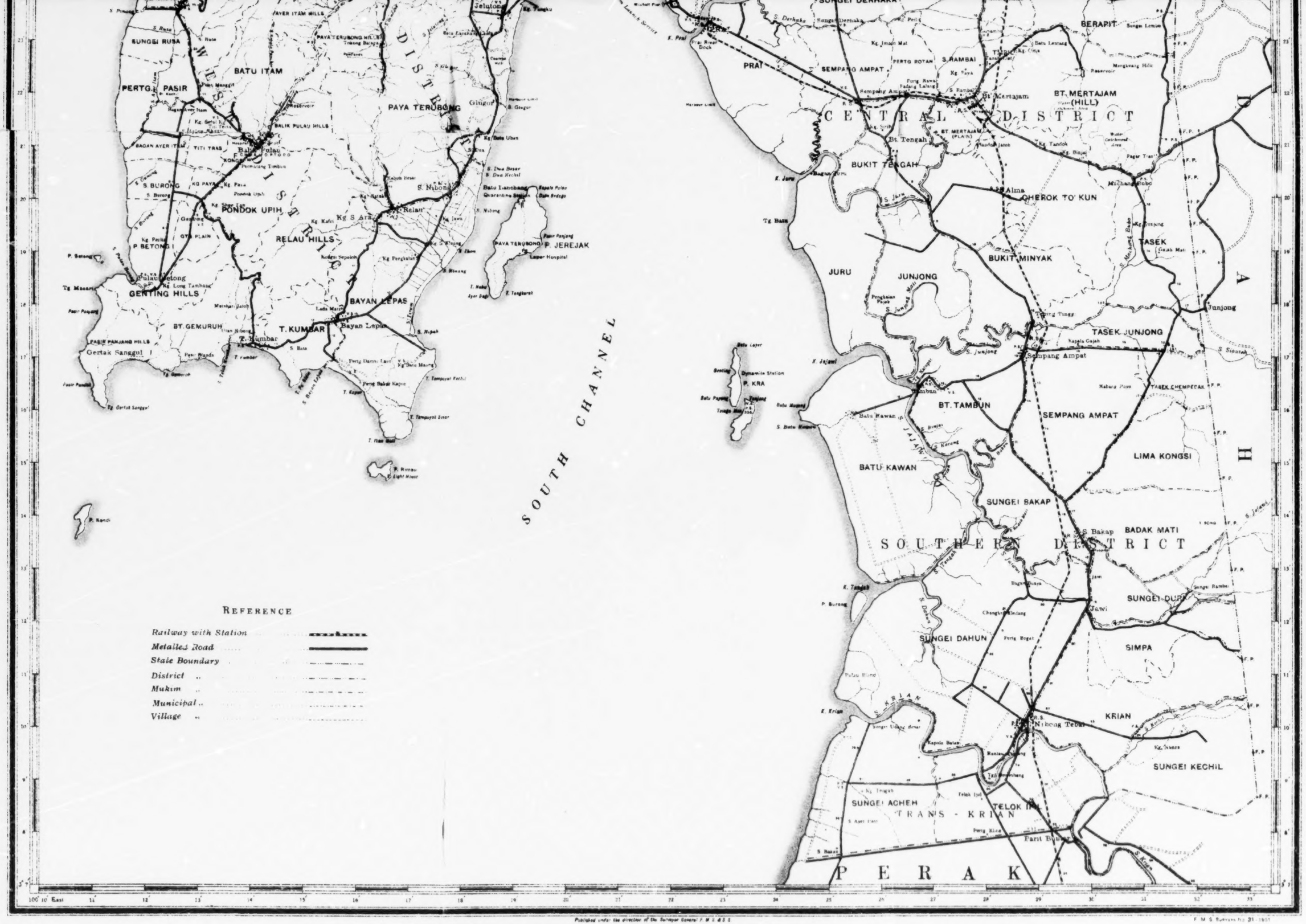

BRITISH NORTH B
CHINA SEA
BRUNEI BAY
Kg. Pohon Batu
Magindanan Bay
T. Layangan
Luke Pt.
Layangan Bay
Layang Layangan
Kg. T. Aru
Labu R.
Kg. Labu
Lada R.
Kg. Lada
Miri R.
Kg. Miri
Pagar R.
Kg. Pagar
Sawangan Aru
Sawangan Buaya
T. Punie
Richardson Pt.
C. MUKIM No 5
C. MUKIM No 3
C. MUKIM No 1
275
C. MUKIM No 6
316
224
Kg. Ganggarak
Merinding
Kg. Sagumau
Kg. Klian
Kg. L. Layangan
Timbunan
P. Akar
Dawar
Malay School
HAMILTON ROAD
MC ARTHUR RD
KIAM SAM ROAD
Kg. S. Bedawon
Kg. S. Sembilang
Kg. Buton
Kg. Bebuloh
Kg. Belukut
Bebuloh R.
Belukut R.
L. Sanundoci
L. Payau
L. Ranggas
L. Sahar
Kiam Sam Pt.
C. MUKIM No 4
P. PAYAU ROAD
Burong Is.
Kuruman Is.
Rusukan Besar
Rusukan Kechil
Barat Bank
Ganggarak R.
T. Aru
COAL POINT ROAD
Kerupang R.
Kg. Kerupang
Kg. Nangalang
C. MUKIM No 2
Membidai
S. MUKIM No 2
S. MUKIM No 3
Collier Head
Ramsay Pt.
CTORIA TOWN
Victoria Harbour
Rancha Pt.
Eno Is.
Lipa Pt.
Klias Pt.
Mulan Kassan Is.
P. Daat
Boundary by Treaty of May 28th. 1847
ween Great Britain and the Sultan of Brunei
115° 10 E. of Greenwich

MAP
OF
PENANG ISLAND
AND
PROVINCE WELLESLEY
1930

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles





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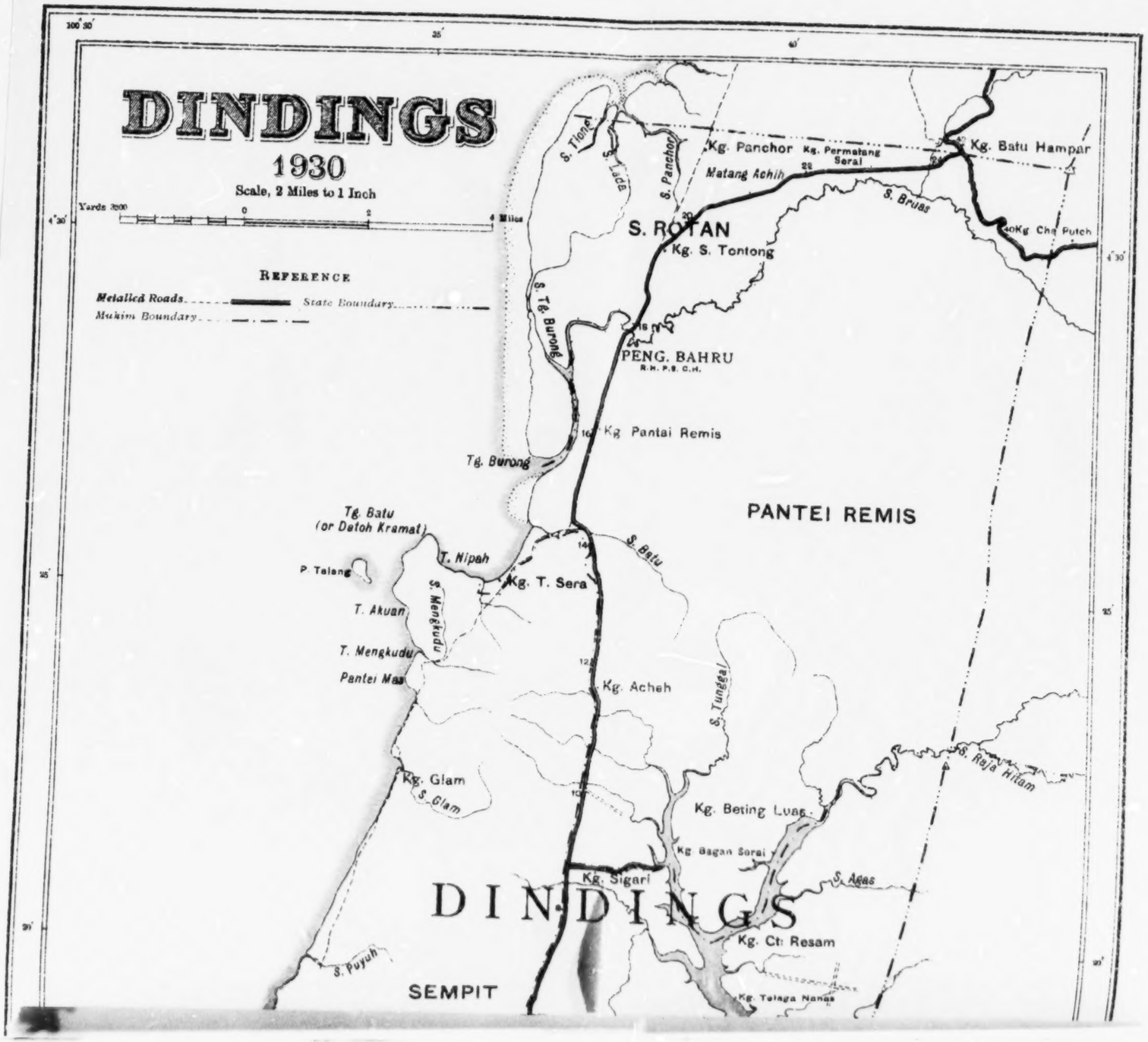
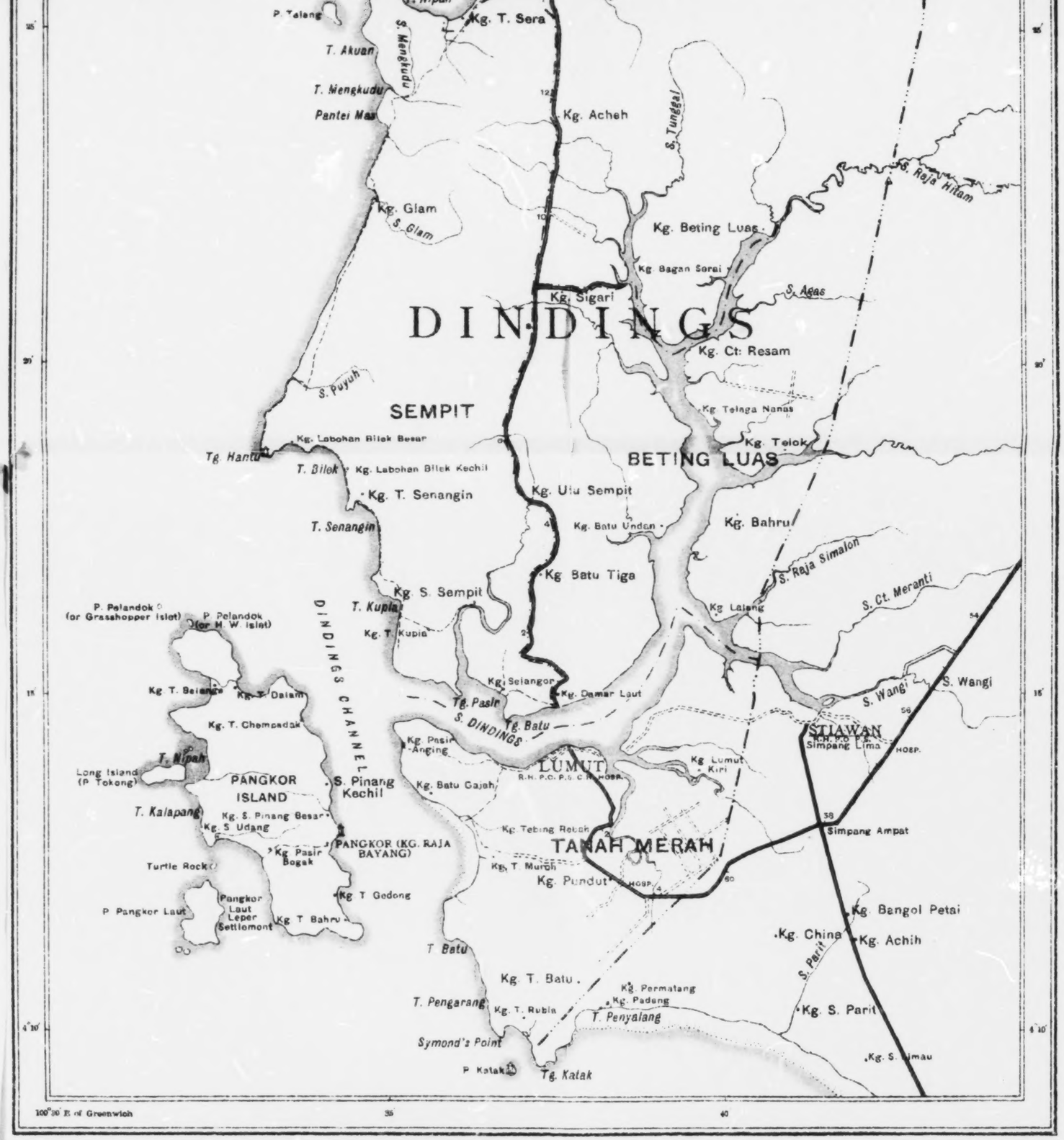
F.M.S. Surveys No. 31 1931


DINDINGS
1930
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3000
0
2
4 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
Mukim Boundary
S. Tlonoi
S. Lada
S. Panchor
Kg. Panchor
Ks. Permatang Seral
Kg. Batu Hampar
Matang Achih
S. Bruas
S. ROTAN
Kg. S. Tontong
Kg Cha Putch
S. Tg. Burong
PENG. BAHRU
R.H. P.S. C.H.
Kg Pantai Remis
Tg. Burong
PANTEI REMIS
Tg. Batu
(or Datoh Kramat)
T. Nipah
P. Talang
Kg. T. Sera
S. Batu
T. Akuan
S. Mengkudu
T. Mengkudu
Pantei Mas
Kg. Acheh
S. Tunggal
S. Raja Hitam
Kg. Glam
S. Glam
Kg. Beting Luas
Kg. Bagan Serai
Kg. Sigari
S. Agas
DINDINGS
Kg. Ct. Resam
S. Puyuh
SEMPIT
Kg. Telaga Nanas



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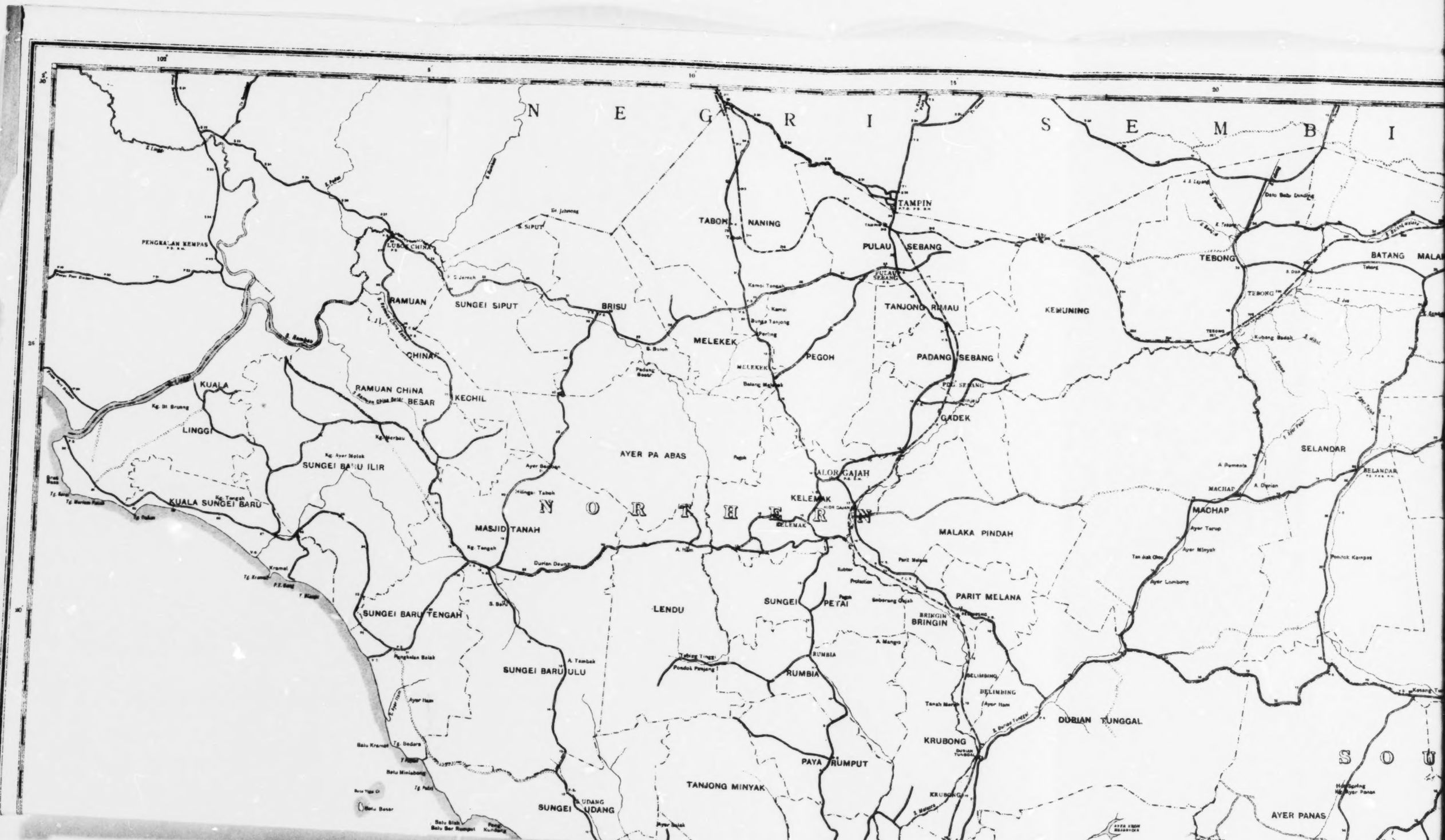
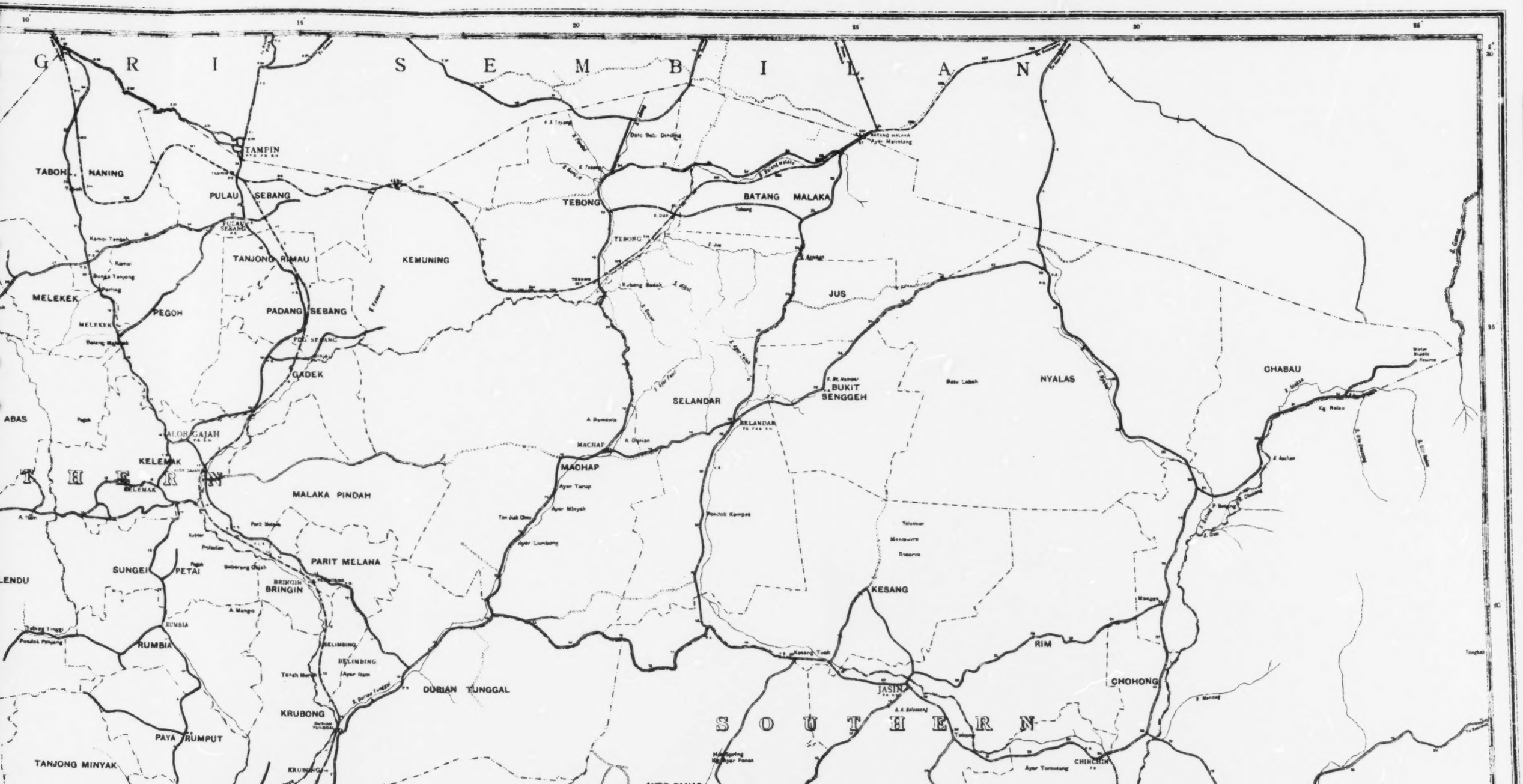

N E G R I S E M B I
N O R T H E R N
S O U
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG
PENGKALAN KEMPAS
LUBOK CHINA
RAMUAN
SUNGEI SIPUT
BRISU
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
CHINA
RAMUAN CHINA
BESAR
KECHIL
KUALA
LINGGI
SUNGEI BARU ILIR
KUALA SUNGEI BARU
AYER PA ABAS
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
SELANDAR
MACHAP
MASJID TANAH
MALAKA PINDAH
PARIT MELANA
SUNGEI BARU TENGAH
LENDU
SUNGEI PETAI
BRINGIN
SUNGEI BARU ULU
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
SUNGEI UDANG
AYER PANAS


G R I S E M B I L A N
S O U T H E R N
T H E R N
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
JUS
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
SELANDAR
BUKIT SENGGEH
NYALAS
CHABAU
ABAS
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
MACHAP
MALAKA PINDAH
PARIT MELANA
SUNGEI PETAI
BRINGIN
KESANG
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
DUBIAN TUNGGAL
RIM
CHOHONG
JASIN
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
CHINCHIN

MALACCA TERRITORY

1930

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 2500 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Railway with Station
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
District ,,
Mukim ,,
Municipal ,,

SUNGEI BARU ULU
SUNGEI UDANG
TANGGA BATU
TANJONG KLING
BUKIT RAMBAI
TANJONG MINYAK
RUMBIA
PAYA RUMPUT
KRUBONG
DURIAN TUNGGAL
CHENG
BATU BERENDAM
BERTAM
KLEBANG BESAR
KLEBANG KECHIL
BACHANG
BALAI PANJANG
PRINGGIT
BUKIT BARU
BUKIT KATIL
BUKIT PIATU
SEMABOK
UJONG PASIR
PADANG TEMU
MALACCA TOWN
BUY ONG
KANDANG
ALAI
TELOK MAS
PERNU
UMBAI
PULAI
SERKAM
TEDONG
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN
AYER MOLEK
BUKIT LINTANG
STRAITS OF MALACCA

108° East of Greenwich

RUMBIA
BELIMBING
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
CHENG
BATU BERENDAM
BUKIT RAMBAI
BERTAM
KLEBANG BESAR
BACHANG
BALAI PANJANG
PRINGGIT
KLEBANG KECHIL
BUKIT BARU
BUKIT PIATU
BUKIT KATIL
BUY ONG
SEMABOK
MALACCA TOWN
UJONG PASIR
PADANG TEMU
KANDANG
ALAI
TELOK MAS
PERNU
UMBAI
PULAI
SERKAM
TEDONG
SEMPANG
MERLIMAU
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN
AYER MOLEK
BUKIT LINTANG
SERKAM
MERLIMAU
SEBATU
SUNGEI RAMBAI
S. MATI
JASIN
CHOHONG
RIM
CHINCHIN
TANGKAK
JOHORE
STRAITS OF MALACCA
P. Besar
P. Undan
P. Panarak
BANDAR MAHARANI (MUAR)

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Diagram Showing Organization of Police Force.

Maps :—

Singapore.
Labuan.
Penang Island and Province Wellesley.
Dindings.
Malacca Territory.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley and the Dindings), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands lie about 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town.

On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is *Province Wellesley*, a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. Head quarters are at Butterworth.

The *Dindings*, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles.

Labuan is an island, some 28.6 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore, and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of no great commercial importance, but possessing considerable agricultural resources.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement on it in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands were declared a British possession in 1857. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The Climate shows but little variation during the year. The mean temperature during 1931 was:—

Singapore	81.5° F.
Penang	82.8° F.
Province Wellesley	81.5° F.
Malacca	80.1° F.

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures varied as follows:—

		Mean monthly maximum		*Mean monthly minimum*	
		Highest °F.	Lowest °F.	Lowest °F.	Highest °F.
Singapore	...	90.4 Feb.	84.2 Dec.	73.3 Jan. Dec.	77.6 Aug.
Penang	...	93.7 Mar.	88.3 Sept.	73.4 Sept.	75.9 Mar. April May

The extremes of temperature (highest maximum and lowest minimum) recorded were:—

		Highest °F.	Lowest °F.
Singapore	...	94 on several days in March, April and May	70 on 29th Sept.
Penang	...	97 on several days in February and March	71 on 13th Sept.

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.

Records for 52 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95.07 inches. December is the wettest month with 10.55 inches and February the driest with 6.62 inches. The average number of rainfall days is 183.

The wettest year recorded is 1914 with 135.52 inches and the driest 1877 with 58.37 inches.

Records for 39 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107.53 inches, October being the wettest month with 16.61 inches and February the driest with 2.91 inches. The average number of rainfall days is 195.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz:*—

S.W. from May to October

N.E. from November to April

but at the coastal stations, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1929	*1930*	*1931*	*No. of rainfall days in 1931*
Singapore ..	79.10	83.22	100.67	201
Penang ..	82.64	95.15	103.97	198
Malacca ..	87.83	84.97	107.19	207
Province Wellesley ..	95.72	105.23	79.87	185
Dindings ..	64.14	69.73	92.31	183
Labuan ..	127.72	130.58	138.73	172

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Resident Councillor, Malacca, two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The Legislative Council is constituted by Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by the Standing Orders made by the Council. Under Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, its constitution was enlarged and for the first time contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The system of Government is similar to that obtaining in all Crown Colonies. Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for the Royal pleasure. The King has the right of veto on the Ordinances of the Colony.

For practical purposes the administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident. The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the Rural areas within the three Settlements.

The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

There has been no change in the system of Government of the Colony since its severence from India in 1867.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

A census of the population as at midnight on the previous night was taken on the 2nd April, 1931. The following figures shew the population by Settlements in comparison with the figures for the census of 1921:—

	1921	*1931*
Singapore	420,004	559,946
Penang	304,335	359,851
Malacca	153,522	186,711
Labuan	5,908	7,507
	883,769	1,114,015

The distribution of the total population by race was as follows:—

	Singapore	*Penang*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*
Europeans ..	8,125	1,526	330	22
Eurasians ..	6,903	2,348	2,007	34
Malays ..	38,276	115,721	92,088	4,839
Other Malaysians	27,956	3,111	3,219	166
Chinese	419,564	176,518	65,179	2,257
Indians ..	50,884	58,020	23,238	135
Others ..	8,298	2,607	650	54
	559,946	359,851	186,711	7,507

The number of births registered during the year was 41,361 as compared with 44,703 and of deaths 27,367 as against 31,928 in the previous year.

The percentage of males born was 52.04. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 39.16 per thousand amongst the Chinese as against 39.52 in 1930.

The corrected infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 180.65 per thousand births as against 193.94 in 1930 and 181.92 in 1929.

The crude death-rate was 24.47 per thousand as against 27.32 and 26.10 in the two previous years. This is the lowest death-rate on record. The average for the last ten years is 28.51.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

Statistics of direct foreign migration by land, sea and air, continued to be collected on a Malayan basis. There is no control of internal movements within the Peninsula. Gross foreign arrivals numbered 330,146, as compared with 573,401 in 1930, and gross departures 517,675, as compared with 607,142 in 1930. There was thus a net loss to the population through migration of 187,529 persons, as compared with the corresponding figure of 33,741 in 1930.

The excess of departures over arrivals was due principally to the continuance of restrictions on immigration of Chinese adult labourers, and the discharge of labourers from mines and estates due to the general trade depression.

The Tables Appended to this Chapter shew the following particulars of migration, *viz.*, (i) movements by nationalities and ports of entry, (ii) movements by months and ports of entry and (iii) movements by nationalities and countries of origin and destination.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—Indian Immigration

The total number of immigrants for Malaya arriving from Southern India at Penang was 19,692 in 1931 as against 69,114 in 1930 showing a decrease of 49,422. All these immigrants arrived in the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers. In addition to these immigrants 1,042 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line; these latter paid their own passages, and are not included in the following analysis.

The immigrants were of the following classes:--

Assisted immigrants (free labourers permitted to emigrate at the expense of the Immigration Fund to rejoin their families on estates in Malaya) ..	111
Other immigrants (traders, labourers and others who paid their own passages)	19,581

Of the "other immigrants" 12,003 or rather more than 61 per cent were of the labouring classes, the remaining 7,578 being traders and others. No definite information is available as to the destination but it is estimated that about two-thirds of them remained in the Colony. Only 15 of the assisted immigrants were for the Colony.

The number of assisted passages taken during 1931 and the four preceding years for labourers and their families emigrating from Southern India to Malaya and paid for from the Immigration Fund was:—

1931	91
1930	36,957
1929	76,248
1928	24,944
1927	114,104

(ii).—Indian Emigration

The number of deck passengers from Penang to Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1931 was 101,347 (81,190 adults with 13,728 minors and 6,429 infants) as against 151,735 (121,792 adults with 20,429 minors and 9,514 infants) in 1930.

In addition to these, 743 adults left Malaya for Southern India by Messageries Maritimes steamers.

Of the total number 40,535 adults, 2,513 minors and 2,180 infants paid their own passages, while 40,655 adults, 11,215 minors and 4,249 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department: of these latter 3,164 adults, 720 minors and 254 infants were from the Colony.

Of the 40,655 adults and 11,215 minors repatriated through the Labour Department, 30,874 adults and 8,238 minors were fit unemployed labourers for whom work could not be found in Malaya, and

the rest, 9,781 adults, and 2,977 minors were unfit for further work there.

The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
Sent at the expense of estates ..	46	6	2
Sent at the expense of Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund ..	2,959	708	248
Taken free by British India Company	159	6	4
	3,164	720	254

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese labourers was restricted by proclamation under the Immigration Restriction Ordinance throughout the year. The restriction is applied to immigrants from China ports (including Hong Kong) only. From January to September the quota was fixed at 5238, and from October to December at 2500 per month. The total number of adult male Chinese labourers entering the Colony during the year was 49,723. Immigration from China to the Federated Malay States direct was stopped altogether.

In 1930, when immigration was restricted from August onwards, the total number of adult male Chinese labourers entering the Colony was 151,693. In 1929, the last year of free immigration, the corresponding figure was 195,613.

No restriction has been placed on the immigration of women and children. In 1931, 17,149 women and 12,153 children entered the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong). The corresponding figures for the previous two years are:—

	Women	*Children*
1929	44,598	40,084
1930	42,896	38,224

The number of women per 1,000 men arriving in the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong) during the years 1929, 1930 and 1931 has been 227, 283 and 345 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 213,992. Of these, 150,720 embarked at Singapore. The Malayan totals for previous years are not available. Singapore totals for 1929 and 1930 are 139,967 and 167,903 respectively.

(*N.B.*—None of the above figures includes 1st and 2nd class passengers).

TABLE I

NETT FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, FOR THE YEAR 1931—BY RACES.

Nationalities	By Sea							By Air	By Rail		By Road	Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak	Kelantan	Singapore	Perlis	Kelantan	Kedah	
Europeans ...	− 508	296	13	24	− 32	2	− 4	28	− 179	− 135	...	− 495
Eurasians ...	− 10	25	...	4	3	...	...	− 1	− 51	6	...	− 24
Japanese ...	328	60	...	3	...	...	4	− 4	− 3	− 4	...	384
Chinese ...	− 64,031	− 36,035	9	339	− 14,758	12	− 70	10	700	− 147	1,006	− 112,965
Malays ...	− 2,513	942	...	193	− 378	274	56	4	− 752	− 913	− 23	− 3,110
Northern Indians ...	1,198	10	18	...	77	1	− 1	1	46	− 182	88	1,256
Southern Indians ...	− 8,363	− 32,149	...	18	− 30,663	4	5	...	1,333	− 2,085	89	− 71,811
Other Nationalities ...	− 172	− 284	...	− 9	...	...	− 4	1	− 334	108	− 70	− 764
TOTAL ...	− 74,071	− 67,135	40	572	− 45,751	293	− 14	39	760	− 3,352	1,090	− 187,529

TABLE II

NETT FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, FOR THE YEAR 1931—BY MONTHS.

	By Sea							By Air	By Rail		By Road	Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak	Kelantan	Singapore	Perlis	Kelantan	Kedah	
1930	25,003	−40,213	− 43	606	− 24,560	Nil	14	− 39	4,284	− 234	1,441	− 33,471
1931:—												
January ...	− 8,811	− 2,978	...	55	− 2,317	13	− 1	9	506	− 95	− 40	− 13,659
February ...	− 4,902	− 2,480	...	54	− 3,101	7	2	0	− 50	− 86	− 75	− 10,631
March ...	− 6,438	− 4,158	− 1	83	202	29	− 6	7	− 482	− 95	− 118	− 10,977
April ...	− 6,392	− 5,185	2	43	− 3,822	43	− 6	− 1	70	− 4	163	− 15,089
May ...	− 5,220	− 6,565	...	58	− 3,521	67	− 8	0	49	− 26	167	− 14,999
June ...	− 3,073	− 7,309	1	29	− 7,402	27	8	− 2	163	− 351	131	− 17,778
July ...	− 5,318	− 6,202	3	111	− 5,928	42	− 15	2	− 41	− 344	151	− 17,539
August ...	− 5,314	− 6,851	2	12	− 4,671	17	5	5	429	− 708	162	− 16,912
September ...	− 7,422	− 10,513	14	63	− 4,122	31	6	3	− 105	− 267	107	− 22,205
October ...	− 9,361	− 5,762	13	− 2	− 5,151	13	3	7	1	− 955	135	− 21,059
November ...	− 6,049	− 6,518	...	35	− 3,296	...	− 1	15	63	− 198	60	− 15,889
December ...	− 5,771	− 2,614	6	31	− 2,622	4	− 1	− 6	157	− 223	247	− 10,792
Total for the year 1931	− 74,071	− 67,135	40	572	− 45,751	293	− 14	39	760	− 3,352	1,090	− 187,529

TABLE III

Arrivals and Departures of Passengers by Sea, Land and Air, By Countries of Origin and Destination, for the year 1931

ARRIVALS FROM

Nationalities	BY SEA											
	Netherlands India				China (b)				India (c)			
	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (d) ...	4,227	1,783	618	6,628	639	390	73	1,102	1,084	497	102	1,683
Eurasians ...	139	75	13	227	4	1	...	5	38	34	10	82
Japanese ...	767	112	78	957	126	33	9	168	80	15	12	107
Chinese ...	60,768	9,400	6,684	76,852	52,312	18,296	12,866	83,474	1,100	256	267	1,623
Malays (e) ...	23,999	7,484	4,239	35,722	71	3	3	77	235	21	17	273
Northern Indians ...	2,616	125	134	2,875	453	5	1	459	9,727	1,050	918	11,695
Southern Indians (f)	1,772	122	109	2,003	52	...	...	52	21,215	2,323	2,665	26,203
Others ...	623	52	102	777	32	7	1	40	253	82	41	376
Total ...	94,911	19,153	11,977	126,041	53,689	18,735	12,953	85,377	33,732	4,278	4,032	42,042

Nationalities	BY SEA											
	Siam				Other Countries				Total			
	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (d) ...	284	92	29	405	4,988	2,968	903	8,859	11,222	5,730	1,725	18,677
Eurasians ...	9	5	6	20	44	34	37	115	234	149	66	449
Japanese ...	29	5	2	36	1,095	309	144	1,548	2,097	474	245	2,816
Chinese ...	1,844	347	378	2,569	8,273	1,664	1,217	11,154	124,297	29,963	21,412	175,672
Malays (e) ...	158	61	53	272	2,595	1,056	652	4,303	27,058	8,625	4,964	40,647
Northern Indians ...	248	9	10	267	812	41	79	932	13,856	1,230	1,142	16,228
Southern Indians (f)	172	9	8	189	1,308	73	67	1,448	24,519	2,527	2,849	29,895
Others ...	173	142	150	465	892	264	243	1,399	1,973	547	537	3,057
Total ...	2,917	670	636	4,223	20,007	6,409	3,342	29,758	205,256	49,245	32,940	287,441

Nationalities	BY AIR				BY LAND				Grand Total			
	Netherlands India				Siam							
	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (a) ...	130	25	2	157	976	348	208	1,532	12,328	6,103	1,935	20,366
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	54	45	25	124	288	194	91	573
Japanese ...	...	...	...	...	132	9	11	152	2,229	483	256	2,968
Chinese ...	19	1	1	21	13,830	1,662	505	15,997	138,146	31,626	21,918	191,690
Malays (e) ...	3	2	...	5	7,712	4,222	695	12,629	34,773	12,849	5,659	53,281
Northern Indians ...	1	...	...	1	1,968	118	120	2,206	15,825	1,348	1,262	18,435
Southern Indians (f)	...	...	...	...	2,281	556	409	3,246	26,800	3,083	3,258	33,141
Others ...	3	...	...	3	4,095	2,080	457	6,632	6,071	2,627	994	9,692
Total ...	156	28	3	187	31,048	9,040	2,430	42,518	236,460	58,313	35,373	330,146

TABLE III—*Continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, FOR THE YEAR 1931

DEPARTURES TO

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				CHINA (*b*)				INDIA (*c*)			
	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total
Europeans (*d*) ...	3,821	1,620	481	5,922	811	478	137	1,426	1,066	685	123	1,87
Eurasians ...	112	96	14	222	9	1	...	10	38	29	10	7
Japanese ...	625	101	33	759	80	2	1	83	120	30	10	16
Chinese ...	51,739	6,475	3,359	61,573	161,192	32,054	24,813	218,059	1,736	219	189	2,14
Malays (*e*) ...	28,377	6,808	4,107	39,292	4	...	...	4	63	4	...	6
Northern Indians	2,587	153	129	2,869	195	5	3	203	9,681	924	564	11,16
Southern Indians (*f*)	1,325	79	66	1,470	30	7	14	51	64,438	19,768	14,710	98,91
Others ...	1,232	58	75	1,365	18	3	3	24	190	111	46	34
Total ...	89,818	15,390	8,264	113,472	162,339	32,550	24,971	219,860	77,332	21,770	15,652	114,75

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	SIAM				OTHER COUNTRIES				TOTAL			
	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total
Europeans (*d*) ...	300	114	31	445	5,343	2,761	1,115	9,219	11,341	5,658	1,887	18,88
Eurasians ...	11	10	6	27	32	38	21	91	202	174	51	42
Japanese ...	22	4	3	29	918	287	185	1,390	1,765	424	232	2,42
Chinese ...	1,400	254	254	1,908	4,935	1,058	529	6,522	221,002	40,060	29,144	290,20
Malays (*e*) ..	181	55	30	266	1,580	580	284	2,444	30,205	7,447	4,421	42,07
Northern Indians	233	5	7	245	389	24	26	439	13,085	1,111	729	14,92
Southern Indians (*f*)	107	...	2	109	424	44	29	497	66,324	19,898	14,821	141,04
Others ...	307	179	143	629	836	171	154	1,161	2,583	522	421	3,52
Total ...	2,561	621	476	3,658	14,457	4,963	2,343	21,763	346,507	75,294	51,706	473,50

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR				BY LAND				GRAND TOTAL			
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				SIAM							
	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total
Europeans (*d*) ..	110	18	1	129	1,168	389	289	1,846	12,619	6,065	2,177	20,86
Eurasians ...	1	...	...	1	79	62	28	169	282	236	79	59
Japanese ...	4	...	...	4	144	13	2	159	1,913	437	234	2,58
Chinese ...	10	1	...	11	12,397	1,552	489	14,438	233,409	41,613	29,633	304,65
Malays (*e*) ...	...	1	...	1	8,567	4,800	950	14,317	38,772	12,248	5,371	56,39
Northern Indians	...	...	...	...	2,089	97	68	2,254	15,174	1,208	797	17,17
Southern Indians (*f*)	...	...	...	...	3,013	647	249	3,909	69,337	20,545	15,070	104,95
Others ...	2	...	...	2	4,110	2,274	544	6,928	6,695	2,796	965	10,45
Total ...	127	20	1	148	31,567	9,834	2,619	44,020	378,201	85,148	54,326	517,67

TABLE III—*Concluded*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, FOR THE YEAR 1931

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (–) ARRIVALS

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				CHINA (*b*)				INDIA (*c*)			
	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C. (*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total
Europeans (*d*)...	406	163	137	706	– 172	– 88	– 64	– 324	18	– 188	– 21	– 191
Eurasians ...	27	– 21	– 1	5	– 5	...	...	– 5	...	5	...	5
Japanese ...	142	11	45	198	46	31	8	85	– 40	– 15	2	– 53
Chinese ...	9,029	2,925	3,325	15,279	– 108,880	–13,758	–11,947	– 134,585	– 636	37	78	– 521
Malays (*e*) ...	–4,378	676	132	–3,570	67	3	3	73	172	17	17	206
Northern Indians	29	– 28	5	6	258	...	– 2	256	46	126	354	526
Southern Indians(*f*)	447	43	43	533	22	– 7	– 14	1	–43,223	–17,445	–12,045	–72,713
Others ...	– 609	6	27	– 588	14	4	– 2	16	63	– 29	– 5	29
Total ...	5,093	3,763	3,713	12,569	– 108,655	–13,815	–12,018	– 134,483	–43,600	–17,492	–11,620	–72,712

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	SIAM				OTHER COUNTRIES				TOTAL			
	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C. (*a*)	Total
Europeans (*d*)...	– 16	– 22	– 2	– 40	– 355	207	– 212	– 360	– 119	72	– 162	– 209
Eurasians ...	– 2	– 5	...	– 7	12	– 4	16	24	32	– 25	15	22
Japanese ...	7	1	– 1	7	177	22	– 41	158	332	50	13	395
Chinese ...	444	93	124	661	3,338	606	688	4,632	– 96,705	–10,097	– 7,732	– 114,534
Malays (*e*) ...	– 23	6	23	6	1,015	476	368	1,859	– 3,147	1,178	543	– 1,426
Northern Indians	15	4	3	22	423	17	53	493	771	119	413	1,303
Southern Indians(*f*)	65	9	6	80	884	29	38	951	– 41,805	–17,371	–11,972	– 71,148
Others ...	– 134	– 37	7	– 164	56	93	89	238	– 610	25	116	– 469
Total ...	356	49	160	565	5,550	1,446	999	7,995	–141,251	–26,049	–18,766	– 186,066

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR				BY LAND				GRAND TOTAL			
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				SIAM							
	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C.(*a*)	Total	M.	F.	C. (*a*)	Total
Europeans (*d*)...	20	7	1	28	– 192	– 41	– 81	– 314	– 291	38	– 242	– 495
Eurasians ...	– 1	...	...	– 1	– 25	– 17	– 3	– 45	6	– 42	12	– 24
Japanese ...	– 4	...	...	– 4	– 12	– 4	9	– 7	316	46	22	384
Chinese ...	9	...	1	10	1,433	110	16	1,559	– 95,263	– 9,987	– 7,715	– 112,965
Malays (*e*) ...	3	1	...	4	– 855	– 578	– 255	– 1,688	– 3,999	601	288	– 3,110
Northern Indians	1	...	...	1	– 121	21	52	– 48	651	140	465	1,256
Southern Indians(*f*)	...	...	...	...	– 732	– 91	160	– 663	– 42,537	– 17,462	– 11,812	– 71,811
Others ...	1	...	...	1	– 15	– 194	– 87	– 296	– 624	– 169	29	– 764
Total ...	29	8	2	39	– 519	– 794	– 189	– 1,502	–141,741	– 26,835	– 18,953	– 187,529

NOTES:—

(*a*) Children are under 12 (English) years of age
(*b*) China includes Hong Kong
(*c*) India includes Burma and Ceylon
(*d*) Europeans include Americans
(*e*) Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago
(*f*) Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—MORTALITY AND PREVALENCE OF DISEASE

(i).—General

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year) was 4,607 as against 5,136 and 4,692 in the two previous years. Dietetic errors, malaria and tetanus are the commoner causes of infantile convulsions. Malaria was responsible for 3,505 deaths as against 5,018 and 4,648 in the two previous years, while fever unclassified accounted for 1,502 deaths against 1,995 in 1930 and 1,764 in 1929.

Deaths to the number of 2,580 were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,795 in the year 1930.

Pneumonia accounted for 2,373 deaths as compared with 2,343 in the previous year. Three hundred and forty-nine deaths were registered as due to influenza as against 281 in the previous year.

Beri-beri accounted for 911 deaths as against 1,047, 944 and 1,146 in the three previous years.

Dysentery caused 618 deaths classified as follows:—

Amœbic	112
Bacillary	132
Unclassified	374
	618

The number of deaths from dysentery in the previous year was 770.

Infectious diseases—There were 48 deaths from small-pox and thirteen deaths from cerebro-spinal fever. There was no plague or cholera during the year. Five imported cases of cholera occurred at Penang.

The figures for 1930 showed 59 deaths from small-pox (of which three were imported cases) and twenty-three deaths from cerebro-spinal fever which included two imported cases.

(ii).—Hospitals

Fifty-eight thousand five hundred and twenty-six patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony as compared with 74,039 in the previous year. The malaria admissions were 6,509 as compared with 12,997 in 1930. Admissions for venereal disease were 3,946 with 172 deaths as against 4,743 with 162 deaths in the previous year.

(iii).—Dispensaries

General Diseases

Outpatients numbered 258,311 and the attendances 493,299 as against 244,620 outpatients and 466,380 attendances in 1930. The attendances at the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 35,814 as compared with 32,200 in 1930. At the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Penang, the attendances were 15,722 as against 14,832 in the previous year.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Outpatients treated for venereal diseases were 28,336 as compared with 36,388 in 1930. The attendances were 336,040 as against 267,746 in the previous year.

YAWS

The number of outpatients treated for yaws was 7,477 as compared with 6,076 in 1930. More Malays who suffered from this disease have come forward voluntarily to accept treatment.

MOTOR TRAVELLING DISPENSARIES

The number of attendances at the Motor Travelling Dispensary in Singapore was 16,759 as against 19,891 in 1930. In Penang Island, the attendances were 36,384 as against 33,775 in 1930, and in Province Wellesley 29,282 as against 26,892 in the previous year. In Malacca, there were 20,543 attendances as against 20,661 in 1930.

(iv).—LEPERS

The number of lepers treated in the Leper Settlements of the Colony was 1,384 with a total of 101 deaths, as compared with 1,537 with 144 deaths in the previous year. Eleven lepers were discharged apparently cured (7 from the Leper Settlements in Singapore and 4 from the Leper Settlements at Pulau Jerejak, Penang).

(v).—MENTAL HOSPITAL

One thousand one hundred and fifty-five males and 403 females were treated during the year as compared with 1,083 males and 395 females in the year 1930. The numbers remaining at the end of the year were 912 males and 342 females as against 881 males and 306 females at the end of 1930.

B.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i).—QUARANTINE

Six hundred and ninety-seven visits in Singapore, and 375 visits in Penang (as against 1,186 and 480 respectively in 1930) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers, who examined 342,045 persons as compared with 647,142 in the previous year.

Fifteen thousand two hundred and seventy-five persons were retained under observation in the two maritime Quarantine Stations, mostly for short periods, as against 83,046 in 1930.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases in Singapore Quarantine Station was 1 for small-pox, and in Penang 3 for small-pox and 5 for cholera.

The figures for 1930 were—Singapore 5 for small-pox and 2 for cerebro-spinal fever and Penang 3 for cerebro-spinal fever.

(ii).—Rural Conservancy

The Health Officers in each Settlement continued to supervise and develop the sanitation and conservancy in rural areas. Conservancy in the rural area of Singapore has been well carried out during the year and sanitary conditions are gradually improving. During the year under review 3 new pit latrines have been excavated and are functioning well. Nine hundred and eighty-four insanitary latrines have been abolished and replaced by latrines of approved type, while 376 latrines have been reconstructed. An average of 2,417 cubic feet of refuse per month has been destroyed in the village incinerators.

(iii).—Anti-Malarial Work

Over $240,000 was spent on anti-mosquito work and anti-malarial measures directed towards the general reduction of all harmful mosquitos. The chief item of expenditure was permanent drainage, but large areas were also controlled by temporary oiling measures.

CHAPTER V

Housing

The character of the housing of the wage earning population of the Straits Settlements varies in urban and rural areas. In municipal areas the houses may be classified as:—

(a) Compound houses occupied by the well-to-do-residents.

(b) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by moderately well-paid employees.

(c) Terrace houses for the clerical class.

(d) Shop-houses.

(e) Common lodging houses which are frequently overcrowded.

(f) Tenements in closely built areas, and

(g) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses in the outskirts of the city.

The shop-houses in most cases are built in rows, of solid construction and of two or more storeys. They are, in a large number of cases, insufficiently ventilated and, in many streets, are not provided with back lanes. The former defect conduces to the spread of tuberculosis and the latter interferes with the proper collection of night soil. Many of these houses are divided into small cubicles in the upper storeys by the erection of temporary partitions, without regard to the entry of light and air. It is in these cubicles that the worst type of overcrowding is found, and it is not unknown to find in a street of these houses an average of 46 people per house. The majority of the labouring and artisan class find a home in these cubicles or in common lodging houses. With so many of the wage earners living in such ill-ventilated an insanitary dwellings, it is not surprising that tuberculosis in urban areas is so prevalent and that

the infantile death rate is high. The common lodging houses are found in the densely populated areas and frequently consist of an overcrowded dormitory over a shop or store.

The landlords of this type of house-property are almost exclusively Asiatic, and in the large towns Chinese property owners predominate.

In rural areas, houses of the wage earners are generally of the Malay and Chinese types, built of planks and attaps. Brick and tile shop-houses are found in some of the larger villages. The former type of houses are usually owned by the occupier. They are, as a general rule, clean, well-ventilated and not overcrowded; moreover, this type of house, being built of planks and palm-leaves, is admirably suited to the climate and is cool and comfortable to live in. The brick and tile shop-houses in the villages lend themselves to overcrowding like those in the towns, but the evils are less pronounced as the houses are not built so closely together. A large number of labourers on rubber estates are housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. These buildings in most cases conform to the standard design prescribed by the health authorities, and are therefore satisfactory when not overcrowded. Most of the houses, occupied by Malay small-holders and peasants, in rural areas, are detached and built of planks or bamboo with attap roofs. They are raised about four to six feet above the ground level. These houses are well-ventilated, cool and commodious. Practically all are owned by the occupiers.

It will be noted that action to relieve defects is required chiefly in the case of shop-houses and common lodging houses in towns, many of which contain cubicles and are dangerously overcrowded. Steps to ameliorate these conditions are being taken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore. On rebuilding by the owners, proper air space must be provided and back lanes must be made of a width of 15 to 20 feet. The Improvement Trust has entered on a fixed programme of driving back lanes through existing congested areas. When this involves reconstruction, the Trust recovers the cost of the land. The Trust has also bought up several large blocks of slums and pulled them down or established open spaces in their centres. Roughly 50 acres of land bordering on the Chinese area and formerly occupied by squatters, has been bought up, filled in, provided with roads, and laid out in building lots for sale with a view to relieving the congestion. The Trust has built 118 better class cottages at Lavender Street for occupation by the clerical classes, and two large blocks of tenements comprising about 250 rooms at Kreta Ayer Road. It is also now erecting artizan dwellings in Balestier Road, and 76 such houses have been built to date, with a further 148 in course of construction.

In Penang, amelioration has been effected by the issue of nuisance notices under the Municipal Ordinance, resulting in the improvement of many buildings during the past 10 years. The Municipality has also demanded alterations in buildings to comply with by-laws under the Municipal Ordinance with a view to improving light and ventilation and avoiding overcrowding. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition

of insanitary dwellings. Steps have also been taken to maintain the common lodging houses in a sanitary and uncrowded condition.

In Malacca, amelioration is effected by constant inspection and action under the Municipal Ordinance and by-laws. In rural areas, gazetted village planning schemes have been evolved so as to ensure a suitable layout of buildings. Demolition notices are enforced in towns and villages where such a course appears to be the only remedy. The work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. It can be stated with confidence that almost all buildings now being erected in rural areas are of moderately good and sanitary type without being too expensive.

There are no building societies in the Colony.

CHAPTER VI

Production

A.—AGRICULTURE

(a) Crops Grown by Europeans and Asiatics

Agricultural production on large estates owned by European companies or by companies consisting jointly of Europeans and Asiatics is confined to crops of rubber, coconuts and in one instance a small area of coffee. The first two crops are also grown extensively on properties of varying sizes from large estates to holdings of a few acres owned by Chinese, Malays, Indians and members of the other non-European communities resident in the Colony. Coffee cultivation on the other hand is limited to about 1,000 acres in the Dindings, Malacca and Singapore Island of which about 700 acres are owned by Asiatics.

Rubber, with the exception of a comparatively small quantity absorbed by a manufacturer in Singapore, is all exported to foreign countries. Coconuts, in the form of fresh nuts and coconut oil, are consumed locally, and are also exported in quantities in the form of copra and, to a less extent, of fresh nuts, which are shipped to Burma. The coffee is all consumed locally.

Rubber.—The selling price of rubber in 1931 declined even further than in 1930. The average Singapore price for ribbed smoke sheet over the year was 9.78 cents per lb., the highest price being 13¼ cents in January, and the lowest 7¼ cents in August and September. These prices were below the cost of production on many properties.

The area planted with rubber remained practically unchanged at 341,303 acres of which 15,515 were not yet in tapping. Of the total area 62.98 per cent consisted of estates of over 100 acres and 37.02 per cent of areas under 100 acres in extent, the latter being almost entirely owned by Asiatics.

Production as shown by exports amounted to 50,112 tons in 1931, valued at $11,413,008, as compared with 46,474 tons in 1930, valued at $20,062,361.

On a number of the estates the practice of tapping only the higher yielding areas has become increasingly prevalent. The average

productive area left untapped on estates during the year was 51,011 acres. In the islands of Singapore and Penang and in Province Wellesley considerably more than half of the smaller holdings remained untapped for the greater portion of the year. In Malacca tapping was discontinued on properties of varying size belonging to Chinese and Indians. In Malacca and the Province many Malay owners who were also holders of padi land left their rubber trees untapped during the periods of rice planting and harvest. Practically the only holdings on which tapping was continuous were those whose owners had no other means of livelihood. A slight improvement in the price of rubber during the last two months of the year resulted in a considerable increase in the number of holdings tapped.

The area planted with budgrafted rubber amounted to 4,504 acres of which 171 are in bearing. Imports of budwood and budded stumps showed a further decrease, since many estates now possess their own multiplication nurseries.

Of rubber diseases Mouldy Rot proved troublesome during the wetter periods of the year; control was hampered by the inability of many owners to incur the expenditure necessary for complete efficiency. Leaf mildew caused by *Oidium Heveae* occurred extensively in Malacca and sporadically in Province Wellesley immediately after the wintering season, but its effects were unimportant owing to the occurrence of wet weather conditions soon after its appearance.

Coconuts.—The average Singapore prices for copra of "Sundried" and of "Fair Merchantable" qualities during the year were respectively $5.09 and $4.64 per picul as compared with $7.80 and $7.45 in 1930. The highest price for "Sundried" was $6.15 in March, and the lowest $3.70 in June.

There has been little change in the area planted with coconuts as given in the report for 1930 (82,047 acres of which 11,846 were not in bearing), with the exception of certain newly planted holdings in the Dindings. In Province Wellesley and Penang many of the palms are of great age. The annual mortality among them is in consequence high, but is partly counterbalanced by replacements.

It is at present extremely difficult to form even a rough estimate of the total production of nuts in the Colony. Many dwellings have small groups of palms planted near them, their produce being used entirely for local consumption, as also are the nuts from many of the holdings under five acres in area. Of the copra produced the greater part is exported, but a portion is used by the oil mills in Singapore and Penang which, however, also purchase copra imported from the islands of the archipelago. Much of the copra prepared in the Federated and Unfederated Malay States as well as in some of the islands of Netherlands India is exported through the ports of the Colony after re-drying and grading. In addition Penang has an export trade in fresh nuts mainly to Burma.

The standard manurial experiments instituted in 1930 on seven coconut estates, including two in the Colony, have been continued but have not yet been in progress long enough to give definite results. Selection, cross-pollination, manuring and cultivation experiments

have been continued at the departmental experiment station at Klang, and on Carey Island.

Investigations into improved methods of preparing copra, which are being undertaken with financial assistance from the Empire Marketing Board, have commenced to give valuable information. The officer engaged in this work visited Ceylon in August to make a comparative study of methods of coconut cultivation and copra preparation in that island. A report giving the results obtained to the end of 1931 is being published. It has been definitely established that Malayan copra is inferior in quality to that prepared in Ceylon and that this inferiority is due less to climatic factors than to careless harvesting of nuts on small holdings, and, on properties of all sizes, to methods of preparation which frequently leave room for improvement. It would also appear that the importation of copra and its subsequent re-drying and grading affect the quality of copra demanded by the local market.

Control of the Coconut Beetle *(Oryctes rhinoceros)* continued to receive careful attention throughout the year and was effectively enforced in all districts, though further work is still needed in Singapore Island before damage can be reduced to a minimum. There were no important outbreaks of other pests or diseases.

Coffee.—The area planted with this crop is estimated at 420 acres in Malacca, 500 acres in the Dindings, including 300 acres interplanted with rubber on a European owned estate, and about 57 acres in Singapore Island. The actual production figures from this area are not known. Prices in Singapore for Robusta coffee from Java have varied between $16 and $22 per picul and for the lower grade coffee from Palembang in Sumatra between $11 and $16 per picul. Local prices have corresponded according to quality and at these figures have not been sufficiently high to stimulate planting, although the local demand is largely met by imports from the sources already mentioned.

(b) Crops grown exclusively by Asiatics

The most important of these crops are padi and pineapples, although there are other minor products to which reference is made in the following paragraphs.

Padi (Rice).—The estimate of the total area of land plantable with wet padi in the Straits Settlements during the season 1930—1931 was 72,140 acres. The total area under cultivation in this season was estimated to be 67,350 acres yielding 26,309,000 gantangs of padi equivalent to 62,640 tons of dry unhusked padi or 38,837 tons of milled rice. These figures compare with a total planted area of 64,825 acres yielding 17,208,910 gantangs of padi in the season 1929—1930.

The crop harvested in Province Wellesley from a total area of 32,290 acres was 15,673,000 gantangs, this good crop being due to favourable weather conditions throughout the season.

In Malacca a crop of 9,132,000 gantangs was reaped from 29,920 acres, a yield slightly below the average owing to the effects of drought in one district.

In Penang Island an area of 4,620 acres yielded 1,488,000 gantangs, while in the Dindings drought destroyed the wet padi crop, so that a total area of 520 acres of wet and dry padi yielded only 16,000 gantangs, nearly all of which was dry padi.

While the estimates of the planted area are now considered to be reasonably accurate, yields, in the absence of any weighing of crop by land owners, are difficult to estimate and are only approximate.

The prices realised for this crop were low, varying from 5-9 cents a gantang in Province Wellesley and Penang, and from 5 to 16 cents a gantang in Malacca. The low prices were mainly due to heavy crops in Burma and other rice producing countries.

1931—1932 Season.—The area planted during the current season is estimated to amount to 67,540 acres out of a total plantable area of 71,380 acres. The planted area is made up of 30,730 acres in Malacca, 33,023 acres in Province Wellesley, 3,300 acres in Penang, and 330 acres in the Dindings.

In the Settlement of Penang the total yield was expected to be approximately the same as that of the previous season, although in parts of Province Wellesley dry weather in the early stages of growth had an adverse effect on the crop, while in the Dindings drought and damage by high tides have necessitated three plantings and rendered the final results uncertain.

In Malacca favourable weather conditions throughout the season gave promise of a good crop.

In both seasons the three more important padi stem borers, *Diatraea auricilia, Schoenobius incertellus* and *Sesamia inferens* were as usual fairly prevalent at harvest and caused a reduction of yield. Investigations into the possibility of controlling them by means of natural parasites have been continued but have not yet given conclusive results. At the close of 1931 the padi leaf hopper, *Sogata furcifera,* caused considerable damage in parts of Province Wellesley at a time when it was in evidence generally in the northern part of the Peninsula.

The rat campaigns in Province Wellesley and Malacca met with a satisfactory measure of success in preventing any serious damage to the standing crop. In Penang Island, however, where control work has only recently been commenced, damage by rats was severe.

At the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca, maintained by the Department of Agriculture, selection and testing of pure strains of local varieties have been continued with satisfactory results. Certain of the selections have given good yields not only in the Colony but in other parts of Malaya. The revised scheme of manurial experiments again gave inconclusive results and a further revision of the scheme has been evolved as part of a general investigation of the problem. A pumping plant was installed to perfect the irrigation system and to ascertain the cost and frequency of pumping necessary to supplement the rainfall.

Three Standardised Test Plots to determine suitability of selected strains to local conditions were maintained during the year in Penang,

Province Wellesley and Malacca. These provided some useful information and helped to popularise some of the strains among local growers. An attempt to grow two crops of padi during the year on the plot in Penang Island met with no success, partly owing to damage by floods and partly to the depredations of birds and rats which concentrated their attention on the only padi then growing in the district.

The Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into Rice Cultivation in Malaya presented its report early in the year; action has since been taken on several of its recommendations.

Pineapples.—The prices paid to growers for fresh fruit improved somewhat during the second half of the year, but the price for canned fruit remained fairly steady. The prices for large fruit varied from $1.60 to $3.50 and for smaller fruit from $1 to $2 per 100. Prices for 1½ lb. tins of Good Average Quality pinapple cubes varied from $3 to $3.95 per case of 48 tins.

The total export of tinned fruit of all grades through Singapore amounted to 58,824 tons, an increase in quantity of some 12,000 tons but a decrease in value of about $1,400,000 as compared with the figures for 1930.

While the area planted with pineapples in Singapore Island remains at approximately 8,000 acres, the main source of supply of fresh fruit is the State of Johore. Export figures from the latter State indicate clearly that there has been a marked tendency to concentrate canning operations in the Singapore factories, since exports of fresh fruit have more than doubled while exports of canned fruit have fallen by about 33 per cent.

The Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor at the end of 1930 to enquire into matters affecting this industry presented its report which was published during September. Action to give effect to its recommendations has been under consideration.

The exhibits of Malayan tinned pineapples staged by the Malayan Information Agency at various Shows and Exhibitions in the United Kingdom have assisted materially to maintain the demand for this local product and have also drawn increased attention to the need for uniformity and improvement in the quality of the standard grades. There has recently been a tendency to pay greater attention to these important points.

Since pineapples have always in the past been grown as a catch-crop with rubber, the cessation of rubber planting will result in a diminution in the extent of the pineapple industry unless it is found possible to grow pineapples either as a sole crop or as a catch crop with some form of permanent cultivation other than rubber. The successful preparation of by-products from pineapple waste is an important factor in this connection.

Satisfactory progress has been made in planting up the various plots at the Pineapple Experiment Station in Singapore Island. Growth has, however, been slow and it is already clear that manuring will be essential whenever pineapples are grown on a soil that has been under this or some other form of cultivation for some years.

Fruit.—Local fruit trees are nearly all grown on small areas, some of which are laid out as orchards in an orderly manner, while others are planted up with a mixture of fruit and other trees without any system. No information as to the planted area or the production is available. The mid-season crop in the Settlement of Penang was reported to be good. Considerable crops of pineapples and bananas have been grown for sale in the local markets. In Singapore Island there has been a tendency to increase the area planted with fruit trees, but the supply is still obtained in the main from foreign sources which provide fruits usually of better quality than those locally grown.

Vegetables.—Vegetable cultivation is almost entirely in the hands of Chinese market gardeners who often combine with it pig and poultry breeding and, in some cases, the rearing of carp in fish ponds. This industry provides a livelihood for a considerable part of the rural population of Singapore Island and supplies the town markets with the greater portion of the city's requirements of such vegetables as can readily be grown in the plains of Malaya. There is, however, a considerable import from foreign countries and from the mainland of the Peninsula, more especially of such vegetables as are difficult to grow in the island. The area cultivated with vegetables in Province Wellesley has increased somewhat at the expense of the padi land. Prices there have, however, been low and the demand at the various town and village markets has not always been able to absorb the supply.

Tobacco.—During the year the cultivation of this crop by Chinese market gardeners in the Settlement of Penang was considerably extended. At the close of the year over 100 acres were planted. The year's crop amounted to 625 piculs (approximately 37 tons) sold for prices varying from $48 per picul in April to between $15 and $30, according to quality, in December. Small trial areas of tobacco were also planted in Malacca and Singapore Island. The crop is mostly sold for the manufacture of local cheroots, but recently a Chinese owned factory for the preparation of a fine shag has been opened in Province Wellesley. The Department of Agriculture is conducting experiments with this crop at several stations including the Pineapple Station in Singapore. Important pests and diseases have already made their appearance. These include several species of leaf eating caterpillars, the stem borer, *Gelechia heliopa,* and Slime disease caused by *Bacterium solanacearum.*

Cloves and Nutmegs.—Prices for cloves ranged from $75 to $38, for nutmegs from $35 to $10, and for mace from $80 to $40 per picul. The prices were high at the beginning of the year, but declined after May. This crop is grown mainly by Chinese and is confined to Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley and the Western slopes of Penang Hill. The holdings have recently received more attention owing to the low price of rubber, but the Cerambycid stem borer continues to do extensive damage to cloves, as no successful means of control has been devised.

Other crops grown on a small scale by Asiatics for local consumption include Arecanut, tapioca, sago and sugar cane, while in certain localities the drying and platting of the leaves of the Nipah palm for roofing material constitutes a local industry of some importance.

(c) Livestock

Stock.—The Singapore Cold Storage Company has continued to maintain its Dairy and Pig Farm in Singapore Island to provide supplies of fresh milk and pork. This Dairy is the only one of its kind in the Colony. The demand for fresh milk is at present considerably in excess of the quantity that the Dairy is able to supply. The pork produced has a ready sale, mostly among Europeans, though steps are being taken to meet the requirements of the Chinese community.

(d) Agricultural Instruction

Agricultural Instruction.—In order to improve local methods of Agriculture and encourage the planting of a wider range of crops the Department of Agriculture makes use of various methods of instruction and propaganda.—

(a) *Demonstration Stations.*—Good progress was made in the establishment of the station at Sungei Udang in Malacca and a site was secured for a second station near Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley. Two sites have also been reserved for stations at Segari in the Dindings and at Jasin in Malacca. The stations will serve for testing varieties, demonstration purposes and as sources of planting material of good quality for distribution.

(b) *School Gardens.*—There are 66 school gardens in Malacca, 19 in Province Wellesley, 10 in Penang, 3 in the Dindings and 7 in Singapore Island. The annual competitions among school gardens in the Settlements of Malacca and of Penang indicate a satisfactory measure of improvement in the standard of these gardens as a result of regular visits by Agricultural Officers.

The number of home gardens made by school boys on their parents' land in both Settlements has increased considerably and in Malacca the example set has in some cases been followed by parents.

(c) *Publications.*—The publications in English issued by the Department of Agriculture have consisted of the monthly numbers of the Malayan Agricultural Journal together with seven special Bulletins. In addition the quarterly journals in Malay and in Chinese have been published regularly and leaflets have been issued in Malay on various subjects.

(d) The Departments of Co-operation and of Agriculture and the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya have jointly maintained a Rural Lecture Caravan which carries agricultural exhibits, cinematograph films on co-operation and agricultural subjects, and lantern slides. The caravan visits the villages at each of which lectures in Malay are given on the Agricultural exhibits in the afternoon and on agricultural and co-operative subjects, illustrated or followed by the lantern slides and moving pictures in the evening. The van toured parts of Malacca and also of Penang and Province Wellesley in May and June. Good audiences were attracted and a number of enquiries for selected padi seed resulted.

Conference of Directors of Agriculture.—In July a conference of Colonial Directors of Agriculture was held at the Colonial Office under the Chairmanship of the Agricultural Adviser to the Colonial Office. The Colony was represented thereat by Dr. TEMPANY, the Director of Agriculture.

Opening of School of Agriculture, Malaya.—In May 1931 the School of Agriculture which had been under construction for the past two years was officially opened by the Officer Administering the Government. It is hoped that this institution will in due course exert beneficial influence on native agriculture in Malaya. The school comprises a teaching block with hostel accommodation for 80 students, quarters for the teaching staffs and necessary out buildings. The courses of training include a three year course delivered in English designed to meet requirements of senior students, and a one year course in the vernacular for junior students. They comprise teaching in the elements of science underlying agricultural practice combined with practical training in the agriculture of the more important crops. Areas cultivated by the pupils are attached to the school, while the experimental plantations are also available and are utilised in connection with the teaching. At the end of the year the total number of students at the school was thirty-eight.

(e) METHODS AND CONDITIONS OF RECRUITING SOUTH INDIAN LABOUR

Elaborate machinery exists for the recruitment in normal times of South Indian labour, chiefly for work on rubber, cocoanut and oil palm estates.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 and the Rules made thereunder, and a special General Order of the Government of India defines the conditions on which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work is permitted to the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States.

There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labour for skilled work, but the recruiting of skilled labour in British India for work in Malaya is practically non-existent.

The foundation of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labour is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is composed of contributions from all employers (including the Governments of Malaya) of South Indian labour. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may be used solely in the interests of the importation of Indian labour. Included in these interests are the maintenance of homes for decrepit and unemployed Indian labourers and repatriation of and assistance to Indian labourers in need of relief, and during the past two years the resources of the Fund have been extensively used for these purposes.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being train fare of emigrants from their homes to

the ports of Negapatam and Madras and their feeding in the Emigration Camps at these places while awaiting shipment, passages from Madras or Negapatam to the Straits, the expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang, Port Swettenham or Singapore, transport thence to their places of employment in Malaya and the payment of recruiting allowances to the employers by whose Agents they had been recruited.

These Agents, known as Kanganies, are sent over by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. The recruiting allowance paid to the employer is intended to recoup him for this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

(i) he must be an Indian of the labouring classes.

(ii) he must have been employed as a labourer on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit for a period of not less than three months.

Licences are issued by the Deputy Controller of Labour in Penang and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty—the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 per head for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the office of the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments with the approval of the Government of India to supervise emigration to Malaya, or in Negapatam to the office of the Assistant Emigration Commissioner. Only on endorsement by one or other of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually for six months and is limited to one year.

After having his licence registered the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents in India. There he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) and he then proceeds to his own village where he informs his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate

When the kangany finds people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Munsiff or Headman whose duty it is to see that there is no valid objection to the person emigrating. If satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman he takes them to the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Madras or Negapatam, either himself prepaying the train

fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents (of whom there are fourteen) employed by the Fund.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government—the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped, unless he is himself returning to the Colony when he is paid the balance due to him on arrival, the kangany receives his commission less the amount of his advance from the financial agents.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charges and is kept purposely low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from $3 to $20 and is at present fixed at $10. The latter figure is designed to cover all legitimate out of pocket expenses with just sufficient margin to induce employers to recruit up to their own requirements.

Besides the emigrants recruited by kanganies for individual employers any *bona fide* agricultural labourer who is physically fit, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant, can obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing. They are for the most part returning emigrants who are proceeding to their old places of employment and as they are not recruited neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as *ex-officio* Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee which consists partly of officials and partly of unofficials, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited, are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no "contract" or indentured labour in the Colony.

There are 98 estates in the Colony owned by Europeans and 203 owned by Asiatics. The number of South Indian labourers (excluding their dependants) on the European owned estates on the 31st December, 1931, was 14,635 and on the Asiatic-owned estates 1,287.

The same procedure applies in regard to recruitment of South Indian labour for the Railways, the Municipalities and the Public Works Departments.

B.—FORESTRY

Except for Singapore Island, where the forests have been depleted as a result of pressure of population, the Straits Settlements are fairly well provided with forests in respect of which a conservative policy is followed. It was decided to abandon, after the close of the year under report, the attempt to continue the protection of the remains of the Singapore forests, which were not considered of sufficient value to justify the expenditure involved. The Singapore forest organisation has been closed down and such saleable material as remains in the forest reserves is being disposed of under the control of the Commissioner of Lands. When this process is complete the reserves, with the exception of one which is to be maintained for purposes of amenity, will be revoked.

There is a fairly large sawmill industry in Singapore which depends mainly on the adjacent islands of Netherlands India as its source of raw material and, in addition to supplying a large part of the needs of the Island, exports sawn timber to a wide range of markets. Considerable supplies of round timber for such purposes as piling are derived from the same islands, but durable hardwoods are chiefly obtained from the mainland of Malaya.

The Settlement of Malacca is well provided with forests, chiefly of the plains type, which promise to constitute a valuable asset when they have been brought under regular management. The forests of Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings are mainly hilly, but contain fair quantities of superior hardwoods and constitute a useful source of local supply.

The forest reserves of the Straits Settlements at present occupy 181 square miles, or 12% of the total area of the Colony. There is no prospect of their further extension, in fact their area will be reduced by the abandonment of the Singapore reserves referred to above.

The present depression is reflected in the statistics for the year. Forest revenue fell to $53,772 as compared with $66,860 realized in the previous year, and expenditure was curtailed to $98,819 as compared with $125,772 in 1930.

The outturn of timber, firewood and charcoal in cubic feet amounted to 366,637, 1,466,451 and 27,595 as against 489,230, 2,763,179 and 33,355 respectively in the previous year.

The scheme for the conversion of the Malacca forests into regularly managed stands was proceeded with. A similar scheme has been introduced in Penang and Province Wellesley, and one for the Dindings has been brought into operation since the close of the year.

The superior executive staff consisted of only two full-time officers—an Assistant Conservator in charge of Malacca and a Sub-Assistant Conservator in Singapore—and the latter appointment ceased with the closing down of the Singapore organisation at the end of the year. Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings are included in the charges of Assistant or Extra Assistant Conservators of the Federated Malay States staff who are responsible also for

executive work in adjacent areas Perak. Supervisory charge of Singapore was held by the Deputy Director of Forestry, of Malacca by the State Forest Officer, Negri Sembilan, and of the other Settlements by the State Forest Officer, Perak North. The subordinate forest staff of the Straits Settlements consisted of 2 forest rangers, 5 foresters and 41 forest guards.

The Federated Malay States organizations for forest research and education, forest engineering and marketing also serve the needs of the Colony. The main research organization deals with forest botany, ecology, silviculture, wood technology, timber testing and investigation of forest products generally, and a school for training forest subordinates is attached to it. The Forest Engineer is concerned with the improvement of methods of extraction, conversion and transport of timber and other forest produce. The Timber Purchase Section serves as an agency for direct purchase of timber on behalf of Government Departments and others from forest contractors, and assists the latter in marketing their output.

C.—FISHERIES

The total weight of fish landed in a fresh ("wet") condition in the Colony is not less than 18,400 tons. This figure is considered to be a minimal one, as no figures are available concerning the production of the fresh water fisheries, except in a few cases which indicate that the production must be very considerable. Taking into account unreliable and incompleted returns which it has been necessary to discard and landings of fish which escape being recorded, an arbitrary, but safe, estimate is that the landings might be increased by 20% bringing the total up to some 22,000 tons annually.

The landing value of this weight is approximately $1,855,000. This is based on an average value of approximately $100 per ton.

The most important kinds of fish landed are horse mackerel, true mackerel, anchovies, herring and herring-like fishes, sea bream (Caesio), snapper, threadfins, catfish, prawns, sharks and rays.

There were not less than 13,718 fishermen employed, of whom 6,925 were Malays, 5,483 Chinese, 280 Indians, 950 Japanese and 80 Eurasians. The total number of registered fishing boats was 5,751. Of this total, 57 were power driven and were owned by the Japanese. The rest were sailing boats ranging from junks of 100 feet long to small native craft of 17 feet long, capable of holding two men.

The most important method of fishing is by the use of fishing stakes and traps worked inshore, of almost every type known. Drift netting is the next in importance and is carried on chiefly to capture Spanish mackerel, threadfins and shads. Seine netting, with all its special types of nets, is the third most important method, followed by long lining and diverse methods, such as push netting for prawns, lifting nets, hand lining, sunken cane and wire traps, and crab traps.

For the most part, the industry is financed by Chinese who vary in degree from men with a few hundreds of dollars capital to men with thousands. They furnish money to fishermen of all races to enable them to equip themselves for sea, and the fishermen in return contract to sell the whole of their catch to them at their price. In addition the fishermen usually have to buy all their household and fishing requisites from these middlemen, who live, as a rule, on the spot and run a general store. A few of the fishermen are "free" and do not need to borrow money but they must finally sell their catch to one or other of these dealers, usually at the latters' price.

The fishermen are skilled in the various kinds of fishing and there are few paid hands—the share system being almost universal. The Malays are mostly residents of the Colony but the bulk of the Chinese fishermen come as immigrants and return to China when they have earned a sufficiency.

The Japanese land something like 5,000 tons or 45% of the fish landed in Singapore, which they capture round the islands, mostly in Netherlands India. They are increasing and 950 men are employed to-day.

The net weight of fish exported—that is the balance of exports over imports—amounts to about 4,500 tons of salt fish. This as fresh fish would be about 9,000 tons, and mostly consists of horse and true mackerel and herring-like fishes from Trengganu, Kedah, Pahang and other places in the Federated Malay States.

D.—MINERALS

Tin.—Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca where there were three places at which tin was worked sporadically during the year. The production of tin ore amounted to about 20 tons, on which royalty amounting to $2,054 was paid. The whole of the production went to Singapore for sale.

The labourers are all Chinese and no Europeans are engaged in the industry, though one prospecting licence was issued to a European in the course of the year.

Tin smelter production amounted to 87,514 tons, the tin ore coming approximately two thirds from the Malay States, and the remaining one third from a wide range of countries, including Alaska, South Africa, Japan, Siam, Indo-China and Netherlands India.

Phosphates.—The extensive deposits of phosphate of lime on Christmas Island are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. The production in 1931 was 65,849 tons valued at $1,119,433, all of which was exported to Japan.

Practically the whole of the labour force consists of Chinese specially recruited in Singapore by the Company for work on the island.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The trade of Malaya*, including bullion and specie, amounted in 1931 to $885 millions, as compared with $1,384 millions in 1930, a decrease of 36.1%. Of this, $790 millions represented the direct trade of the Straits Settlements as compared with $1,209 in 1930, a fall of $419 millions or 34.7%. Imports into the Straits Settlements amounted to $410 millions and exports to $380 millions. Of the Malayan trade, so far as merchandise is concerned, $107 millions or 12.6% was with the United Kingdom, $123 millions or 14.4% with British Possessions, and and $622 millions or 73% with Foreign Countries. The principal trade, in values, was with the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Netherlands India, Siam. India and China.

Of the principal imports of merchandise, the first in value was motor spirit $68 millions, followed by rice $48 millions, tin ore $30 millions, rubber $19 millions, cotton piece goods $14 millions, and cigarettes $13 millions, (*see* Table VI).

Of the principal exports (including re-exports), the first was rubber $118 millions, followed by tin $83 millions, motor spirit $54 millions, copra $16 millions and rice $13 millions, (*see* Table VII).

Rubber.—The quantity of rubber imports amounted to 125,431 tons valued at $18,881,000, as compared with 135,862 tons in 1930 valued at $42,038,000 in 1930, a decrease of 10,431 tons, or 7.7% in gross value. Imports were principally from Netherlands India, Sarawak, Siam, Indo-China, North Borneo and Burma. Exports of rubber, (including latex) decreased from 557 to 519 thousand tons, and in value from $241,797,000 to $118,340,000, exports being principally to the United States of America 66%, the United Kingdom 14%, the Continent of Europe 11%, Japan 7%, British Possessions 1% and 1% to other countries. Exports of latex decreased from 815,486 gallons, valued at $861,000 in 1930 to 741,363 gallons valued at $403,000 in 1931.

Tin.—Imports of tin-ore decreased from 47.2 to 43.6 thousand tons, and in value from $41 to $30 millions, imports being principally from Netherlands India. Exports of tin decreased from 97 to 83 thousand tons, values declining from $124 to $83 millions, being principally to the United States of America, the Continent of Europe, and the United Kingdom.

Cotton Piece Goods.—Imports of cotton piece goods decreased from 118 to 100 million yards, and in value from $21 to 14 millions. Exports fell from 33 to 31 million yards and in value from $6,342,000 to $4,597,000.

Pineapples.—Exports of canned pineapples increased from 57,959 to 59,457 tons, decreasing however in value from $7,859,000 to $7,083,000.

Other Articles.—Other principal imports and exports are indicated in Tables VI and VII, all of which show decreases in quantities and gross values.

* The foreign trade of the Straits Settlements is not separately recorded

The following Tables show different aspects of Malayan foreign trade during the last five years:—

I. Distribution of trade between States and Settlements, 1927—1931;

II. Distribution of trade in Merchandise, bullion and specie by the principal country groups during the year 1931;

III. Changes of imports and exports of merchandise in 1931, as compared with 1930;

IV. Division of trade, including bullion and specie, between the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries;

V. Values of imports and exports of merchandise between Malaya and principal countries for each year, 1927—1931;

VI. Principal imports: quantities and values, 1927—1931;

VII. Principal exports: quantities and values, 1927—1931;

VIII. Bullion and specie: imports and exports, 1927—1931;

IX. Coal: imports and exports, by countries, and bunker coal shipped on steamers for use in foreign trade, 1927—1931;

X. Cotton piece goods: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;

XI. Kerosene: imports and exports, by countries 1927—1931;

XII. Liquid fuel: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;

XIII. Lubricating Oil: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;

XIV. Motor Spirit: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;

XV. Motor Cars: imports and exports, distinguishing passenger and commercial vehicles, 1927—1931;

XVI. Rice: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;

XVII. Rubber: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;

XVIII. Tin Ore and Tin: imports of tin-ore and exports of tin, by countries, 1927—1931.

TABLE I

Distribution of the Foreign Trade of Malaya, including bullion and specie, between States and Settlements

(In millions of Dollars)

—	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	F. M. S.	U. M. S.	Total
1931—						
Imports	334 −	71 +	5 +	45 −	2 +	457
Exports	268 +	100 −	12 +	40 +	8 +	428
Total Trade ...	602	171	17	85	10	885
1930—						
Imports	528 −	107 −	6 −	72 +	3 −	716
Exports	406 −	140 +	22 −	85 +	15 +	668
Total Trade ...	934	247	28	157	18	1,384
1929—						
Imports	655 −	154 +	5 +	80 −	3 +	898
Exports	517 −	202 +	34 +	157 −	17 +	927
Total Trade ...	1,171	357	40	236	21	1,825
1928—						
Imports	648 −	143 −	5 −	81 −	3 −	879
Exports	518 −	197 +	23 −	100 +	11 −	848
Total Trade ...	1,165	340	28	181	13	1,727
1927—						
Imports	780 −	161 +	4 −	68 −	4 +	1,017
Exports	649 +	220 +	38 −	143 +	15 −	1,065
Total Trade ...	1,429	382	41	211	19	2,082

Note:—The figures are those compiled by the Divisional Registries and exclude transhipment trade at the ports. Malay States produce consigned to dealers in the Colony and exported by them, appears as Colony trade. The trade of the Malay States is direct trade, either *via* Port Swettenham or *via* Shipping Agents (as distinct from dealers) at Colony ports. The trade returns of the Malay States will indicate what proportion of Colony foreign trade was in Malay States produce.

TABLE II

Distribution of Trade in Merchandise Bullion and Specie by the Principal Country Groups During the Year 1931

Imports of Merchandise

—	United Kingdom	British Possessions	Continent of Europe	United States of America	Japan	Other Countries	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Total value of Imports of Merchandise excluding Parcel Post	62,131,255	69,907,832	25,465,080	11,501,549	17,897.945	266,027,051	452,930,812

Exports of Merchandise

Total value of Exports of Merchandise excluding Parcel Post ...	45,087,609	53,251,809	45,906,918	132,091,386	48,608,916	74,802,984	399,749,622

Imports of Bullion and Specie

Bullion and Specie	395,257	1,704,003	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,169,252	4,268,512

Exports of Bullion and Specie

Bullion and Specie	19 705,731	1,007,382	1,304,062	1,912,792	Nil	4,452,835	28,382,802
Grand Total ...	127,319,952	125,871,026	72,676,060	145,505,727	66,506,861	347,452,122	885,331,748

TABLE III

CHANGES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE IN 1931, AS COMPARED WITH 1930

(In millions of Dollars)

—	Imports	Reason	Exports	Reason
	$		$	
Class I (Animals, Food, Drink and Tobacco) ...	− 95	Reduction in total values of Arecanuts, Cigarettes, Fish Dried and Salted, Milk. Rice, Rice Meal. Tobacco Manufactured and Wheat Flour, etc.	−26	Reduction in total values of Arecanuts, Cigarettes, Fish Dried and Salted, Milk, Pepper, Pineapples, Rice, Sago, Sugar, etc.
Class II (Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) ...	− 47	Reduction in total values of Coal, Copra, Para Rubber and Tin Ore, etc.	−136	Reduction in total values of Copra, Coconut Oil, Iron Ore, Para Rubber, Rattans, Sticklac, etc.
Class III (Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured)	−110	Reduction in total values of Cotton piece goods, Cotton Sarongs, Kerosene, Liquid Fuel, Machinery, Motor Cars Passenger and Motor Spirit, etc.	−78	Reduction in total values of Cotton piece goods, Kerosene, Motor Spirit, Sarongs, Tin, Iron and Steel Manufactures, etc.
Total Merchandise	−252		−240	

TABLE IV

Division of Trade between United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries

(In millions of Dollars)

IMPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion and Specie	Grand Total
1931—						
United Kingdom	16	1	45	62	...	62
British Possessions and Protectorates	39	9	22	70	2	72
Foreign Countries	98	68	155	321	2	323
Total ...	153	78	222	453	4	457
1930 –						
United Kingdom	27	1	70	98	...	98
British Possessions and Protectorates	66	15	42	123	8	131
Foreign Countries	156	109	220	485	2	487
Total ...	249	125	332	706	10	716

EXPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion and Specie	Grand Total
1931—						
United Kingdom	10	22	13	45	20	65
British Possessions and Protectorates	17	5	31	53	1	54
Foreign Countries	38	126	138	302	7	309
Total ...	65	153	182	400	28	428
1930—						
United Kingdom	11	56	14	81	5	86
British Possessions and Protectorates	28	7	68	103	6	109
Foreign Countries	58	229	184	471	2	473
Total ...	97	292	266	655	13	668

TABLE V

VALUES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE BETWEEN MALAYA AND PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1927—1931

(In thousands of Dollars)

—	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom	132,538	158,633	138,896	98,246	143,002	132,997	97,510	80,396	62,131	45,088
British Possessions and Protectorates	194,341	125,270	168,291	108,302	163,113	104,611	122,711	103,074	69,908	53,252
Continent of Europe	59,718	113,793	56,596	100,400	69,372	119,799	41,941	95,196	25,465	45,907
United States of America ...	31,776	466,998	27,566	353,371	31,822	393,207	23,377	226,864	11,502	132,091
Japan	30,214	36,821	20,147	32,183	23,189	36,667	24,937	40,213	17,898	48,609
Other Countries	541,716	156,354	448,333	149,067	449,727	134,511	395 120	108,860	266,027	74,803
Total ...	990,303	1,057,869	859,829	841,569	880,225	921,792	705,596	654,603	452,931	399,750

TABLE VI

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED 1927—1931

Articles	How Stated	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
			(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Arecanuts	Tons	32,110	5,876	45,185	6,981	47,646	8,198	42,543	6,246	38,776	4,160
Cigarettes	lbs.	11,383,420	26,334	11,131,284	26,636	11,368,117	27,443	8,706,291	21,933	5,328,834	12,678
Coal	Tons	876,248	10,971	811,929	9,766	830,483	9,614	685,435	7,039	550,073	4,878
Copra	"	56,393	10 016	87,763	15,418	85,940	13,226	89,374	10,908	87,026	6,731
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	154,958,482	37,154	125,699,332	29,846	166,506,593	38,562	117,988,240	20,706	99,925,633	13,691
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Tons	52,573	15,421	50,995	13,966	47,104	13,174	46,341	11,752	43,705	7,634
Machinery	Value	...	22,900	...	27,578	...	21,559	...	13,637	...	7,421
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	1,283,771	15,141	1,368,091	15,491	1,548,726	15,896	1,315,858	12,747	1,022,368	9,945
Motor Spirit (Benzine) ...	Tons	269,319	65,426	290,886	55,310	280,485	53,937	546,771	103,304	354,982	68,186
Para Rubber ...	"	182,842	171,456	149,787	88,218	161,594	81,285	135,862	42,038	125,431	18,881
Pepper	"	11,914	15,028	12,708	16,378	13,959	18,087	14,086	8,286	13,567	6,202
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	"	134,985	18,950	147,074	15,640	153,819	17,386	158,410	16,906	103,048	12,107
Rattans	"	20,786	3,990	20,771	3,722	18,354	3,018	17,987	2,297	15,563	1,427
Rice	"	839,959	104,355	803,914	95,473	785,556	95,461	800,444	87,667	691,110	48,458
Sago	"	40,613	3,637	37,674	2,694	38,412	2,486	51,629	2,835	44,165	1,682
Sarongs (Cotton) ...	Nos.	10,673,439	14,148	9,617,809	12,847	10,165,086	13,219	6,101,669	7,627	5,157,200	4,617
Sugar	Tons	110,683	15,367	111,731	12,905	114,481	12,316	112,901	9,465	100,316	7,301
Tin Ore	"	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814	47,167	40,745	43,563	30,149

TABLE VII

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED 1927—1931

Articles	How Stated	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
			(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $		(000's) $
Arecanuts	Tons	49,873	10,299	69,303	12,196	72,118	14,411	65,799	11,394	58,042	6,964
Benzine (Motor Spirit) ...	"	202,397	48,824	184,310	34,937	194,255	36,516	443,332	83,211	282,420	54,070
Copra	"	143,042	26,578	182,854	34,165	198,638	32,925	191,704	26,243	187,835	16,408
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	51,325,767	12,417	40,365,005	9,855	40,027,329	9,335	32,906,868	6,342	30,591,038	4,597
Cigarettes	lbs.	4,180,588	8,422	3,927,356	7,886	3,633,718	7,281	2,603,331	4,917	1,825,287	2,411
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Tons	57,423	14,293	57,521	14,458	54,690	13,990	53,138	12,372	48,202	9,474
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	218,028	2,678	209,568	2,503	214,330	2,226	155,810	1,501	115,733	1,148
Pepper	Tons	13,515	16,762	13,506	18,413	12,877	17,656	13,714	9,012	12,192	5,918
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	"	92,005	12,481	111,243	11,974	99,716	10,465	118,868	12,759	69,603	7,794
Para Rubber ...	"	371,307	519,465	408,693	329,790	577,202	432,644	554,394	240,225	517,665	117,862
Preserved Pineapples ...	"	40,134	8,297	46,400	8,421	58,692	9,234	57,959	7,859	59,457	7,083
Rubber Latex ...	Gallons	1,560,976	3,523	919,909	1,297	1,708,529	1,910	815,486	861	741,363	403
Rice	Tons	290,717	35,521	276,581	32,304	230,317	27,550	206,597	23,112	174,278	13,338
Rattans	"	15,959	4,321	16,432	4,335	15,227	3,820	12,684	2,714	11,090	2,001
Sago	"	44,278	4,663	44,201	3,991	46,758	3,742	55,031	3,943	49,298	2,483
Sarongs	Nos.	6,059,440	7,747	5,190,201	6,549	4,424,234	5,690	2,871,133	3,534	2,308,905	2,315
Sugar	Tons	17,322	2,417	19,529	2,421	13,868	1,545	12,506	1,132	10,910	794
Tin	"	83,773	206,571	99,052	191,279	102,024	182,129	97,214	123,772	83,704	83,478

TABLE VIII

Imports and Exports of Bullion and Specie for the years 1927—1931

(In thousands of Dollars)

Description	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Gold Bullion	11,195	3,542	6,643	4,275	7,719	3,391	3,695	10,837	1,265	24,749
„ Specie	15,413	2,480	8,736	1,979	8,793	1,760	4,053	1,566	1,022	546
Silver Bullion	504	316	613	494	714	441	1,126	543	1,227	1,171
„ Specie	119	429	2,869	214	157	96	959	604	731	889
Copper coin	20	197	2	...	12	1	8	3	3	151
Nickel coin	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	877
Total ...	27,251	6,964	18,863	6,962	17,397	5,689	9,841	13,553	4,268	28,383

TABLE IX

Imports of Coal, in thousands of tons, for the years 1927—1931, distinguishing sources of supply

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
United Kingdom ...	60	56	92	43	20
Australia and New Zealand ...	28	19	7	11	14
British India and Burma ...	139	76	70	32	28
Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei ...	...	...	...	...	2
Union of South Africa ...	182	235	183	162	92
Japan ...	200	147	226	204	176
French Indo-China ...	1	5	2	25	8
China ...	9	17	4	8	13
Dutch Borneo ...	174	168	155	113	71
Sumatra ...	48	53	90	87	126
Other Places ...	35	35	1	1	...
Total (thousands of Tons) ...	876	811	830	686	550

Bunker Coal shipped on board for the use of steamers engaged in the Foreign Trade—

	Tons	$
1927	529,997	8,235,833
1928	571,433	8,840,372
1929	563,066	8,645,011
1930	436,958	6,325,493
1931	363,578	4,681,238

Exports of Coal for the years 1927—1931

—	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Total Number of Tons ...	4,728	2,540	2,148	5,474	4,223
Value in $	58,848	32,078	27,267	66,769	40,922

TABLE X

Imports of Cotton Piece Goods during the years 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
United Kingdom	80,881,885	65,867,796	86,012,340	32,097,685	21,576,854
British India and Burma ...	4,174,341	3,400,374	4,102,648	2,365,156	1,507,626
Hong Kong	6,173,836	6,661,461	6,619,096	4,827,256	4,594,996
Italy	5,286,813	4,398,404	6,495,401	2,248,434	1,553,473
Netherlands	3,855,791	3,483,050	4,761,259	3,378,595	2,951,039
Switzerland	443,791	1,512,795	1,685,982	380,208	568,121
United States of America ...	1,021,143	1,147,393	1,630,998	1,362,539	718,385
China	14,167,044	13,877,478	18,128,000	13,997,488	15,628,355
Japan	35,607,466	23,098,804	34,722,075	56,337,403	49,797,726
Other Countries	3,346,370	2,251,777	2,348,794	993,476	1,029,058
Total Yards ...	154,958,480	125,699,332	166,506,593	117,988,240	99,925,633
Value $	37,154,034	29,846,460	38,561,671	20,705,813	13,690,685

Exports of Cotton Piece Goods during the years 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
North Borneo	2,488,169	2,421,832	2,493,198	1,655,369	1,058,294
Sarawak	2,741,970	2,382,731	2,718,731	1,720,466	1,589,982
Other British Possessions ...	712,177	930,290	925,867	889,779	899,505
Netherlands India	27,352,341	22,585,337	24,805,350	22,742,435	20,324,747
Siam	17,000,454	11,185,029	8,326,475	4,939,882	5,937,497
Other Foreign Countries ...	1,030,656	859,786	757,708	958,937	781,013
Total Yards ...	51,325,767	40,365,005	40,027,329	32,906,868	30,591,038
Value $	12,417,371	9,854,861	9,335,448	6,342,458	4,597,296

TABLE XI

Imports of Kerosene, distinguishing sources of supply, during the years 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Dutch Borneo	29,236	22,218	26,095	30,373	9,818
Sumatra	45,758	63,878	65,018	77,325	73,901
United States of America ...	10,136	12,950	16,137	662	358
Sarawak	49,733	40,797	42,525	42,840	18,609
Other Countries	121	7,231	4,044	7,210	362
Total Tons ...	134,984	147,074	153,819	158,410	103,048
Value $	18,949,734	15,639,681	17,386,348	16,905,809	12,107,048

Exports of Kerosene during the years 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
North Borneo	1,001	911	1,135	634	623
Sarawak	5,034	2,663	3,133	2,390	4,843
British India and Burma ...	6,792	7,104	10,313	2,357	644
Ceylon	2,456	774	5,949	9,876	6,006
Hongkong	1,063	3,601	2,013	3,207	...
Australia	34,264	43,248	34,911	41,863	8,363
New Zealand	1,942	2,101	3,818	2,740	1,977
Union of South Africa ...	516	3,063	3,310	2,169	1,484
Other British Possessions ...	4,026	3,985	5,989	8,031	3,372
China	2,921	13,881	...	5,421	...
French Indo-China ...	6,206	8,658	4,573	2,931	2,871
Japan	3,356	1,430	2,252	7,514	16,223
Netherlands India	6,540	3,885	4,844	6,982	6,494
Siam	15,176	15,107	16,645	21,017	14,699
Other Foreign Countries ...	712	832	831	1,736	2,004
Total Tons ...	92,005	111,243	99,716	118,868	69,603
Value $	12,481,125	11,974,440	10,464,876	12,759,094	7,793,577

TABLE XII

Imports of Liquid Fuel distinguishing sources of supply during the years 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak	44,320	4,727	29,493	38,766	23,238
United States of America ...	32,582	7,340	17	...	8,086
Egypt	...	...	4,189	...	...
Dutch Borneo	280,775	379,601	368,829	365,998	309,616
Sumatra	98,603	114,134	133,952	228,974	166,221
Other Countries	18,741	19,056	10,079	5	...
Total Tons ...	475,021	524,858	546,559	633,743	507,161
Value $	18,983,567	21,045,744	22,220,705	25,616,181	19,755,678

Exports of Liquid Fuel during the years 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India and Burma ...	6,653	3,979	4,028	4,051	2,481
Ceylon	...	14	4,593	13	25
Australia	473	647	1,492	1,465	782
Other British Possessions ...	6,099	1,216	1,289	18,812	5,650
Egypt	14,064	16,539	22,868	14,745	10,285
China	134	57	2,208	3,721	1,644
French Indo-China ...	3,183	5,959	6,985	7,544	9,311
Netherlands India	13,179	15,383	13,997	19,660	32,360
Siam	11,518	18,162	26,632	26,528	31,176
Other Foreign Countries ...	70	353	1,201	994	9,960
Total Tons ...	55,373	62,309	85,293	97,533	103,674
Value $	2,287,277	2,682,191	3,639,186	3,979,759	4,178,074

TABLE XIII

Imports of Lubricating Oil distinguishing sources of supply, during the years, 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
United Kingdom	250,833	290,485	395,894	271,022	340,979
British India and Burma ...	99,832	66,454	66,636	54,427	59,558
Hong Kong	37,160	20,707	17,246	2,256	1,808
United States of America ...	1,590,329	2,022,626	2,437,355	1,546,867	1,287,856
Netherlands India :—					
Dutch Borneo	3,449,232	2,916,084	2,722,958	1,224,241	865,122
Java	70,821	87,045	2,019	5,448	4,004
Sumatra	388,420	246,853	409,171	931,568	385,641
Other Countries	39,063	32,904	39,316	47,381	20,239
Total Gallons ...	5,925,690	5,683,158	6,090,910	4,083,634	2,965,207
Value $	5,147,210	4,528,238	5,182,673	3,711,114	2,553,518

Exports of Lubricating Oil during the years 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
British North Borneo ...	16,954	18,994	20,369	18,777	16,578
Sarawak	135,836	99,507	105,381	77,432	79,523
British India & Burma ...	208,026	75,275	24,000	18,806	20,776
Ceylon	39,666	48,069	34,705	10,954	4,908
Australia	63,644	33,788	25,632	13,674	3,180
Hongkong	9,335	14,247	8,706	8,371	31,800
Mauritius	2,352	22,322	4,700	16,316	20,930
Union of South Africa...	63,640	51,464	46,411	33,994	27,972
Other British Possessions ...	9,440	17,246	26,110	16,758	10,084
China	79,510	36,548	79,024	26,134	3,647
French Indo-China ...	109,937	139,598	146,330	6,596	2,803
Netherlands India ...	964,800	490,712	390,011	282,235	202,155
Philippines and Sulu ...	4,561	12,921	5,062	7,873	5,391
Siam	415,853	467,053	518,075	358,361	297,351
Other Foreign Countries ...	1,190	25,848	30,614	44,931	20,012
Total Gallons ...	2,124,744	1,553,592	1,467,130	941,212	747,110
Value $	1,632,387	1,200,397	1,187,159	795,136	617,962

TABLE XIV

Imports of Motor Spirit, distinguishing sources of supply, during the years 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak	47,542	83,146	57,560	38,338	2,095
United States of America ...	5,217	542	407	6,464	24
Dutch Borneo	57,944	30,083	36,612	65,229	83,947
Java	...	8,208	5,655	4,515	14,330
Sumatra	158,477	168,905	179,737	430,803	254,545
Other Countries	139	2	514	1,422	41
Total Tons ...	269,319	290,886	280,485	546,771	354,982
Value $	65,426,497	55,310,235	53,936,681	103,304,145	68,186,002

Exports of Motor Spirit during the years 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Ceylon	3,507	4,312	4,577	18,586	2,276
Australia	88,275	82,001	74,839	82,489	52,129
New Zealand	17,996	5,697	6,751	3,562	...
Union of South Africa ...	9,155	17,393	20,797	58,192	25,735
Other British Possessions ...	40,135	39,447	30,368	77,705	6,325
France	...	...	4,165	8,031	...
Italy	...	...	6,849	33,833	690
Netherlands	...	...	...	5,164	...
French Indo-China	8,198	8,951	1,343	...	...
Egypt	...	...	11,421	11,567	7,838
China	...	...	1,370	9,645	3,131
Japan	44	6,501	17,534	104,290	168,158
Argentine Republic ...	...	...	7,840	...	...
Netherlands India	28,559	14,313	2,867	18,357	6,229
Siam	6,507	5,695	2,999	7,848	7,364
Other Foreign Countries ...	21	...	535	4,063	2,545
Total Tons ...	202,397	184,310	194,255	443,332	282,420
Value $	48,824,016	34,936,867	36,516,372	83,210,520	54,070,290

TABLE XV

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MOTOR CARS DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

—	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial	Passenger	Commercial
Imports ...	6,196	1,857	4,291	1,438	5,751	1,658	3,540	1,187	1,611	502
Exports ...	572	117	568	98	453	79	505	211	595	195
Consumption ...	5,624	1,740	3,723	1,340	5,298	1,579	3,035	976	1,016	307

TABLE XVI

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RICE DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

A. IMPORTS

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India & Burma	218,362	209,647	266,799	342,820	303,393
French Indo-China ...	69,506	78,400	103,603	81,776	41,501
Siam	549,866	513,718	414,193	374,491	343,919
Other Countries ...	2,225	2,149	961	1,357	2,297
Total Tons ...	839,959	803,914	785,556	800,444	691,110
Value $	104,354,775	95,472,838	95,461,036	87,666,723	48,458,102

B. EXPORTS

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British North Borneo	12,047	12,232	9,810	7,186	5,807
Sarawak ...	19,972	18,692	15,174	18,638	15,449
British India & Burma	17,106	13,960	696	505	279
Ceylon ...	37,631	16,250	4,413	1,080	505
Other British Possessions ...	1,021	1,341	5,707	4,458	1,281
Netherlands India ...	198,746	211,519	191,887	172,337	149,628
Other Foreign Countries	4,194	2,587	2,630	2,393	1,329
Total Tons ...	290,717	276,581	230,317	206,597	174,278
Value $	35,520,679	32,304,089	27,549,6[illegible]7	23,112,176	13,337,943

TABLE XVII

Imports of Para Rubber in the years 1927—1931

—	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
British North Borneo and Sarawak	13,869	18,373	12,995	10,133	14,098	9,876	13,045	5,197	12,975	2,593
Burma	2,625	3,505	2,053	1,816	2,543	1,821	2,193	1,007	2,237	480
Netherlands India	157,837	139,286	126,403	69,941	134,732	62,895	108,830	31,470	101,420	14,151
French Indo-China	2,249	3,204	2,893	2,574	4,393	3,225	5,361	2,162	3 764	772
Siam	5,471	6,026	4,818	3,269	5,024	2,916	5,461	1,819	4,146	698
Other Countries	791	1,062	625	485	804	552	972	383	889	187
Total ...	182,842	171,456	149,787	88,218	161,594	81,285	135,862	42,038	125,431	18,881

TABLE XVII—*Continued*

Exports of Para Rubber and Latex in the years 1927—1931

—	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
United Kingdom	76,399	111,234	60,996	50,311	106,234	82,197	118,178	52,044	74,365	17,818
United States of America ...	241,351	333,456	284,199	229,721	367,771	271,947	331,317	144,607	340,951	76,683
Continent of Europe	26,375	36,813	29,380	22,740	60,549	46,111	69,835	29,751	54,943	12,758
British Possessions	7,389	10,616	7,259	5,882	11,525	8,986	5,534	2,337	7,866	1,823
Japan	19,622	27,043	26,380	20,623	29,934	22,411	28,029	10,815	32,529	7,151
Other Countries	171	303	479	512	1,189	992	1,501	671	7,011	1,635
Total ...	371,307	519,465	408,693	329,789	577,202	432,644	554,394	240,225	517,665	117,868
Latex (including Concentrated Latex and Revertex)	2,629	3,807	2,245	1,973	3,574	2,681	2,928	1,572	1,925	472
Total ...	373,936	523,272	410,938	331,762	580,776	435,325	557,322	241,797	519.590	118,340

TABLE XVIII

Imports of Tin-ore and Exports of Tin, 1927—1931

IMPORTS OF TIN-ORE

—	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
Burma	2,226	3,614	2,307	3,033	2,321	2,806	1,974	1,641	2,104	1,512
Union of South Africa ...	1,808	2,911	1,839	2,225	1,651	1,777	1,032	767	578	351
Netherlands India	27,157	48,684	28,798	46,652	29,963	40,191	26,943	24,060	20,987	14,957
Siam	10,335	17,131	10,465	14,099	13,807	17,078	15,628	13,401	17,378	12,111
Other Countries	728	1,022	980	941	1,043	962	1,590	876	2,516	1,217
Total ...	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814	47,167	40,745	43,563	30,148

EXPORTS OF TIN

—	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $		Thousands $
United Kingdom	9,453	22,986	12,908	24,843	15,392	27,159	9,398	12,768	11,508	11,796
United States of America ..	46,370	114,812	56,984	109,929	57,695	103,456	57,894	72,526	49,293	48,701
Continent of Europe	19,771	48,498	19,769	38,360	20,622	36,679	22,361	28,875	16,128	16,028
British Possessions	4,968	12,347	5,311	10 297	4,998	8,937	4,929	6,198	4,544	4,661
Japan	1,922	4,744	2,401	4,617	2,045	3,631	1,552	1,939	1,979	2,034
Other Countries	1,289	3,184	1,679	3,233	1,272	2,267	1,080	1,466	252	258
Total ...	83,773	206,571	99,052	191,279	102,024	182,129	97,214	123,772	83,704	83,478

CHAPTER VIII

Wages and the Cost of Living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for South Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts over Malaya and these rates tend in practice to regulate the rate of wages earned in other districts and by labourers of other races.

In the Colony the only key district in which standard wages were in force was Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates during the year were 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer and 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female.

The rates for the greater part of 1930 were 50 cents a day for an adult male and 40 cents a day for an adult female. In comparison, the retail price of No. 2 Siam Rice in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, fell from 50, 52 and 50 cents per gantang respectively to 32, 35 and 31 cents per gantang.

In the Island of Penang and in the Dindings daily rates varying from 35 to 40 cents for a male labourer and from 27 to 32 cents for a female labourer were paid. The labour forces on Province Wellesley Estates are very settled. On the older estates which have had Tamil labour for a long time many of the labourers have been born on the estates and frequently are not entirely dependent on their check-roll wages.

In Singapore the daily rates of wages on estates ranged from 35 to 40 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian male labourer and 32 to 35 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian female labourer. Many employers paid their tappers by results. The rates of wages paid to Chinese and Javanese labourers were about the same as those paid to Indians. Government Departments paid from 47 to 64 cents and miscellaneous employers from 50 to 85 cents.

In Malacca, able-bodied Indian adult male labourers on estates earned 35 cents and able-bodied adult female labourers 27 cents per diem. Store and factory labourers received 40 to 50 cents. In the Government Departments the rates of wages were from 40 cents for males, and 32 cents for females. Chinese were mostly employed on contract at rates varying from 35 to 45 cents per diem. Free Javanese and Malays earned as much as South Indians.

The law requires every employer to provide at least 24 days work in each month to every labourer employed.

Workmen employed in skilled trades naturally commanded much higher rates of wages.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

Average wholesale prices of principal articles quoted locally continued to show, as in the previous year, a general downward tendency. Exceptions were Gambier, Kerosine, Gum Copal (Scraped) and Gum Benjamin. Prices of articles regarded as Straits produce, quoted by the London Chamber of Commerce, also

showed a downward tendency. The average price of rubber over the year, as compared with the average price for the previous year, decreased in London from 5.86 to 3.14 pence, in New York from 11.79 to 6.09 cents, and in Singapore from 19 to 9.78 cents per lb., representing a mean fall of about 48%.

The average market prices of 15 principal commodities (13 wholesale and 2 retail) published in the monthly trade returns show a decline of 26.3% as compared with 1930. The prices of all commodities except pineapples show a decline. The Table on pages 54 and 55 shows particulars.

There was a contraction of 15 millions or 18.3% in the value of Straits Settlements notes in circulation as compared with the fall in average commodity prices of 26.3%.

The index number of market prices declined in Singapore from 144 to 122 or by 15.3%, in Penang from 167 to 122 or by 26.9%, and in Malacca from 167 to 118 or by 29.3%, as compared with 100 in 1914. The previous market divergence in the indices of Penang and Malacca, as compared with Singapore, over approximately the same range of commodities, was thus reduced, so that they are now almost similar, namely, 122, 122 and 118, respectively. The index number in the General Table of the Food Budget, based on Singapore Market Prices, was 102 as compared with 126 in 1930 and 100 in 1914.

Municipal assessment values for 1932, indicating rent movements during 1931, showed in Singapore a decrease of 12.9%, in Penang a decrease of 11.3%, and in Malacca a decrease of 7.9% at the end of 1931 as compared with 1930. This is the first year in which a decrease is shown for Malacca.

There was a decline in general wage rates throughout the year in sympathy with the fall in gold values.

There was a decline in the general cost of living during the year of 15.3% in the case of Asiatics, 11.1% in the case of Eurasians and 6.5% in the case of Europeans, as indicated in the Tables on pages 56 and 57.

The following is an analysis of movements during the year in respect of Singapore:—

(i) *Food:*—A general decline throughout the year till November when there was a slight rise due probably to the depreciation of the dollar, followed by a fall in December.

(ii) *Liquors, Aerated Waters and Tobacco:*—Liquors: a slight fall in January, due to trade causes, and a rise in September due partly to increased import duties and partly to dollar depreciation. Tobacco: in spite of an increase of duty, no appreciable change in price. Aerated waters: no change. The total effect is an increase of 5.7% at the end of the year.

(iii) *Servants:*—An estimated decline of 5% at the end of June and 5% at the end of December, following upon the general reduction of personal emoluments due to trade depression.

(iv) *Light and Water:*—A reduction in the price of electricity in April from 20 cents to 17 cents a unit. Kerosene and water: no change.

(v) *Transport:*—Tyres and tubes: a rise in January, no change till August and a fall in September (quoted by a British company). Petrol: a fall in June followed by a rise in September due to increased duty. Lubricating oil: no change. Taxation and Insurance: no change. Repairs: a fall of 15% spread over the year.

(vi) *Education:*—In England, no change in school-fees but a slight decline in cost of maintenance following decline in Ministry of Labour Cost of Living indices from 153 to 147 at beginning and end of year. In Singapore: no change in school-fees but a decline in allowances due to fall in local food-prices.

(vii) *Clothing:*—European: no change. Asiatic and Eurasian: a fall of 5% spread over the year.

(viii) *Clubs:*—No change in entrance-fees or subscriptions. For miscellaneous expenditure, an increase of 5.7% at the end of the year, following the increases in sub-para (ii) above.

(ix) *Rent:*—A fall in municipal assessment values, based on rents for 1931, of 12.9%.

AVERAGE COMMODITY PRICES,

ARTICLE	per	1929	1930	AVER January	February	March	April
		$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Arecanuts	$ picul	11.39	9.60	8.30	7.50	7.00	6.60
Coconut Oil	$ picul	16.69	14.35	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.25
Coffee (Beans) ...	cents lb.	49	45	34	34	35	32
Copra (Sundried) ...	$ picul	9.45	7.81	5.72	5.67	5.96	5.61
Damar No. 1	$ picul	50.28	36.68	25.25	22.50	24.12	25.00
Palm Oil	$ ton	273.56	277.82	273.65	263.27	272.20	272.10
Pepper (Black) ..	$ picul	57.31	33.56	21.31	21.45	21.33	20.77
Pepper (White) ...	$ picul	103.64	49.54	37.42	37.62	40.76	36.70
Pineapples	$ case	...	3.36	3.51	3.42	3.24	3.19
Rattans (Sampit) ...	$ picul	14.76	11.37	8.00	8.25	9.00	9.00
Rice (Siam No. 2) (Ordinary)	$ ton	130.96	108.00	76.00	73.00	65.00	63.00
Rubber	cents lb.	35	19	13	12	12	10
Tapioca Flake ...	$ picul	6.27	4.73	4.19	4.07	4.17	3.59
Tea	cents lb.	65	65	57	63	65	65
Tin	$ picul	104.32	72.71	59.48	59.71	62.06	57.50

COST OF

Asiatic Standard

Items	1914	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Food & Groceries Index Nos. ...	100	140.4	191.2	253.2	167.7	145.5	145.3	146.1	151.5	160.2	154.8	151.2	149.7
Tobacco Index Nos. ...	100	174.3	200.0	257.1	242.9	242.9	200.0	185.7	185.7	194.2	185.7	185.7	185.7
Servants Index Nos. ...	100	116.8	116.8	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5
Light & Water Index Nos. ...	100	146.4	148.0	148.0	155.0	156.4	155.0	129.2	131.0	123.4	134.0	134.0	134.0
Transport Index Nos. ...	100	112.5	122.9	126.8	122.8	112.0	94.8	99.4	105.3	103.5	94.2	93.1	89.7
Education Index Nos. ...	100	112.0	125.9	145.6	124.4	118.2	118.2	118.4	120.7	123.6	126.9	125.9	125.5
Clothing Index Nos.	100	189.8	229.6	291.6	237.2	182.8	163.6	157.1	158.1	157.5	155.4	151.9	141.0
Rent Index Nos. ...	100	120.0	130.0	150.0	154.0	181.0	217.0	230.0	242.0	257.0	284.0	312.0	314.5
Average Weighted Index Nos. ...	100	135.1	165.1	207.6	162.6	148.9	147.7	147.9	152.4	158.0	156.9	157.3	155.6

SINGAPORE, 1929, 1930 AND 1931

AGE

1931								Average 1931
May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
5.23	4.85	5.05	4.99	5.47	5.70	6.07	6.41	6.10
8.50	9.50	10.00	9 00	9.00	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.69
27	22	26	26	23	34	31	30	29
4.78	4.23	4.70	4.21	4.04	4.98	5.49	5.71	5.09
24.30	23.75	23.90	22.75	22.12	22.30	21.00	21.75	23.23
247.96	254.79	231.49	247.06	227 50	174.14	169.03	160.91	220.26
18.43	18.28	19.87	18.96	18.98	20.00	21.37	23.92	20,39
33.69	32.06	32.56	28.92	29.33	32.32	32.27	33.66	33.94
3.21	3.50	3.48	3.44	3.49	3.72	3.74	3.87	3.48
9.50	10.00	10.00	8.12	8,75	8.75	9.62	9.87	9.07
61.00	55.00	59.00	70.00	77.00	79.00	71.00	74.00	69.00
10	10	10	08	08	09	09	10	10
3.28	3.19	3.47	3.33	3.41	3.60	3.42	3.35	3.59
65	65	58	52	53	53	50	50	58
52.67	53.04	57.41	58.85	60.73	64.61	67.15	70.05	60.27

LIVING, 1914—1931

1930	1931												1931	% increase + or decrease – in 1931 as compared with 1930
	End Jan.	End Feb.	End March	End April	End May	End June	End July	End Aug.	End Sep.	End Oct.	End Nov.	End Dec.		
140.2	120.9	118.4	116.6	116.6	110.8	106 1	107.0	108.5	107.0	104.6	105.6	103.6	103.0	– 26.5
171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171 4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	0
152,9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152 9	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	138.0	138.0	– 9.7
131.0	131.0	131 0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	0
85.5	87.1	87.0	86.9	86.8	86.7	85 0	84.9	84.8	96.5	96.4	96.3	96.2	96.2	+ 12.5
122.8	117.6	116.8	116.4	116.4	114.7	113.5	113 7	114.1	113.7	113.2	113.3	112.6	112.6	– 8.3
139.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	133 2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	– 4.7
289.7	285.8	282.1	278.5	274.8	271.2	267.7	264.2	260.7	257.3	254.0	250.7	247 4	247.4	– 14.6
147.5	137.8	136.2	135.1	134.7	131.6	128.0	128.0	128.4	128.6	127.2	127.4	125.0	125.0	– 15.3

Eurasian Standard

COST OF

Items	1914	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Food & Groceries Index Nos. ...	100	136.5	160.3	214.3	168.8	140.0	141.0	139.8	143.4	153.0	155.0	149.4	141.4
Tobacco Index Nos. ...	100	174.3	200.0	257.1	242.9	242.9	200.0	185.7	185.7	194.2	185.7	185.7	185.7
Servants Index Nos. ...	100	116.8	116 8	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155·5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5
Light & Water Index Nos. ...	100	146.4	148.0	148.0	155.0	156.4	155.0	129.2	131.0	123.4	134.0	134.0	134.0
Transport Index Nos. ...	100	112 5	122.9	126.8	122.8	112.0	94.8	99.4	105.3	103.5	94.2	93.1	89.7
Education Index Nos. ...	100	112.2	118.3	136.1	125.5	117.1	117.3	116.9	118.8	122.2	127.6	125.9	123.6
Clothing Index Nos. ...	100	189.8	229.6	291.6	237.2	182.8	163.6	157.1	158.1	157.5	155.4	151.9	141.0
Rent Index Nos. ...	100	120.0	130.0	150.0	154.0	181.0	217.0	230.0	242.0	257 0	284.0	312.0	314.5
Average Weighted Index Nos. ...	100	133.4	150.9	190.4	163.4	145.9	145 4	144,6	148.3	154.1	156.9	156.1	151.0

European Standard

Items	1914	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Food & Groceries Index Nos. ...	100	136.5	160.3	214.3	168.8	140.0	141.0	139.8	143.4	153.0	155.0	149.4	141.4
Liquors, Aerated Waters and Tobacco Index Nos. ...	100	174.8	204.1	214.7	231.2	223.7	203.2	192.1	186.7	181.3	176.3	176.3	167.0
Servants Index Nos. ...	100	116.8	116.8	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5
Light & Water Index Nos. ...	100	119.8	128.3	238.4	252.9	252.9	252.9	252.9	252.9	252.9	234.8	234.8	216.8
Transport Index Nos. ...	100	112.5	122.9	126.8	122.8	112.0	94.8	99.4	105.3	103.5	93.1	93.1	89.7
Education Index Nos. ...	100	132.0	139.6	146.9	142.9	132.0	129.7	137.5	138.1	137.1	135.5	135.5	135.0
Clothing Index Nos. ...	100	189.8	229.6	291.6	237.2	182.8	163.6	157.1	158.1	157.5	15[illegible].9	151.9	141.0
Clubs Index Nos. ...	100	134.0	147.4	163.5	176.7	177.4	169.2	164.1	164.2	161.7	159.5	159.5	155.3
Rent Index Nos. ...	100	110.0	121.0	169.0	179.0	191.0	204.0	208.0	213.0	220.0	248.0	248.0	249.0
Average Weighted Index Nos. ...	100	132.1	146.1	180.0	168.7	156.7	153.5	154.6	156.4	158.3	158.8	158.8	155.1

LIVING, 1914—1931

1930	1931												1931	% increase + or decrease —in 1931 as compared with 1930
	End Jan.	End Feb.	End March	End April	End May	End June	End July	End Aug.	End Sept.	End Oct.	End Nov.	End Dec.		
132.0	124.5	125.6	123.8	125.7	123.0	118.0	116.0	116.4	111.5	109.3	111.7	109.7	109.7	— 16.9
171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	0
152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	145.3	145.3	145 3	145.3	145.3	145.3	138.0	138.0	— 9.7
131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	0
88.5	87.1	87.0	86.9	86.8	86.7	85.0	84.9	84.8	96.5	96.4	96.3	96.2	96.2	+ 12.5
120.7	118.6	119 0	118.4	119.0	118.3	116.7	116.2	116.3	114.8	114.3	115.0	114.4	114.4	— 5.2
139.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	— 4.7
289.7	285.8	282.1	278.5	274.8	271.2	267.7	264,2	260.7	257.3	254.0	250 7	247.4	247.4	— 14.6
143.0	138.6	138.9	137.6	138.3	136.6	132.8	131.3	131.2	129.7	128.3	129.2	127.1	127.1	— 11.1

1930	1931												1931	% increase + or decrease —in 1931 as Compared with 1930
	End Jan.	End Feb.	End Mar.	End April	End May	End June	End July	End Aug.	End Sept.	End Oct.	End Nov.	End Dec.		
132.0	124.5	125.6	123.8	125.7	123.0	118.0	116.0	116.4	111.5	109.3	111.7	109.7	109.7	— 16.9
168.7	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	177.2	178.4	178.4	178.4	178.4	+ 5.7
152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	145.3	145.3	145.3	145,3	145.3	145.3	138.0	138.0	— 9.7
216.8	216.8	216.8	216.8	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	— 10.0
85.5	87,1	87.0	86.9	86.8	86.7	85.0	84.9	84.8	96.5	96.4	96 3	96.2	96.2	+ 12.5
133.5	132,0	131.5	130.7	130.7	130.2	130.7	130.2	130.2	130.2	130.5	131.0	130.7	130.7	— 2.1
139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	0
156.1	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	159.9	160.5	160.5	160.5	160.5	+ 2.8
229.5	227.0	224.6	222.2	219.8	217.4	215.1	212.8	210.5	208.2	206.0	203.8	201.6	201.6	— 12.2
149.7	147·7	147.5	146,7	146.3	145.4	142.7	141.9	141.7	142.2	141.6	141.9	139.9	139.9	6.5

CHAPTER IX

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in the Colony in English and in various vernacular languages—Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools, *i.e.*, places where fifteen or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, except where the teaching is of a purely religious character, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance, 1926. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher of an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is unsanitary or that is likely to be used for the purpose of propaganda detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director of Education may also, in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board, in addition to school fees, receives the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas to be devoted to the purposes of education within the Colony.

B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The English Schools are schools in which English is the medium of instruction. Few of the pupils are English speaking when they join, and the lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and they are given an education which ends as a rule

with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though one or two stay on and prepare for the London Matriculation Examination.

The fees are $30 (£3 10*s.*) a year for the first six years *i.e.* for the years spent in the Primary Division of the school and $48 (£5 12*s.*) a year for the remaining period. Attendance is not compulsory.

In 1931 there were 20 Government and 17 Aided schools in the Colony—16 situated in Singapore, 15 in Penang, 5 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 26,282 (10,102 in Government and 16,180 in Aided schools).

The Aided English schools are managed by various Missionary bodies—The Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, the Portuguese Catholic Church, and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of Missionary teachers at the rate of £420 per annum for a male and £280 per annum for a female missionary. Capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government under certain conditions.

The Private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—*(a)* those controlled by religious bodies and accommodated in proper school buildings; (*b*) those carried on by individuals (mainly Indians) for profit and accommodated in any sort of building from shop-house or private house to office or godown. In the case of the latter overcrowding is common and a cheap and meagre staff is generally employed. The pupils at such schools are usually overaged or dull or both. In Singapore in 1931 there were 52 such schools with an enrolment of 6,600.

C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School, Kuala Lumpur, which provides courses of training for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils are sent to the Malayan School of Agriculture at Serdang, Federated Malay States, where one-year and three-year courses of study are available.

Commercial Education.—Courses of study covering two years are provided by the Commercial Department of Raffles Institution, Singapore and by the Government Commercial School, Penang.

Industrial Education.—A Trade School was opened in Singapore in September, 1930, to provide a three years' course in Fitting, Motor Mechanics, Plumbing, etc. A similar school will be opened in Penang in 1932.

D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, and Raffles College, Singapore. The course of the College of Medicine covers five years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial list of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

Raffles College, Singapore, was opened in 1928 in order to place education of a University standard within the reach of all the youths of British Malaya who are capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three-year courses in Arts and Science. Diplomas are awarded to successful students.

Two scholarships, known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 each per annum for six years, may be awarded in each year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the Cambridge Delegacy, and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential college at Oxford or Cambridge.

E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay Vernacular Education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by the Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give a general and practical education to those boys who have no desire for an education in English, and who will find employment either in agriculture or in appointments in which a knowledge of the vernacular is all that is required, and (ii) to provide a sound foundation in the vernacular on which an education in English can be superimposed in the case of boys who desire to proceed eventually to an English school.

The school course normally lasts five years in the course of which period the pupils pass through five standards. The subjects of the curriculum are Reading and Writing (in the Arabic and Romanised script), Composition, Arithmetic, Georgraphy, Malay History, Hygiene, Drawing and Physical Training. Boys do Basketry and Gardening in addition, and girls do Needlework and Domestic Science.

Male teachers undergo a three-years course of training at Sultan Idris Training College, Tanjong Malim.

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese schools. The Chinese have up to now preferred to be responsible for their own education in their native language, and the Government has assisted merely by a system of grants-in-aid.

The number of Chinese schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1931 was 7 in Singapore, 25 in Penang and 3 in Malacca.

There are three types of schools:—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.*, schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members";

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on school fees, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1s. 2d.) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s*. 8*d*.) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of the Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The Primary Course in Chinese schools normally takes six years to get through. The Government has little, if any, control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance or the length of holidays in any except the Aided schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curricula.

At the close of 1931 there were 302 registered schools with 997 registered teachers and 20,780 pupils (of whom 5,169 were girls).

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil schools in Penang and Province Wellesley and all those in Malacca are estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder are private schools run by Mission bodies or Committees. There are some private schools in Singapore which are of a poor standard. No Singapore schools are in receipt of grants-in-aid.

No fees are charged in Estate schools but in some of the schools run by private bodies the pupils pay. There is usually an arrangement in such schools whereby poor children pay little or nothing. The subjects of the curriculum are reading, dictation, writing, arithmetic and in the higher classes composition and geography. The standard of work differs considerably from school to school, but the general standard in reading, writing, dictation and simple arithmetic is good.

F.—MUSIC, ART AND DRAMA

Music.—Singing is taught as a class subject in the lower classes of all English schools. Folk songs, national songs, Rounds and Nursery Rhymes are taught as aids to the teaching of English. In some senior schools, lessons on musical appreciation are given and illustrated by gramophone selections. It is reported that a fair percentage of the pupils attending schools show musical aptitude. An oral test proved that about 60 per cent of the pupils in the singing classes have an ear for music. A number of schools have orchestras.

Art.—All English schools and many vernacular schools follow a progressive scheme in Art which is revised annually. The work is uniformly good in Singapore and Penang schools.

Drama.—Dramatisation forms a part of the English curriculum of all English schools. The lower standards act simple plays and dramatise stories. The senior boys and girls act scenes from Shakespeare.

G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas Home (a Church of England institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children without restriction as to race or religion from all over Malaya. There was an average of 13 boys and girls in the Home during 1931. It was transferred from Malacca to Penang in September.

There are twelve orphanages in the Colony (three in Singapore, five in Penang and four in Malacca), with 1,206 orphans in 1931, maintained by various religious bodies. The majority of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught house keeping and needle work. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as muitsais who complain of ill-treatment, are detained in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300 inmates.

CHAPTER X

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

Communication by sea between the various settlements which comprise the Colony is frequent and regular.

There is a weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan, which is carried out by ships belonging to the Straits Shipping Company. Malacca is in constant and regular touch with Singapore and Penang through the vessels of the Straits Steamship Company. In addition to the local services between Singapore and Penang a large majority of the mail and passenger ships which call at Singapore, either eastward bound or westward bound, call at Penang also. Christmas Island is served by the s.s. "Islander" belonging to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which maintains a five-weekly service.

In regard to its external sea communications the Colony is extremely favourably situated, Singapore being a nodal point for traffic between Europe, Netherlands India and the Far East.

Proof of the existing heavy depression in world trade is clearly indicated in the Straits Settlements shipping figures for the year 1931—the tonnage showing a heavy decline for the first time since 1918. (*See* Table on pages 64 and 65).

The tonnage of all vessels, *i.e.* merchant vessels, native craft, men-o'war, etc., entered and cleared at the six ports of the Colony during the year 1931 was 46,186,747 tons, being a decrease of 3,175,488 tons as compared with the year 1930.

Of this decrease Singapore is responsible for 2,645,500 tons; Penang for 587,430 tons; Labuan, Dindings and Christmas Island together for 182,725 tons; while Malacca shows an increase of 240,167 tons.

Comparing the tonnage of merchant-vessels only (*i.e.* all vessels above 75 tons nett register) the decrease is 3,238,445 tons.

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1927	39,693,766 tons
1928	42,987,154 „
1929	45,435,395 „
1930	46,588,856 „
1931	*43,632,445 „

* Apparent discrepancies in the tonnage are due to the change in classification from "under 50 tons" in 1930 to "under 75 tons" in 1931.

Statement Showing Nationality, Number and Tonnage of Vessels Entering and Clearing the Ports of the Straits Settlements, 1931

Nationality	Singapore						Penang					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net				Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ...	5198	10,335,218	...	...	72	227,350	3181	7,818,463	...	...	34	56,884
American ...	107	537,992	...	...	2	30,000	78	439,190	...	...	...	...
Chinese ...	104	44,525	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Danish ...	193	613,678	...	...	...	...	138	391,551	...	...	...	...
Dutch ...	4914	6,967,458	...	...	...	...	1,139	1,276,631	...	...	...	...
French ...	451	1,967,378	...	...	4	32,000	2	8,252	...	...	...	...
German ...	373	1,692,043	...	...	...	...	198	896,282	...	...	...	...
Italian ...	123	544,532	...	...	...	...	52	198,446	...	...	...	...
Japanese ...	1152	4,500,996	...	...	4	36,000	331	1,346,052	...	...	...	...
Latvian ...	2	944	...	...	...	...	2	944	...	...	...	...
Norwegian ...	861	1,384,896	...	...	...	...	257	255,307	...	...	...	...
Panama ..	7	24,940	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian ...	34	74,298	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swedish ...	68	265,876	...	...	..	...	26	96,558	...	...	...	...
Sarawak ...	158	88,939	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Siamese ...	340	187,137	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	3,422
Others ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	14085	29,230,850	33466	1,382,003	82	325,350	5404	12,727,436	13717	576,394	42	60,306
± 1930 ...	−4157	−2,598,252	−360	+5,694	+2	−52,942	−1864	−680,674	+ 1548	+113,060	+12	−19,816

Statement Showing Nationality, Number and Tonnage of Vessels Entering and Clearing the Ports of the Straits Settlements, 1931

Nationality	Malacca						Labuan					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net				Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ...	1168	873,072	...	...	...	...	264	229,432	...	...	6	17,288
American ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chinese ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Danish ...	16	52,534	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutch ...	64	34,700	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
French ...	2	7 918	...	...	...	...	6	2,224	...	...	...	...
German ...	44	196,594	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Italian ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3,080
Japanese ...	14	45,772	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Latvian ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Norwegian ...	77	61,579	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Panama ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.
Swedish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sarawak ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Siamese ...	36	23,142	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	346
Others ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1421	1,295,311	5234	124,000	...	...	270	231,656	2859	25,917	10	20,714
± 1930 ...	+121	+231,139	−380	+9,028		...	...	−14,842	...	−3,147	+10	+20,714

Note 1.—Apparent discrepancies in the numbers and tonnage of the small merchant ships are due to the change in classification from "under 50 tons" in 1930 to "under 75 tons" in 1931. The total tonnage is not affected.

Note 2.—To the above figures must be added :—

Dindings. Total Net Tonnage Entered and Cleared 1931 :—107,356 Tons—a decrease of 128,104 Tons.

Christmas Island. Total Net Tonnage Entered and Cleared 1931 :—79,454 Tons—a decrease of 57,346 Tons.

Total Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931 :—46,186,747 Tons—Being a decrease of 3,175,488 Tons.

Total Merchant Ship Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931 :—45,780,387 Tons—Being a decrease of 3,126,444 Tons.

Total Merchant Ship Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931, Over 75 Tons :—43,632,445 Tons—Being a decrease of 3,238,445 Tons.

Total Merchant Ship Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931, Under 75 Tons :—2,147,942 Tons—Being an increase of 112,001 Tons.

B.—ROADS

The total mileage of metalled roads in the Colony at the end of 1931 was 683.42 miles. Roads and streets in the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are not included.

In the various Settlements the mileage is:—

Singapore	105.73	miles
Penang	67.51	„
Dindings	33.40	„
Province Wellesley	180.79	„
Malacca	276.75	„
Labuan	19.24	„

In addition to the metalled roads there are, in the Straits Settlements, 140 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained by Government.

The total expenditure on metalling and remetalling roads during the year was $947,341.20 and the number of miles resurfaced during the year was 29.61 miles.

The total expenditure on the maintenance of roads amounted to $794,655.94 and the average cost of upkeep per mile was $965.03 as compared with $970.22 the previous year. All roads were maintained at a high standard throughout the year.

The policy of straightening main roads treating their surfaces with bituminous material was continued.

Most of the roads in the Colony are now open to very heavy motor lorry traffic and, although the limit is stated to be 8 tons gross, in certain cases loads of over 14 tons on two axles have been found using the Colony highways.

The average weight of traffic per day at the 6th mile Main Trunk Road (Singapore to Johore) was 6,660 tons, and the intensity of traffic per day per foot width of road was 370 tons.

C.—AIRWAYS

Civil Aerodrome.—The Singapore Civil Aerodrome now under construction will provide a circular landing ground 1,000 yards in diameter for land planes and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes.

The Aerodrome will be fully equipped with standard hangar accommodation and ancillary services including a sea-plane slipway and wharves, the latter being sited on the seaward perimeter of the landing ground.

The Aerodrome is sited in an estuary 2 miles N.E. of the General Post Office and between the business and residential areas which form the Eastern portion of the City.

To facilitate the operation of commercial air craft pending the completion of the Aerodrome, arrangements were concluded through the courtesy of the Air Ministry for the provision by the Government at the Royal Air Force Base, Seletar of hangar accommodation for civil aircraft, the erection of which was undertaken as an Agency Service by the Air Ministry. The building was completed and opened to public use on 20th November 1931.

Particulars of the public transport air services are given in the section following dealing with Posts.

D.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(a) Posts

Postal facilities are provided in all the towns and larger villages in the Straits Settlements. In addition to the Head Post Offices at Singapore, Penang and Malacca and the Post Office at Labuan, there are 53 Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies in the Colony.

The Postal rates were as follows throughout the year, no change having been made—

—	Letters		Postcards		Printed Papers
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	Every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 „	6 „	4 „	8 „	2 „
Local ...	4 cts. per 2 ozs.	2 cts. per 2 ozs.	2 „	4 „	2 „

The number of posting boxes, exclusive of those at Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies was 189 on the 31st of December; and this number included 13 added during the course of the year. Eighty-three licences for the sale of stamps were issued during the year.

The construction of the new Post Office at Malacca was completed and the final transfer to the new building was effected on the 7th of December.

The volume of work dealt with by the Post Office during the year 1931 generally shewed a decline as compared with that of the previous year.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) handled during the year in the Colony is estimated at 45,554,621, a decrease of 4,318,914 as compared with 1930. These figures include official, ordinary, registered and insured letters, printed papers, commercial papers and sample packets.

Sacks of closed mail in transit to the number of 125,767 were handled at Singapore, Penang and Malacca, being a decrease of 12,463 as compared with 1930.

Regular weekly mails for Europe were forwarded alternately by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and by the British India contract service *viâ* India. The average time taken by mails from Singapore to reach London was 23½ days *viâ* India and 22½ days by the P. & O. Superscribed mails were also forwarded by vessels of the Blue Funnel, Rotterdam Lloyd, Royal Dutch, Messageries Maritimes and Lloyd Trestino lines. In the reverse direction, mails from London to Singapore, the average time for transit of mails was 22½ days.

The use of special trains to convey the outward Europe mails from Prai on occasions when the vessels conveying the mails arrived at Penang too late to connect with the morning express train from Prai was discontinued in October.

The weekly Air Mail service *via* Karachi to Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Europe continued to operate throughout the year, but it is still of comparatively little use to Malaya owing to the length of time the correspondence takes in transit between Karachi and Malaya. The average time Penang to London by this route is 18 days.

The fortnightly Air Mail to Europe by the Dutch service from Alor Star to Amsterdam continued until the 16th of October since when the service has operated weekly. This service has proved most successful. The average time Singapore to London and *vice versa* is 11 days.

The weekly Dutch Air Mail service of the Koninklijke Nederlandsch Indische Luchtvaart Maatschappij between Singapore and Batavia continued to operate successfully and regularly throughout the year. It was extended in August to Medan.

The operations of the Money Order Branch of the Post Office in 1931 amounted to $6,026,546; the principal business being with India, the Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands India, Ceylon, China and Siam.

(b) Telegraphs

Eleven submarine cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang 5 thence to Madras 2.
to Colombo 2.
to Deli 1.
Batavia 2 thence to Cocos 1.
Banjoewangi 1 thence to Port Darwin 2.
Hongkong 1 direct thence to Manila 1.
" " to North China 1.
" " to Macao 1.
Cochin China 1 thence to Hongkong 1.
Labuan 1 thence to Hongkong 1.

There are also Government Telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca

and Singapore. In Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings there are 279⅝ miles of Telegraph wire, 17¾ miles of Submarine cable containing 395⅝ miles of wire, 2,368⅛ miles of overhead telephone wire, 35⅝ miles of underground telephone cables containing 6,332¾ miles of wire.

In Singapore, the route and wire mileage between the General Post Office and Woodlands (Johore Causeway) is as under—

	Route Mileage	Wire Mileage
On Public Roads ..	8 Miles 24 chains	59 Miles 50 chains
On Posts and Telegraphs Poles within railway reserves	9 „ 48 „	85 „ 22 „

There are 192⅝ miles of Telegraph Line and 1,377 miles and 16 chains of Telephone line in Malacca.

There are 42 Telegraph Offices in the Colony. The continued trade depression was again reflected in the number of telegrams handled. During the year 379,068 telegrams were received and 481,247 were forwarded, compared with the respective figures of 444,651 and 542,808 in 1930.

By the opening of the new telegraph line between Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States and Kota Bharu, Kelantan, telegraph traffic with Kelantan was expedited. Kelantan entered the Malayan telegraph system with a reduction in the unit rate per word from 11 to 5 cents.

(c) Telephones

The telephone exchange in Singapore is operated by the Oriental Telephone Company; the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca by the Post Office.

The number of direct exchange lines connected to the Telephone Exchanges in the Straits Settlements (excluding Singapore) on the 31st of December, 1931, was 1,790, a decrease of 110 compared with 1930. In addition there were 864 extension lines, extension bells and private lines, an increase of 43 compared with 1930. The nett revenue derived from telephones was $340,585, a decrease of $38,420 compared with 1930.

The installation of the "Carrier Current" systems of speech transmission was completed by Messrs. Standard Telephones and Cables Limited, during the year under review; and public communication over these channels between Singapore and Penang and between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor. These new speech channels have materially

increased the range of telephonic communication throughout the system and any subscriber to the Straits Settlements telephone systems can now speak to any other subscriber connected to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States systems (excluding Kuantan and Pekan in the State of Pahang).

Two submarine cables, one telegraph and one telephone were laid in January connecting Penang with the mainland at Butterworth; and three lengths of submarine cable were laid across the Prai River at Permatang Pau in February.

(d) Wireless

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony situated respectively at Paya Lebar, Singapore and Penaga, Province Wellesley. The machinery and apparatus at both stations were maintained in good working order throughout the year and point to point and shore to ship communication was carried on without interruption. The old spark sets were replaced by I.C.W. transmitters at Penaga on the 5th of October and at Paya Lebar on the 13th of November. The station at Paya Lebar carries out point to point communication with Kuching, Sarawak, and Christmas Island, in addition to a shore to ship service. The station at Penaga communicates with ship stations and receives the British Official Wireless press transmitted by Rugby. Point to point communication is established between Penaga and Bangkok; and telegraph business between Malaya and Siam is conducted by this means whenever there is a failure of the telegraph line between Penang and Bangkok.

Considerable aircraft work was undertaken by Penaga during the year. This traffic seems likely to increase as aircraft services develop.

Negotiations proceeded with Imperial and International Communications Limited during the year, but were not completed at the end of the year.

CHAPTER XI

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures

A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, ½ cent and ¼ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter two denominations. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5, and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.

During the War, and for some years after, notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2s. 4d. Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2s. 4 $\frac{3}{16}$ d. to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2s. 3¾d. to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $67,414,796 in currency notes and $4,268,851 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $136,690 as compared with $137,981 at the end of 1930.

At the end of 1930 the Currency Notes in Circulation amounted in value to $82,423,391. There was a steady demand by the public for Sterling during the months of January, February, March, April, July, August and September, and the consequent contraction in the Currency during those months amounted to $21,663,350. But in the months of October, November and December a demand for Currency made itself felt which resulted in the issue of $5,661,800 thus making a net contraction over the year of $16,001,550.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $36,093,205.76, consisting of £328,251 in gold, $18,611,176.93 in silver and $2,578,548.04 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £73,330 in gold and £1,337,158.8.6 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $76,432,182.05; the cost price of those investments having been $85,257,219.85.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.*, in current silver and gold coin in the Colony and in Gold, Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year was $36,093,205.76 and the investment portion

amounted to $76,576,012.86. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $45,254,421.87 as compared with an excess of $48,773,175.60 at the end of 1930.

There was a nett withdrawal by the Treasury of $774,397 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a nett decrease of $2,162 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $9,456,961 were in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $727,657.25 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1929 was $735,627.25 and at the end of 1930 $729,841.25.

Seventeen millions two hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred and seventy-three and three-quarter notes to the value of $83,528,735 were destroyed during the year as against 18,652,188½ to the value of $90,750,079 in 1930.

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1931:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
„ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited
„ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)
„ Banque de L'Indo Chine
„ National City Bank of New York
„ Netherlands India Commercial Bank Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)
„ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited
„ Bank of Taiwan, Limited
„ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited
„ Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited
„ Ho Hong Bank, Limited
„ China and Southern Bank, Limited
„ Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited
„ Lee Wah Bank, Limited
„ Kwong Lee Banking Company
„ Eastern Bank, Limited
„ National Commercial and Savings Bank, Limited

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 3/16 and 2/3 21/32. The higher rate was obtainable only over a very short period at the end of the fourth quarter.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st of December was 27,324 as compared with 25,038 on the 31st of December, 1930; an increase of 2,286. During the year 6,469 new accounts were opened while 4,183 accounts were closed.

2. The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st of December was $5,028,579, as compared with $4,540,382 on the 31st of December, 1930. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $184 as compared with $181 at the end of 1930.

3. The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st of December was $4,852,401 and the market value of these investments according to Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $4,555,418. The market value has however since considerably appreciated.

4. During the year Savings Bank Pass Books printed in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil were issued to depositors.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(a) Standard of Extension, the Imperial yard.

(b) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(c) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese steelyards (called "dachings") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal local measures used with their relation to English standards:—

Local term		*Relation to English Standard*		
The chupak	..	equals	1	quart.
The gantang	..	"	1	gallon.
The tahil	..	"	1⅓	ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)		"	1⅓	lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)		"	133⅓	lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)		"	5,333⅓	lbs.

CHAPTER XII

Public Works

The Public Works Department is under the administrative control of the Colonial Engineer who is responsible for all public works, exclusive of Municipal and Railway Works, in the Straits Settlements; he is the chief engineering adviser to the Government and controls the civil engineering staff of the Department in the Colony.

The total expenditure for the year under all heads was $12,712,163.45 an increase of $2,191,413.40 as compared with the expenditure of 1930.

The expenditure of $12,712,163.45 was made up as follows:—

	$	c.
Expended under Personal Emoluments ..	616,274	00
„ „ Other Charges ..	108,156	82
„ „ Annually Recurrent ..	2,478,856	18
„ „ Works Extraordinary ..	8,711,591	35
„ on behalf of other Departments	189,556	47
„ under Miscellaneous Services ..	607,728	63

The expenditure in the various Settlements was as follows:—

	$	c.
Singapore	6,775,614	63
Penang	2,050,543	61
Dindings	186,717	21
Province Wellesley	1,419,310	73
Malacca	2,232,248	11
Labuan	47,729	16
	12,712,163	45

The percentage of cost of establishment to total expenditure was—

Civil Engineers and Architects ..	2.13	per cent
Clerks, exclusive of Financial Section ..	.52	„ „
Technical Subordinates	1.32	„ „
Storekeepers, Dredge Masters, etc., ..	.71	„ „
Financial Staff	.17	„ „
Total ..	4.85	„ „

The average value of work carried out per Engineer unit including architects was $366,767.

Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals.—The total expenditure on the maintenance of Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was $1,460,718.23, an increase of $477,973.44 as compared with the previous year.

Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals in the Colony were maintained in satisfactory condition throughout the year, and in addition to normal maintenance a total of $856,077 was spent on reconstruction and improvements.

Considerable improvements to the alignments of roads by cutting back dangerous corners, widening restricted places, and reconstruction and extension of culverts were carried out.

Buildings and Miscellaneous Works, Annually Recurrent.—The total expenditure on the maintenance of Buildings and Miscellaneous Works in the Colony was $1,018,137.95 as compared with $922,211.37 in 1930.

Government buildings were maintained in satisfactory condition during the year.

Extraordinary.—The total expenditure under this head during the year was $8,711,591.35 an increase of $1,556,574.89 as compared with the expenditure in 1930.

The expenditure in the various Settlements was as follows:—

	$	c.
Singapore	4,577,258	04
Penang	1,506,893	90
Dindings	122,626	73
Province Wellesley	972,479	56
Malacca	1,519,709	28
Labuan	12,623	84

The principal works completed during the year were as follows:—

Singapore.—

Eight quarters for Assistants to Professors at College of Medicine.

Ten quarters for Laboratory Assistants, Tiong Bahru.

New Dispensary at Kandang Kerbau.

Store, Sikh Guard Room and Tiffin Rooms for Monopolies Department.

Police Mess with Servants' Quarters and Garages at Police Depôt.

Detective Station.

New Police Station, Paya Lebar.

New Government Printing Office and Works including new machinery.

English Elementary School at Bukit Panjang.

Penang.—

Extension to Wellesley Primary School.

Post Office with quarters for Postmaster at Bayan Lepas.

Province Wellesley.—

Surgical Ward and operating room at Sungei Bakap Hospital.

Two new wards at Butterworth Hospital.

Barracks at Police Station, Bukit Mertajam.

Malacca.—

New High School including quarters for staff.

Vernacular Schools at Parit Melana, Ayer Panas, Bukit Baru Bachang, Alor Gajah, Sempang, Nyalas and Kandang.

General Post Office.

The principal works in hand at the close of the year were as follows:—

Singapore.—

Civil Aerodrome.

Quarters for 100 Attendants at General Hospital.

Quarters for 100 Postmen at Wallich Street.

Maternity Ward Kandang Kerbau Hospital.

New Government Monopolies Offices and Godowns and Post Office, Maxwell Road.

New Head Quarters for Straits Settlements Volunteer Force.

V. D. Clinic and quarters for staff.

Married Sikh Barracks for Police at Pearl's Hill.

Police Station and Barracks at Hill Street.

Police Station and Quarters at Beach Road.

New Central Police Station.

Quarters for 26 Subordinates.

New English School, Jalan Besar.

New Pier to replace Johnston's Pier.

Teluk Ayer Tidal Basin.

Reclamation of Crown Land at Labrador.

Penang.—

Extension to Penang Free School.

New Wards and Quarters, General Hospital.

Trade School.

Assembly Hall, Hutching's School.

Electrical Installation at Pulau Jerejak.

P. W. D. Workshop at Bukit Mertajam.

Malacca.—

New General Hospital.

Water Works.—The various installations of Waterworks in the Straits Settlements (excluding supplies to Municipalities) were maintained throughout the year.

Investigations for a new water supply for the Dindings were carried out.

Progress was made on the extension of Water Supply to Bukit Mertajam.

Investigations for a Water Supply at Batang Malaka were carried out during the year.

Electric Light and Power.—All installations, excluding the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were satisfactorily maintained throughout the year under review.

Dredging Operations and Reclamation Works.—The three dredgers "Mudlark", "Tembakul" and "Todak" worked throughout the year; they removed 304,130 cubic yards of dredgings.

The reclamation of swampy lands in Singapore was continued.

Irrigation and Drainage.—All irrigation and drainage channels were maintained in good condition throughout the year.

Sanitation.—The maintenance of all sanitary installations was carried out by Departmental labour.

Architectural Branch.—The Architectural Branch worked at high pressure throughout the year.

Labour and Material.—There was fall in the costs of labour and practically all building materials during the year.

General.—The total expenditure for the year, *viz.* $12,712,163.45 is $1,994,959.82 in excess of the previous highest expenditure of $10,717,203.63 in 1927.

CHAPTER XIII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

The Courts for the administration of civil and criminal law in the Colony are as follows:—

(a) The Supreme Court
(b) District Courts
(c) Police Courts
(d) Coroners' Courts

The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance, 1931, providing for the creation of a Court of Criminal Appeal to hear appeals from convictions had in trials before the Supreme Court, has now been passed, but has not yet been brought into force.

2. The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction, in each case both original and appellate. When exercising appellate civil jurisdiction, the Court is

styled the Court of Appeal. An appeal may lie from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. Criminal trials are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

3. District Courts, presided over by a District Judge, are constituted in each of the four Settlements. They have both civil and criminal jurisdiction, for the exercise of which, in the case of Singapore, separate Courts exist. In certain instances, the District Judge is assisted by an Assistant District Judge. The jurisdiction of District Courts is, normally, limited to suits involving not more than $500, when heard before a District Judge, and $100, when heard before an Assistant District Judge.

4. Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is, in the main, criminal, and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

5. Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

B.—POLICE

(i).—ORGANISATION

The organisation of the Straits Settlements Police is shewn in the subjoined diagram. Briefly the scheme is that each Settlement is in charge of a Chief Police Officer whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended in most cases by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

(a) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned in the investigation of any crime which is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(b) The Depôt, at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men of the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

(c) The Financial Branch.

Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, the former being an Officer of the Attorney-General's staff, the latter an officer of the Malayan Civil Service. They are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts.

The Singapore office includes the Settlement of Malacca within its scope.

(ii).—Crime

Seizable offences reported during 1931 numbered 7,486, a decrease of 101 compared with the 1930 figure. Arrests were made in 3,744 of the cases and resulted in the accused in 2,630 cases being convicted.

Crimes of violence shew a considerable decrease compared with the previous year.

The total number of thefts simple and thefts in dwellings for 1931 shows an appreciable decrease in the town areas of Singapore and Penang compared with the figures for 1930. On the other hand thefts in Province Wellesley and Malacca, *i.e.*, rural areas very appreciably increased. As might be expected vagrants and unemployed were responsible for an unusually large proportion of these cases.

The general decrease in the number of thefts recorded is offset to some extent by a nett increase in the number of housebreakings from 733 in 1930 to 872 in 1931. Singapore and Malacca are responsible for an increase of 143 and 126 reports respectively. Many of these cases were of a very minor nature. Both Penang and Province Wellesley show an appreciable decrease.

Cases of extortion in Singapore were much more numerous in 1931 than in 1930 and are higher than they have been for several years. There is no doubt that a considerable part of this increase can be traced to the greater confidence exhibited by intimidated persons, particularly of the hawker and prostitute classes and their consequent readiness to report occurrences which formerly they would have been afraid to make public.

Other noticeable points in respect of seizable crime include an increased number of cases of cheating and of prosecution under the Seditious Publications Ordinance. Seizable crime other than the above was in general slightly less than in 1930.

Reports of non-seizable offences totalled 97,965 as compared with 99,118 in 1930. In 66,901 of these cases prosecutions were undertaken by the Police.

(iii).—Chinese Secret Societies

The continuous war of attrition waged by the Detective Branch against gangsters and members of unlawful societies progresses very satisfactorily and it is again possible to report that the past year has been comparatively free from lawless outbreaks by gunmen and tribal factions.

The ability of societies to be dangerous depends in some measure on the possession of adequate funds. Office bearers as well as the hooligan or fighting elements have wholly or partially to be maintained from society funds and arms have to be purchased if a society or gang hopes to turn out a good striking force. Society funds are, however, believed to be at a low ebb. All members belonging to the labouring classes, whether of the artisan, seafaring, shop-keeping or ordinary coolie types are impoverished or unemployed and their contributions greatly reduced. The hooligan elements have correspondingly been weakened, likewise the moral and practical effect of their extortion and intimidation. Prostitutes and others who pay "protection money" more and more frequently find courage to report their troubles to the Police thus giving the latter valuable first hand information as to the identity of dangerous individuals. There are renewed indications also that the disappearance of the recognised brothel has further restricted the field of society extortion and intimidation. All these circumstances have contributed towards the maintenance of peace and, when serious trouble has actually threatened to break out, have enabled the Police either to anticipate it or to quell it before it has assumed dangerous dimensions. In spite of increased Police efficiency and the influence of economic conditions, threats and actual disturbances have been by no means infrequent.

The decline in the importance and influence of the older Hokkien societies continues and there has been little or no liaison between the various societies and pangkengs. Of the numerous fights attributed to these societies and factions only three were the direct result of inter-society rivalry, usually the most prolific and dangerous cause.

All other fights had their origin in quarrels concerning debts, sexual jealousy or the performance of work by individuals or pangkengs. Cases of this last named nature were noticeably frequent in the third quarter of the year, probably due to the prolonged depression.

Punitive action kept Teo Chiu societies well under control. There were less than a dozen cases of actual fighting but several attempts were nipped in the bud by well informed Police action.

The satisfactory position existing at the end of 1930 regarding Cantonese societies was more than maintained during 1931 and the Settlement was quite free from serious crime organised by Cantonese criminal gangs. A number of serious offences committed by Cantonese have no society significance. Constant attrition and punitive action kept them in such a state of chaos and caused such a general feeling of insecurity that many gangsters removed from the Settlement to Johore and the Federated Malay States. Co-operation with the Forces up country was fairly effective and detectives from the Colony sent up for the purpose rendered some assistance in identifying fugitives from Singapore. Some of these fugitives drifted back to the Settlement in the middle of the year and made unsuccessful efforts to re-organise.

Penang and Malacca continued to be remarkably free from society activity.

C.—PRISONS

At the beginning of the year there were 2,069 prisoners in the five Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island). Twenty-one thousand five hundred and eighteen were admitted during the year as compared with 20,520 during 1930 and 21,701 were discharged. One thousand eight hundred and eighty-six remained at the end of the year. There were 229 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,852 were admitted and 1,787 were discharged.

"Middle-grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the "Lower-Grade" men at husk-beating and the "Short-Sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

Remission of sentence may be earned by prisoners sentenced to Penal Servitude or Rigorous Imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile prisoners are kept separate from adult prisoners as far as conditions permit.

At present, time is not allowed for the payment of fines but this question is under consideration.

Under Section 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code Courts may, in their discretion, release on probation any first offender convicted of theft, cheating or any other offence punishable with not more than two years' imprisonment.

The health of the prisoners has been satisfactory throughout the year and the rations have been good and adequate.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory, Singapore, is the only institution in the Straits Settlements for the incarceration of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and it is not in any way connected with Prisons administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of 7 and 16 are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of 18.

At the end of 1930 the inmates numbered 108. Fifty were released and 68 admitted during 1931. At the end of 1931 there were thus 126 inmates.

Of the 68 boys admitted during the year, 49 were from the Straits Settlements, 18 from the Federated Malay States and 1 from the Unfederated Malay States. Fifty were Chinese, 4 were Malays and 14 were Indians. Fifty-four were committed for criminal offences including attempted extortion, criminal breach of trust, membership of an unlawful society, fraudulent possession of property, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, possession of counterfeit coins,

housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 37 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 13 were committed for vagrancy and one as being uncontrollable.

The conduct of the boys was excellent, and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, cooks, rubber tappers, grass cutters, gardeners, washermen, orderlies and general coolies. They were all taught Romanised Malay for two hours daily with the exception of nine who continued their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

Boys released who had no parents or relatives or friends were either found work or were adopted by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

Electricity was installed throughout the Reformatory and Quarters in the course of the year.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year 1931. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and twelve were purely Amending Ordinances.

The list of Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances is as follows:—

(1) The Registration of Criminals Ordinance (No. 4) which provides for the registration of criminals in place of section 8 of Ordinance No. 18 (Prisons).

(2) The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance (No. 5) which provides for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal in the Straits Settlements. Its provisions follow, as closely as local circumstances permit, the provisions of the Criminal Appeal Act, 1907.

(3) The Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance (No. 6) which makes provision for the registration in the Colony of Designs registered in the United Kingdom.

(4) The Admiralty Waters Ordinance (No. 12) which provides for the control of certain territorial waters of the Colony and prohibits the carrying out of dredging operations or the placing of obstructions within such area.

(5) The Public Works Department Titles Ordinance (No. 15) which alters the titles of the Colonial Engineer and Deputy Colonial Engineer to those of "Director of Public Works" and "Deputy Director of Public Works" respectively.

(6) The Medical Department Titles Ordinance (No. 16) which alters the title of the Principal Civil Medical Officer to that of "Director of Medical and Health Services".

The list of Amending Ordinances is as follows:—

(1) The Petroleum (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which allows the transport of petroleum between sunset and sunrise in proper cases.

(2) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which gives effect to a number of amendments which have been found necessary.

(3) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which prohibits the importation into the Colony of the virus of yellow fever.

(4) The Malacca Lands Customary Rights (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7) which permits of the imposition, at the time of the recognition of a holder of customary land, of a condition prohibiting the planting of rubber.

(5) The Tan Tock Seng's Hospital (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8) which empowers the Committee of Management to elect Unofficial Members of the Committee and to fill vacancies as they occur.

(6) The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which repeals the section of Ordinance No. 22 of 1928 providing for the suspension or abatement of the pension of an officer who accepts further public service.

(7) The Railways (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which further amends Ordinance No. 90 (Railways) in respect of the liabilities of the railway administration for the loss of the passengers' luggage and provides for the establishment of motor services.

(8) The Machinery (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 11) which gives legislative effect to the recommendations of the Machinery Committee appointed by the Governor.

(9) The Societies (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which provides that the membership by a resident in the Colony of a society organised outside Malaya is not prohibited by Ordinance No. 116 (Societies).

(10) The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which imposes a duty on bets made on the totalisator at race-meetings and also on sweepstakes promoted by racing clubs or associations.

(11) The Admiralty Waters (Amendment) (No. 18) Ordinance which corrects an error in respect of the western boundary of Admiralty waters.

(12) The Estate Duty (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) which imposes a new scale of duties on estates exceeding $100,000.

The Subsidiary Legislation issued during the year was as follows:—

(1) Ordinance No. 1 (Printing Presses)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 21 (1) it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 1647 of 21st August, 1931, that the premises at which the press is to be kept or used shall be approved by a Health Officer as being suitable for the trade and in a sanitary condition.

(2) Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery). Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 4 for the inspection and control of Machinery are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 2142 of 30th October, 1931.

(3) Ordinance No. 80 (Military Manœuvres)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 9 it is proclaimed in *Gazette* Notifications Nos. 1132 of 5th June, 1931, 1169 of 12th June, 1931, and 2482 of 18th December, 1931, that the areas specified in the respective Schedules thereto shall be firing grounds. Rules made by the Officer Commanding the Troops under section 16 and approved by Legislative Council are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1365 of 10th July, 1931.

(4) Ordinance No. 88 (Wild Animals and Birds)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 2 *(c)* it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 380 of 27th February, 1931, that the killing or taking of the wild bird commonly known as the Christmas Island Fruit Pigeon is prohibited within the area of Christmas Island for the period of one year from the date of the publication of the notification.

(5) Ordinance No. 117 (Chandu Revenue)—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 40 (1) to regulate the management of Examination Stations are published in Gazette Notification No. 1823 of 18th September, 1931.

(6) Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal)—By-laws for the licensing of touts made under sections 57 (*aa*1) and 318 *(j)* and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1023 of 15th May, 1931, were confirmed as amended by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 1350 of 3rd July, 1931;

By-laws for the licensing and control of places in which animals are kept in captivity for sale, etc., made under

section 11 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, 1930 and section 57 (1) *(ff)* of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published in *Gazette* Notification No. 859 of 24th April, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 1347 of 3rd July, 1931;

By-laws for the suppression of cruelty, by overloading, to draught cattle and buffaloes made under section 57 (1) *(cc)* of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1121 of 29th May, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 1307 of 26th June, 1931;

By-laws for the control and management of Public Swimming Baths made under sections 57 (1) *(o) (v-vii)* and 167 (1) of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2030 of 9th October, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 2248 of 13th November, 1931;

By-laws for the regulation of the transport and storage of Petroleum and Dangerous Petroleum and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2139 of 23rd October, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council, under section 29 of Ordinance No. 109 (Petroleum) in *Gazette* Notification No. 2298 of 20th November, 1931;

By-laws for the supervision and control of lifts made under section 57 (1) *(ee)* of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2029 of 9th October, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 2359 of 27th November, 1931.

(7) Ordinance No. 139 (Sale of Food and Drugs)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 28 (1) *(h)* it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 288 of 13th February, 1931, that the sale, advertisement for sale or importation into the Colony of cosmetics containing lead or any compound thereof is prohibited.

(8) Ordinance No. 158 (Tobacco Duties)—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 59 (1) to regulate the examination of the person and baggage of persons landing at ports and the management of examination stations are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1513 of 31st July, 1931.

(9) Ordinance No. 183 (Statistics)—Rules are made by the Governor in Council under section 7 and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2220 of 13th November, 1931, requiring every estate to furnish a monthly return of

stocks of rice held at the end of each month and also the number of acres cultivated under foodstuffs.

(10) Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1928—Proclamations dated 24th January, 1931, 29th April, 1931, and 1st August, 1931, respectively restrict the entry of adult male Chinese immigrant labourers into the Colony for a further period of three months as it is considered that the entry of such labourers is likely to cause unemployment.

Proclamation dated 29th September, 1931, permits the entry into the Colony of 2,500 adult male Chinese immigrant labourers in each month for a period of three months commencing from 1st October, 1931.

(11) Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, 1927—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 41 it is published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1366 of 10th July, 1931, that diamorphine preparations are exempted from the provisions of the Ordinance.

(12) Liquors Revenue Ordinance, 1927—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 90 (1) to regulate the examination of the person and baggage of persons landing at ports and the management of examination stations are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1512 of 31st July, 1931.

As regards factory legislation, Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery) makes provision for the inspection of boilers, engines and other machinery and for regulating their control and working. The previous rules framed by the Governor in Council for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the Ordinance have recently been consolidated and amended, and were published as Notification No. 2142 in the *Gazette* of the 30th October, 1931, prior to confirmation by resolution of Legislative Council.

Ordinance No. 197 (Labour) also contains numerous provisions aiming at the amelioration of the conditions under which labourers perform their work, and also contains provisions similar to those of the Truck Acts in England.

As regards compensation for accidents, section 8 of Ordinance No. 111 (Civil Law) makes provisions for compensation similar to those adopted in Lord Campbell's Act (The Fatal Accidents Act, 1846). At present there is no legislation in the Colony corresponding to the Workmen's Compensation Acts in England, but a Bill to provide for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident has been introduced in the Legislative Council and it is expected that the Bill will shortly become law.

No legislative provisions exist for insurance against sickness or old age.

CHAPTER XV

Public Finance and Taxation

The revenue for the year 1931 amounted to $26,601,527.65 which was less than the original estimate by $5,342,774.35 but was slightly in excess of the revised estimate of $26,325,690.

The expenditure was $46,802,558.03 being $826,322.97 less than the original estimate. It included, however, a sum of $2,116,083.27 charged for depreciation in the value of Surplus Funds Investments in order to reduce them to market value on 31st December, 1931. It will be seen therefore that in respect of the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Headings the year's working resulted in a deficit of about $18.1 millions. The total deficit was $20.2 millions approximately.

(i).—Revenue

The revenue, was $5,806,777.78 less than that of 1930. Details are shown in the Table below.—

REVENUE

Heads of Revenue	1930	1931	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues	2,529.50	2,404.24	...	125.26
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	21,576,421.14	16,651,059.40	...	4,925,361.74
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ...	1,209,820.23	1,149,958.33	...	59,861.90
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	2,301,230.77	2,136,784.83	...	164,445.94
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,833,196.95	1,750,990.63	...	82,206.32
6. Interest	3,488,995.43	3,808,466.24	319,470.81	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,202,088.32	859,745.75	...	342,342.57
Total exclusive of Land Sales and grants-in-aid ...	31,614,282.34	26,359,409.42	319,470.81	5,574,343.73
8. Land Sales	794,023.09	211,132.52	...	582,890.57
	32,408,305.43	26,570,541.94	319,470.81	6,157,234.30
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ...	...	30,985.71	30,985.71	...
TOTAL REVENUE ...	32,408,305.43	26,601,527,65	350,456.52	6,157,234.30

As compared with 1930 the decline in Revenue of $4,925,361.74 under the head Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified is chiefly attributable to a decrease in the revenue under the following sub-heads:—

Opium	$2,755,960.00
Estate Duties	333,581.00
Stamp Duties	309,171.00
Tobacco Duties	744,136.00
Liquors	868,655.00

The decrease under Fees of Court, etc., is due to a drop in the collection of Quarantine and port Health Expenses recoverable.

The decrease under Posts and Telegraphs is due to general trade depression.

The decrease under Rents on Government Property is due to smaller receipts in Malacca from Land Rents, $59,618.03, and Forest Revenue, $13,360. In the case of the former part of the decrease is due to the policy of Government in regard to the payment of quit rent by instalments and to the remission or deferment of rents on swamp areas on estates, and part to delay in payment of arrears owing to anticipations that quit rents would be reduced.

Miscellaneous Receipts for 1931 show a large decrease. This is accounted for by the fact that the 1930 figures included a sum of $286,796.49 on account of nett profit on exchange when redeeming the 5½% Conversion Loan 1919—29.

The increase under Interest is due to interest received on new loans made in 1931 and also to the sum of $67,866 interest due by the Trengganu Government for the 2nd half of 1930 which was adjusted in 1931.

Land Sales as might be expected under present trade conditions show a considerable falling off.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of expenditure are set out in the Table Appended.—

Heads of Expenditure	1930	1931	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt	37,083.40	37,083.40	...	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowance, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,795,839.15	1,836,088.10	40,248.95	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	26,645.71	44,340.18	17,694.47	...
4. The Governor	144,505.31	141,151.68	...	3,353.63
5. Civil Service	671,972.50	705,898.21	33,925.71	...
6. General Clerical Service ...	1,018,297.86	1,090,904.62	72,606.76	...
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	127,528.58	134,166.42	6,637.84	...
8. Secretary to High Commissioner	10,403.52	11,193.35	789.83	...
9. Agricultural Department ...	87,865.03	96,270.10	8,405.07	...
10. Analyst	...	9,530.66	9,530.66	..
11. Audit	28,434.34	32,294.43	3,860.09	...
12. Audit, External ...	1,224.01	*a* 23,578.73	...	*a* 24,802.74
13. Chinese Secretariat ...	217,860.05	211,184.60	...	6,675.45
14. Co-operative Societies ...	32,874.36	36,535.60	3,661.24	...
15. Ecclesiastical	24,225.45	24,700.00	474.55	...
16. Education	1,536,663.10	1,937,027.44	400,364.34	...
17. Fisheries	41,656.99	38,510.30	...	3,146.69
18. Forests	101,910.48	75,181.30	...	26,729.18
19. Gardens, Botanical ...	113,561.62	121,890.23	8,328.61	...
20. Labour Department ...	27,166.26	63,097.81	35,931.55	...
21. Land and District Offices ...	274,496.92	255,148.85	...	19,348.07
22. Legal	386,494.09	397,354.82	10,860.73	...
23. Marine	640,818.79	652,382.03	11,563.24	...
24. Marine Surveys ...	72,300.19	87,197.31	14,897.12	...
25. Medical	463,412.21	452,919.31	...	15,492.90
26. Medical, Health Branch ...	681,381.32	717,479.57	36,098.25	...
27. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	116,697.22	125,724.94	9,027.72	...
28. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,349,760.60	2,443,878.95	94,118.35	...
29. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	4,239,728.54	4,189,285.65	...	50,442.89
II. Local Forces ...	579,149.59	576,813.76	...	2,335.83
30. Miscellaneous Services ...	7,428,925.31	11,589,314.90	4,160,389.59	...
31. Monopolies	1,664,402.15	1,340,838.01	...	323,564.14
32. Museum and Library, Raffles	57,921.89	57,643.79	...	278.10
33 Police	3,187,680.87	3,290,873.95	103,193.08	...
34. Post Office	2,077,685.44	2,299,770.95	222,085.51	...
35. Printing Office ...	266,660.10	268,231.67	1,571.57	...
36. Prisons	492,698.69	495,313.96	2,615.27	...
37. Public Works Department...	558,728.08	666,031.08	107,303.00	...
38. Public Works Recurrent Expenditure ...	983,226.51	1,048,606.03	65,379.52	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary	5,658,712.66	8,197,700.40	2,538,987.74	...
40. Statistics	33,070.90	40,062.53	6,991.63	...
41. Survey Department ...	415,537.60	423,531.22	7,993.62	...
42. Transport	385,753.11	375,464.63	...	10,288.48
43. Treasury	104,068.53	107,622.78	3,554.25	...
44. Veterinary	70,285.58	73,134.83	2,849.25	...
45. Colonial Development Fund—Grants-in-Aid ...	...	6,762.41	6,762.41	...
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ...	39,240,314.61	46,802,558.03	8,048,701.52	486,458.10

(*a*) Expenditure Credit

The increase under Pensions, etc., is mainly due to new pensions of Widows and Orphans and gratuities to families of deceased officers.

The increase under Charitable Allowances is due to an increased contribution to the Poh Leung Kuk Home, Singapore.

Under Civil Service increments and promotions within the service are responsible for the increase.

The increase under General Clerical Service is on account of increments and to the appointment of additional Grade III clerks.

The 1930 expenditure of the Analyst's Department was included under the Medical Department.

The opening of new schools mainly accounts for the large increase in the expenditure of the Education Department.

The large increase under Labour is due to payment of the cost of repatriating Indian Labourers from Malaya for the 1st half year 1931, during the year instead of in the following year as was the practice hitherto.

Under Medical General, the decrease is partly due to the establishment of the Analyst's Department as a separate department.

Under Medical, Health Branch the increase is due to an increase in Personal Emoluments and also to the construction of two lighters for transporting passengers to and from St. John's Island Quarantine Station.

The increase under Medical, Hospital and Dispensaries is mainly due to an increase in Personal Emoluments.

Miscellaneous Services: The excess under Miscellaneous Services is principally due to payments in respect of the following items:—

	$	c.
Balance of Colony's share of the Railway deviation from Bukit Timah to Tanjong Pagar	2,288,320	00
Depreciation in value of Surplus Fund investments in order to reduce them to market value as on 31st December, 1931	2,116,083	27

This adjustment was made in pursuance of instructions issued by the Secretary of State.

Over a quarter of a million of the decrease under Monopolies is accounted for by a decrease in Working Expenses. The balance is due to decrease in the cost of maintenance of Government shops.

The principal reasons for the increase under Police are the filling of vacancies in the Establishment which existed in 1930, increments

due to the operation of salary schemes and heavier expenditure under Other Charges.

Under Post Office the increase is due to the installation of Carrier Current Telephony between the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

Under Public Works the increases are entirely due to the larger programme of work which is being undertaken and it has been necessary to strengthen the personnel very considerably in order to cope with it.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last five years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works.—

Year	*Total Expenditure*	*Public Works Extraordinary*
—	—	—
	$	$
1927	33,950,061	6,184,886
1928	31,047,608	5,489,873
1929	31,936,283	5,133,968
1930	35,000,586	5,658,712
1931	42,613,272	8,197,700

The amount paid as Defence Contribution for the last five years are:—

	$
1927	5,303,000
1928	3,960,000
1929	3,775,714
1930	4,239,728
1931	4,189,286

Refunds of $139,500 and $454,397, received in 1928 and 1929 in respect of overpayment in the financial years 1926—1927 and 1927—1928 respectively are not included in the above figures.

(iii).—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December,

	$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities		
Deposits :—		
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	45,892,310.49	
Court	877,656.55	
Bankruptcy	901,324.36	
Mercantile Marine Fund	737,778.35	
Police Reward Fund	4,395.13	
Penang and Districts, Miscellaneous	380,671.99	
Malacca and Districts, Miscellaneous	153,090.66	
Miscellaneous	1,994,805.27	
		50,942,032 80
Drafts and Remittances	...	49,106.85
Suspense Account :—		
Suspense Account — Coin for reminting, etc.	2,578,548.04	
Suspense Account — Interest Currency Commissioners ...	62,203.15	
Suspense Account — Other items	439,285.69	
		3,080,036.88
Loans :—		
Straits Settlements 5½% War Loan 1918-1928 ...	1,400,00	
Straits Settlements 6% Loan 1916	1,900.00	
Straits Settlements 5½% Conversion Loan 1919-1929	3,100.00	
		6,400.00
Surplus	...	56,171,577.19
TOTAL ...	...	110,249,153.72

The surplus on 31st December, 1931, amounted to $56,171,577

Against this Commitments on loans already approved to public $9,417,935. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1932 therewith amounting to $9,397,665 had to be met. The total to $33,961,027.

LIABILITIES

1931, were as follows:—

		$ c.	$ c.
Assets			
Investments:—			
Colony { Crown Agents on Deposit	$27,441,481.12		
Colony { Fixed Deposit	2,650,000.00		
Colony { Miscellaneous	758,682.04		
		30,850,163.16	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...		45,892,310.41	
Bankruptcy		775,676.96	
Mercantile Marine Fund		643,876.32	
Other Investments		1,094,568.33	
			79,256,595.18
Advances		...	2,417,140.36
Imprests		...	1,331.67
Cash in Transit		...	42,207.63
Suspense Account		...	386,960.00
Suspense Account Nickel Coin		...	84,341.61
Suspense Account Subsidiary Coins held by the F. M. S. Treasury		...	92,450.00
Loans:—			
Municipality, Singapore	$2,366,393.54		
Municipality, Penang	75,000.00		
Municipality, Malacca	390,954.11		
		2,832,347.65	
Brunei Government		4,000.00	
Kelantan Government		5,130,683.98	
Trengganu Government		3,714,843.57	
Singapore Harbour Board		4,845,899.03	
Penang Harbour Board		2,778,525.50	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		53,250.00	
Singapore Cricket Club		6,683.33	
Stadium Association		13,000.00	
S. S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ...		106,690.66	
Singapore Improvement Trust		250,000.00	
			19,735,923.72
Indian Agency Account		...	47,358.15
Cash		...	8,184,845.40
TOTAL ...		...	110,240,.53.72

of which approximately $33½ millions were liquid.

bodies in the Colony and to other administrations amounted to amounting to $15,145,427 and further commitments in connection commitments on 1st January, 1932, against the surplus thus amounted

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted, on the 31st December, 1931, to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ..	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ..	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
	55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ..	3,388,205
	59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was $2,079,909 in 1931. This charge is however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1931, was approximately $12,067,500.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 stands at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on this loan is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. II) amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Taxation

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco, and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony, and from the profits on the Opium monopoly which is entirely controlled by the Government. The other main items are stamp duties, estate (death) duties, and Pawnbrokers licences which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years.

The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from licences.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licences for the year 1931 was $16,651,059 forming the greater portion of the Colony's revenue, and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$
Liquors	3,040,000
Opium Revenue	6,074,735
Pawnbrokers' Licences	655,134
Petroleum Revenue	1,469,509
Stamp Duties (various revenue services)	609,565
Stamp Duties (Estate Duties) ..	667,399
Tobacco duties	3,400,751

The only fiscal measure approximating to a customs tariff is the imposition of duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony. All these duties were revised in September, 1931, and at the end of the year were as follows:—

Liquors.—Duties on liquors varied from $14 per proof gallon on spirits to $1.20 per gallon on still wines and beer and similar beverages of low alcoholic strength.

Tobacco.—Duties ranged from $1.60 per pound in the case of Cigars and Snuff to 70 cents per pound for Unmanufactured Tobacco.

Petroleum.—The duty on petroleum used for domestic purposes, such as kerosine, was 5 cents per gallon, but petroleum with a flashing point below 73 degrees Fahrenheit, (*i.e.*, motor spirit), was liable to a duty of 35 cents per gallon.

These duties are imposed solely for revenue purposes.

Excise revenue is comprised principally of the revenue from the opium monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of similar brand. The only liquor manufactured locally which is subject to this duty is samsoo. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp Duties including Estate (Death) Duties form an important source of revenue. Estate duties were revised during the year with effect from 1st January, 1932, and progress from a minimum of 1% on estates with a principal value of over $1,000 to 20% on estates with a principal value of over $10,000,000.

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance, 1929. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only		25 cents.
Bill of Exchange including Promissory Note	..	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof.
Cheque	.. ..	4 cents.
Conveyance	Maximum — ..	$1.50 for every $250 or part thereof.
Mortgage	Maximum — ..	$1 for every $500 or part thereof.
Receipt	.. ..	4 cents.

CHAPTER XVI

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of the majority of the Straits-born Chinese, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be: Hokkien, 43.2%; Cantonese, 21.4%; Tiu Chiu, 17.4%; Hakka (Kheh), 7.9%; Hailam, 5.4%; Hok Chhia, 1.5%; Hok Chiu, 1.3%; and other dialects, 1.9%.

Of the Southern Indians who form over nine-tenths of the total Indian population practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam. The vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil, and of the remainder the Malayalis are about three times as numerous as the Telugus.

The remaining Indian population consists of Northern Indians whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali, and Hindustani, with a few hundreds from Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

B.—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued in the past but the policy now is to restrict the issue of such Grants, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99-years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is now alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malaca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99-years but there are a few leases of 999-years and a few Statutory Grants.

Alienated land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99-year leases from the Crown in the case of estates, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 127 (Labuan) and may be alienated by public auction only.

The titles existing are leases of 999-years or less but since 1919 leases for 30-years only have been granted.

Throughout the Colony alienation of the foreshore is governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

C.—CO-OPERATION

In Singapore there are seven Thrift and Loan Societies, which have increased their paid-up share capital from $325,124 to $415,432. Membership, which fell during the previous year, has risen from 3,149 to 3,720. The amount of loans granted during the year has increased from $205,182 to $307,242.

The satisfactory advance recorded last year in the amount of subscribed share capital deposited in the Bank or invested in trustee securities is still very marked; it has increased from $243,501 on the 30th June, 1930, to $296,072 at the close of the year.

In Malacca, the four Thrift & Loan Societies have increased in membership from 990 to 1051 and in paid-up share capital from $87,846 to $119,446. The amounts invested in trustee securities and deposited in the Bank have increased from $47,259 to $83,044 and the amount of loans granted from $63,330 to $68,769.

In the eight Rural Credit Societies, the paid-up share capital at the close of the year amounted to $8,560 as compared with $7,633 on 30th June, 1930. Membership has decreased by 6, the present number standing at 336.

In Penang and Province Wellesley, there are now eight Thrift & Loan Societies, as compared with nine in the previous year. Membership, on the other hand, has increased from 2,577 to 2,866 and the paid-up subscriptions from $127,655 to $182,995. The amount of loans granted during the previous year was $96,558 as compared with $127,583 for the year under review. The total invested in gilt-edged securities and deposited in the Bank now amonts to $128,892 as compared with $74,687 at the end of the previous year.

The Rural Credit Societies have decreased by two and are now six in number. The paid-up subscription is $4,833 as against $6,446 in the previous year. Membership has decreased from 208 to 151.

Estate Labourers' Co-operative Societies have increased from seven to eight. Membership, however, has diminished from 2,110 to 1,534, although on the other hand paid-up share capital has increased

from $12,769 to $19,213. The decrease in membership is undoubtedly due to the repatriation of Indian labour as a result of the present economic uncertainty in the rubber planting world.

Despite the universal trade depression, the societies generally are expanding their activities and doing excellent work in slowly clearing their members of their heavy burden of long-standing debt and in providing them with facilities for thrift and controlled credit. For this work their accumulated capital amounts to approximately $750,000.

D.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, G.C.M.G., returned from leave on the 13th June and resumed the administration of the Government of the Colony which had been undertaken during his absence by Mr. JOHN SCOTT, C.M.G. Mr. M. B. SHELLEY acted as Colonial Secretary throughout the year.

Sir MILES LAMPSON, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., His Majesty's Minister to China, visited Singapore in February.

His Excellency the Governor-General of the Philippine Islands, Mr. DWIGHT F. DAVIS, visited Singapore in March in the U.S.S. "Pittsburg".

The German Cruiser "Emden" paid a visit to the Colony, calling at Labuan and the Cocos Islands.

The New Year Honours List contained the following names:—

Miss D. M. BUCKLE, O.B.E. (Civil Division).

Lieut. SYED SALLEH ALSAGOFF, M.B.E. (Military Division).

Battery Sergeant-Major T. O. MAYHEW, M.B.E. (Military Division).

The following honours were conferred at the Birthday:—

His Excellency Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, G.C.M.G.

Dr. A. L. HOOPS, C.B.E. (Civil Division).

Major R. R. ROBERTSON, O.B.E. (Military Division).

Lieut. KOH KENG BOCK, M.B.E. (Military Division).

The decennial census of the population of the Colony was held on the 2nd April, the arrangements being under the superintendence of Mr. C. A. VLIELAND, M.C.S.

The duties on liquors, tobacco and petrol were increased as from the 28th September as a revenue measure.

The Commission appointed by the Governor to enquire into the question of reduction or merger in salaries of Temporary Allowances submitted its Report. These allowances were reduced by half with effect from the 1st June, 1931, and were entirely abolished as from the 1st January, 1932.

The Committee set up to consider the replanning of Empress Place and the rebuilding of the Old Government Offices, the Supreme Court and Town Hall concluded its deliberations.

In July His Excellency the Governor appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. G. E. CATOR, M.C.S., to investigate the practicability of the Colony participating in a Customs Union for Malaya.

In October a Retrenchment Committee was appointed to make a full enquiry into the expenditure of the Government on Personal Emoluments, Other Charges of a recurrent nature, and Special Expenditure and commitments as shewn in the Colonial Estimates.

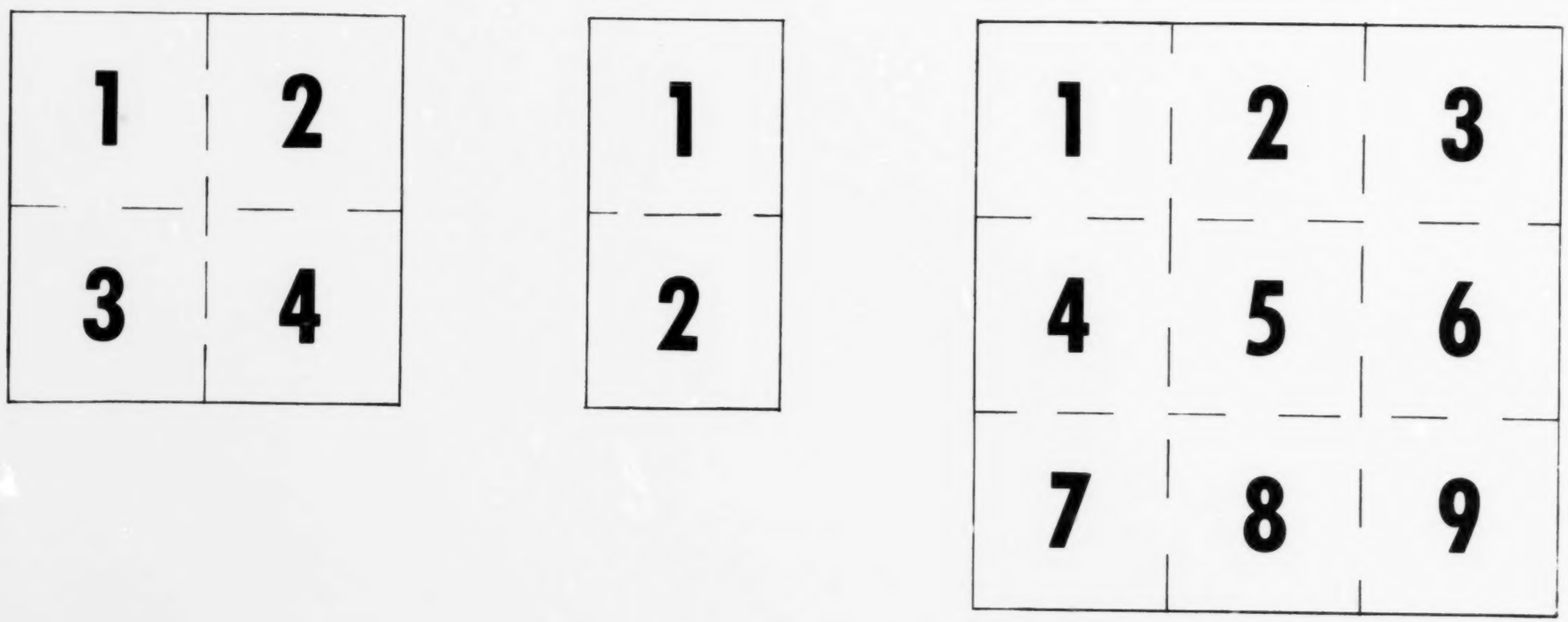
The Wild Life Commission continued its sittings under the Chairmanship of Mr. THEODORE HUBBACK.

Major-General H. L. PRITCHARD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., was succeeded by Major-General L. C. L. OLDFIELD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., as General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, and Captain E. C. O. THOMPSON, D.S.O., R.N., was succeeded by Captain M. BROCK BIRKETT, D.S.O., R.N., as Captain-in-Charge of His Majesty's Naval Establishments. Group Captain A. H. JACKSON continued in command of the Royal Air Force, Far East.

JOHN SCOTT,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, 10*th August*, 1932.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



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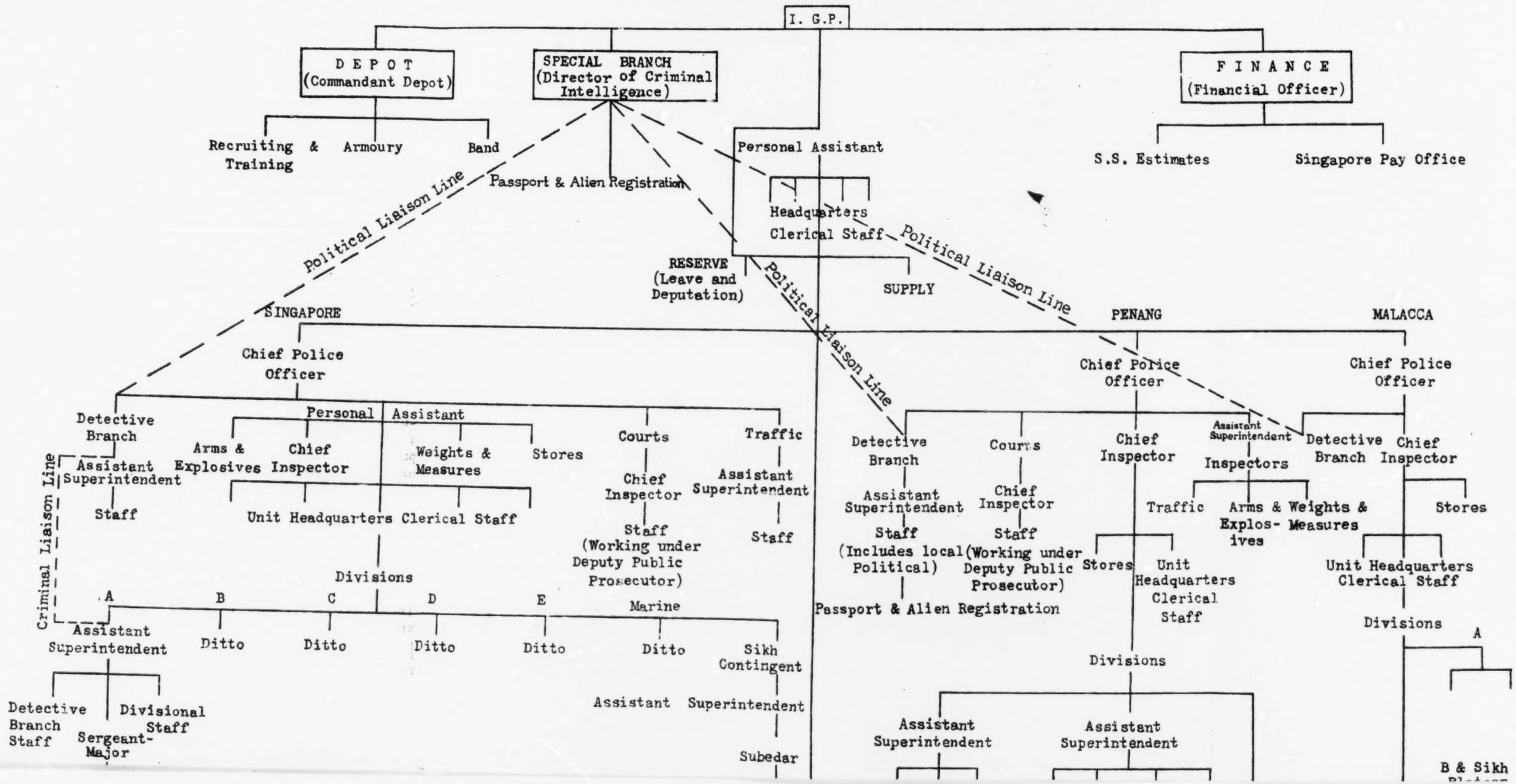
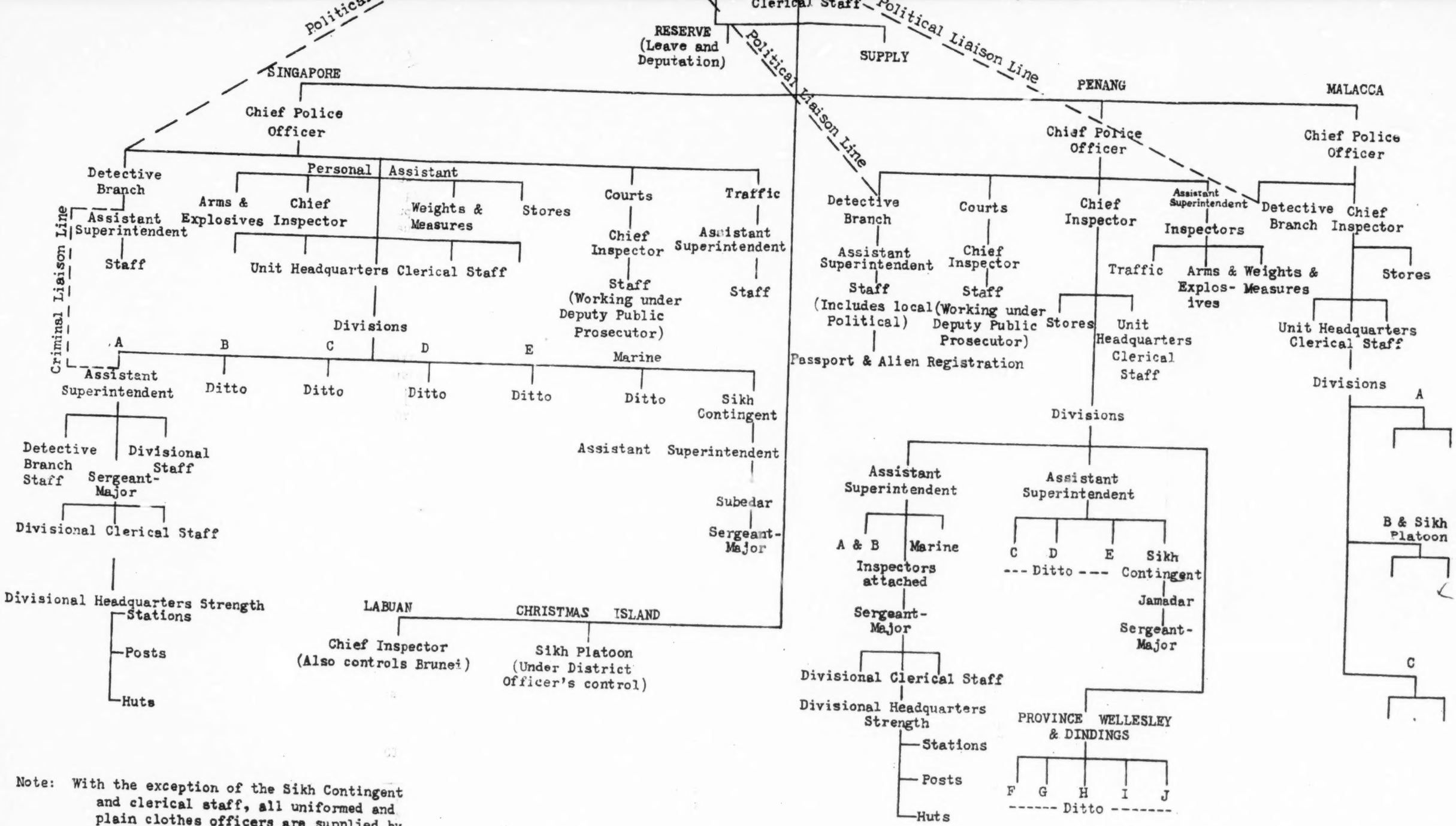
666 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 · (212) 245-8498

ORGANISATION OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POLICE





Note: With the exception of the Sikh Contingent and clerical staff, all uniformed and plain clothes officers are supplied by the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent.

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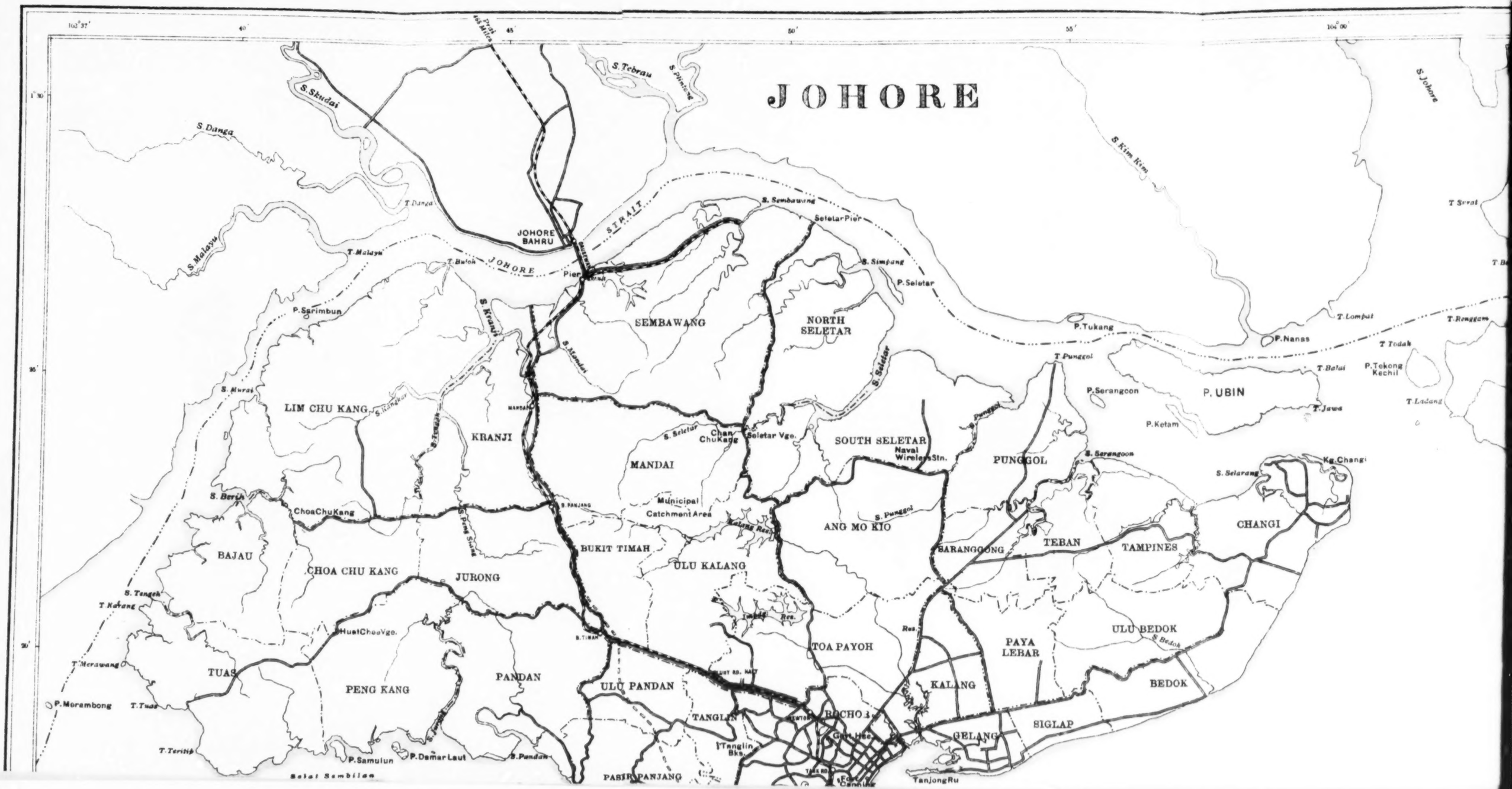
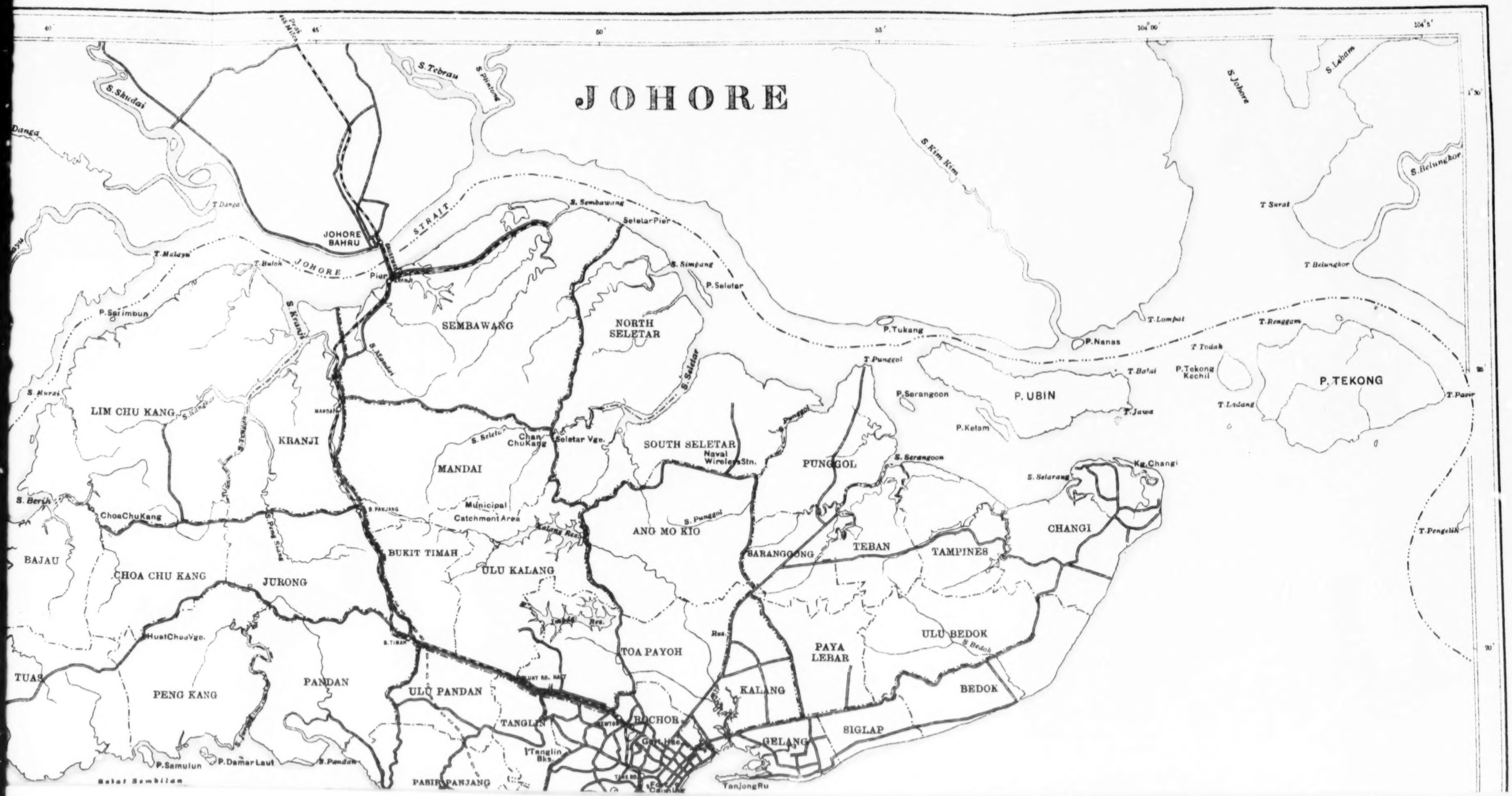
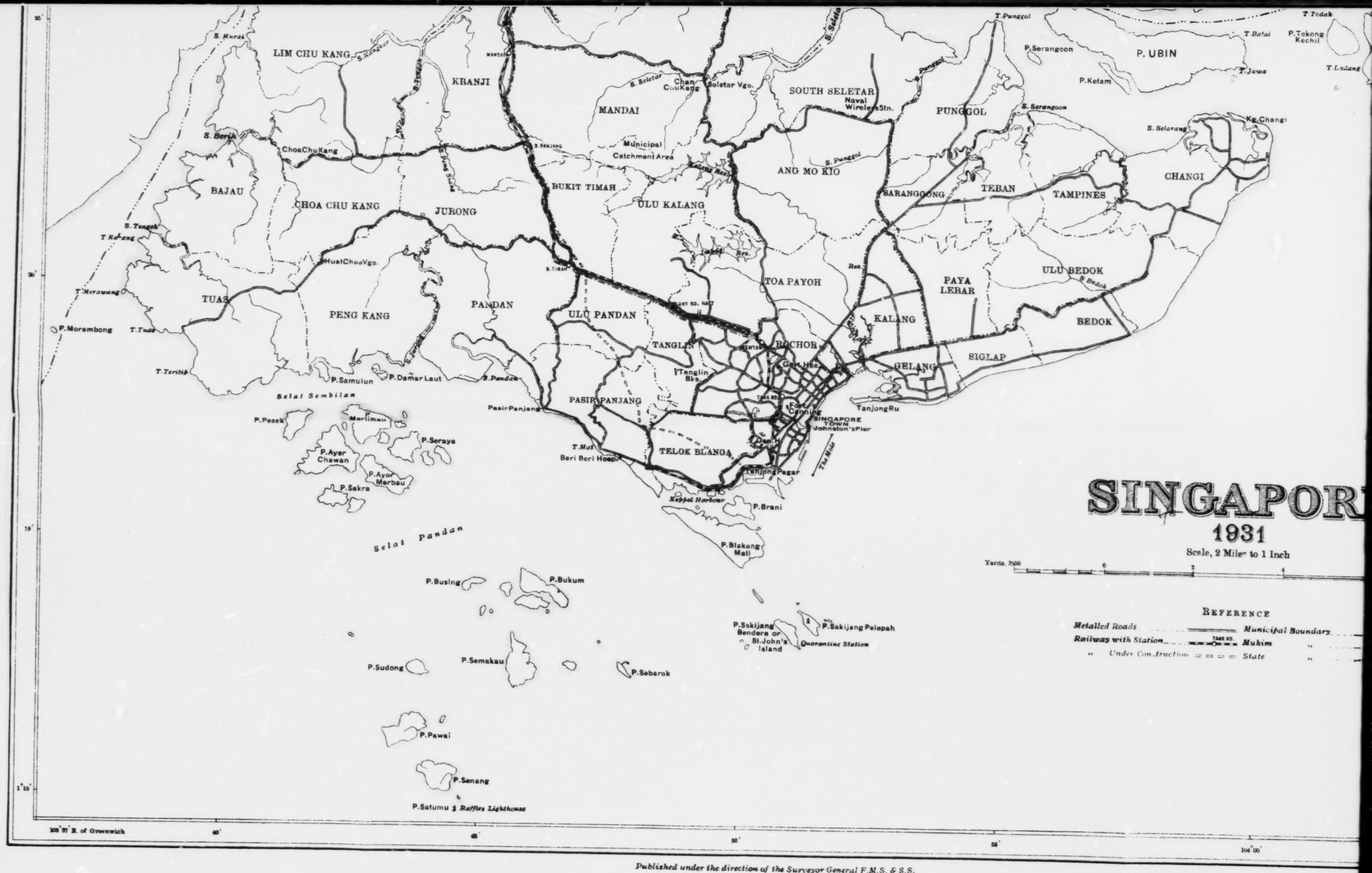


andronicus publishing company, inc.


JOHORE
S. Skudai
S. Tebrau
S. Pintasan
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
S. Laham
S. Belungkor
T. Danga
T. Malayu
T. Bulok
JOHORE
STRAIT
JOHORE BAHRU
Pier
S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
S. Simpang
P. Seletar
T. Surat
T. Belungkor
P. Sarimbun
S. Kranji
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
S. Seletar
P. Tukang
T. Punggol
P. Nanas
T. Lompat
T. Renggam
T. Todak
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
P. TEKONG
T. Pasir
T. Ladang
P. Serangoon
P. UBIN
T. Jawa
P. Ketam
S. Murai
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
S. Serangoon
Kg. Changi
S. Selarang
S. Berih
Choa Chu Kang
Municipal Catchment Area
ANG MO KIO
CHANGI
BAJAU
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
BARANGOONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
T. Pengelih
Res.
ULU BEDOK
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
Hwat Chua Vge.
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
TANGLIN
BOCHOR
SIGLAP
GELANG
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
PASIR PANJANG
Tanjong Ru



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LABUAN

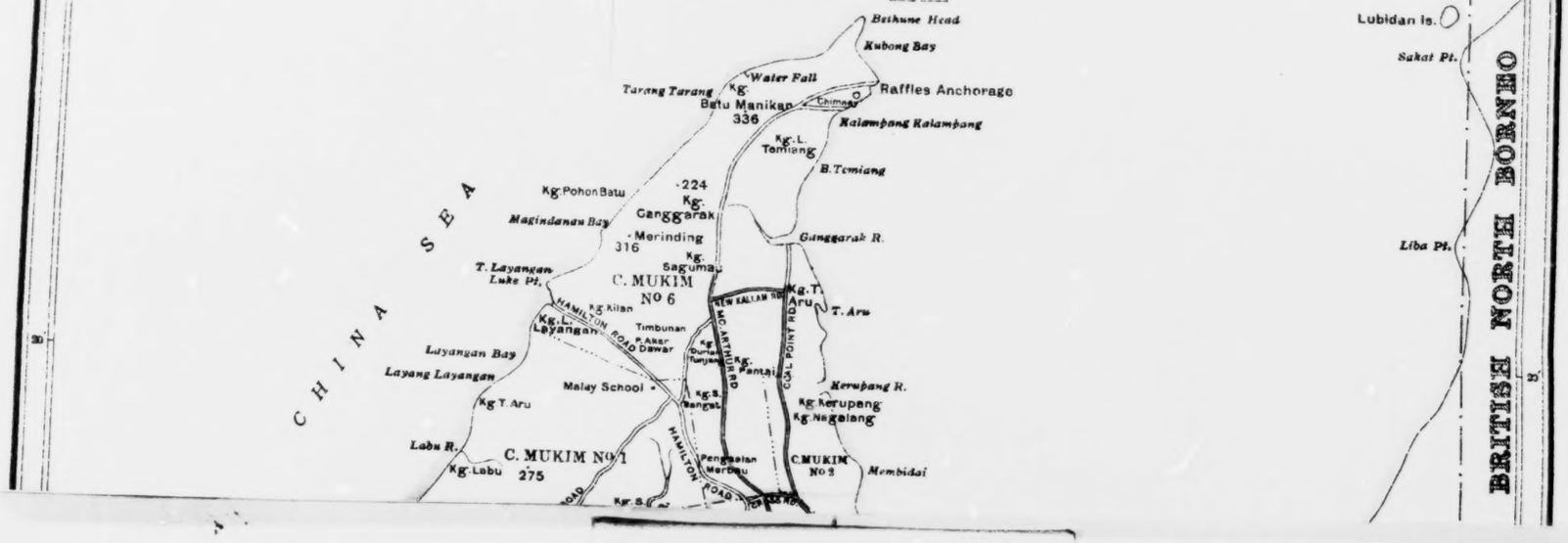
1931

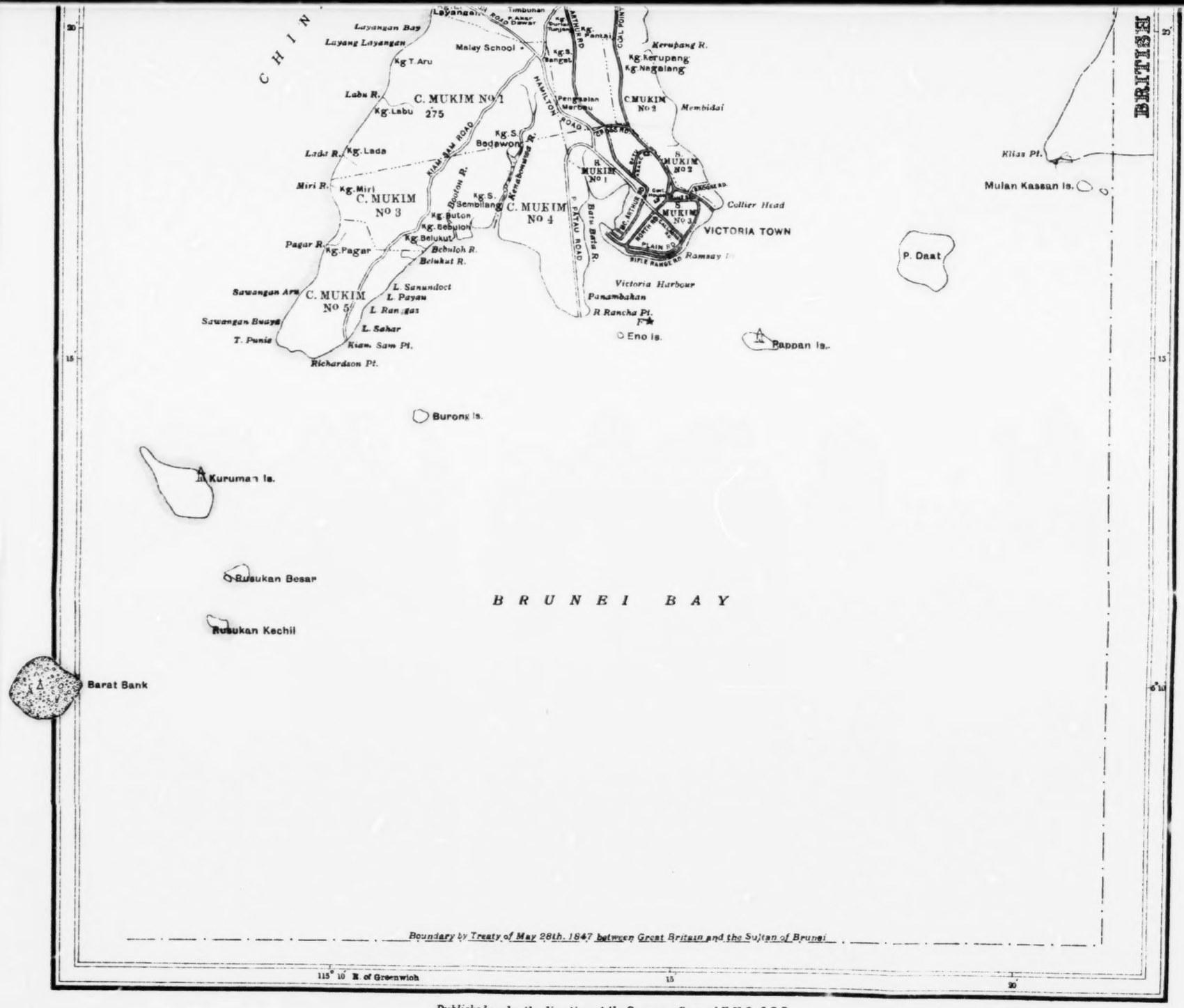
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3600 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Earth Road & Bridle Path
Roads Metalled
Point, Tanjong, River — Pt. T. R.
Pulau, Light House — P.
Kampong, Lobok. — Kg. L.
Flashing Light or Buoy
Fixed Light, Sungei — F★ S
Mukim Boundary, Height — 336
Country, Suburban — C. S.
Districts: (1) Town (2) Suburban — (1) (2)





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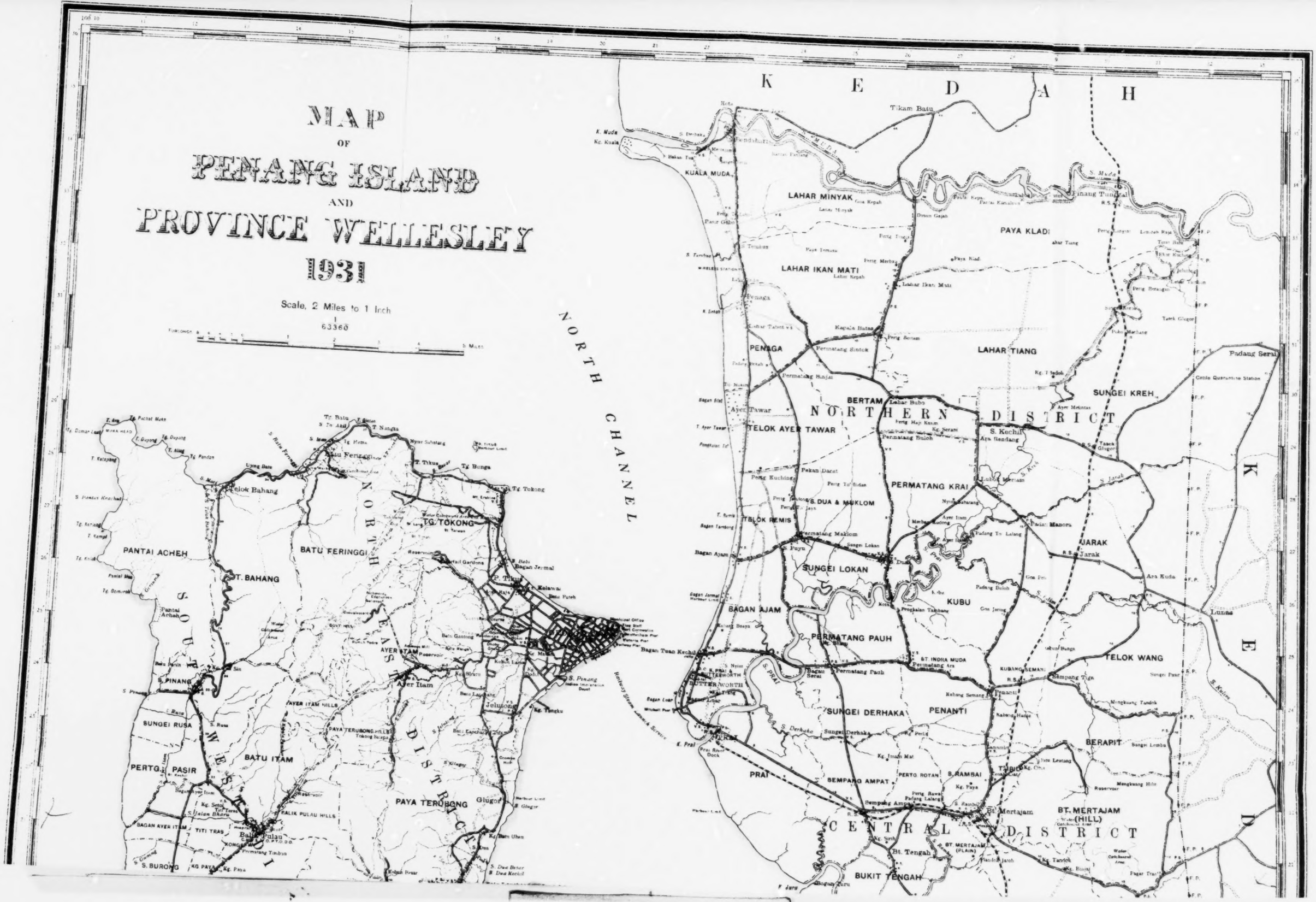
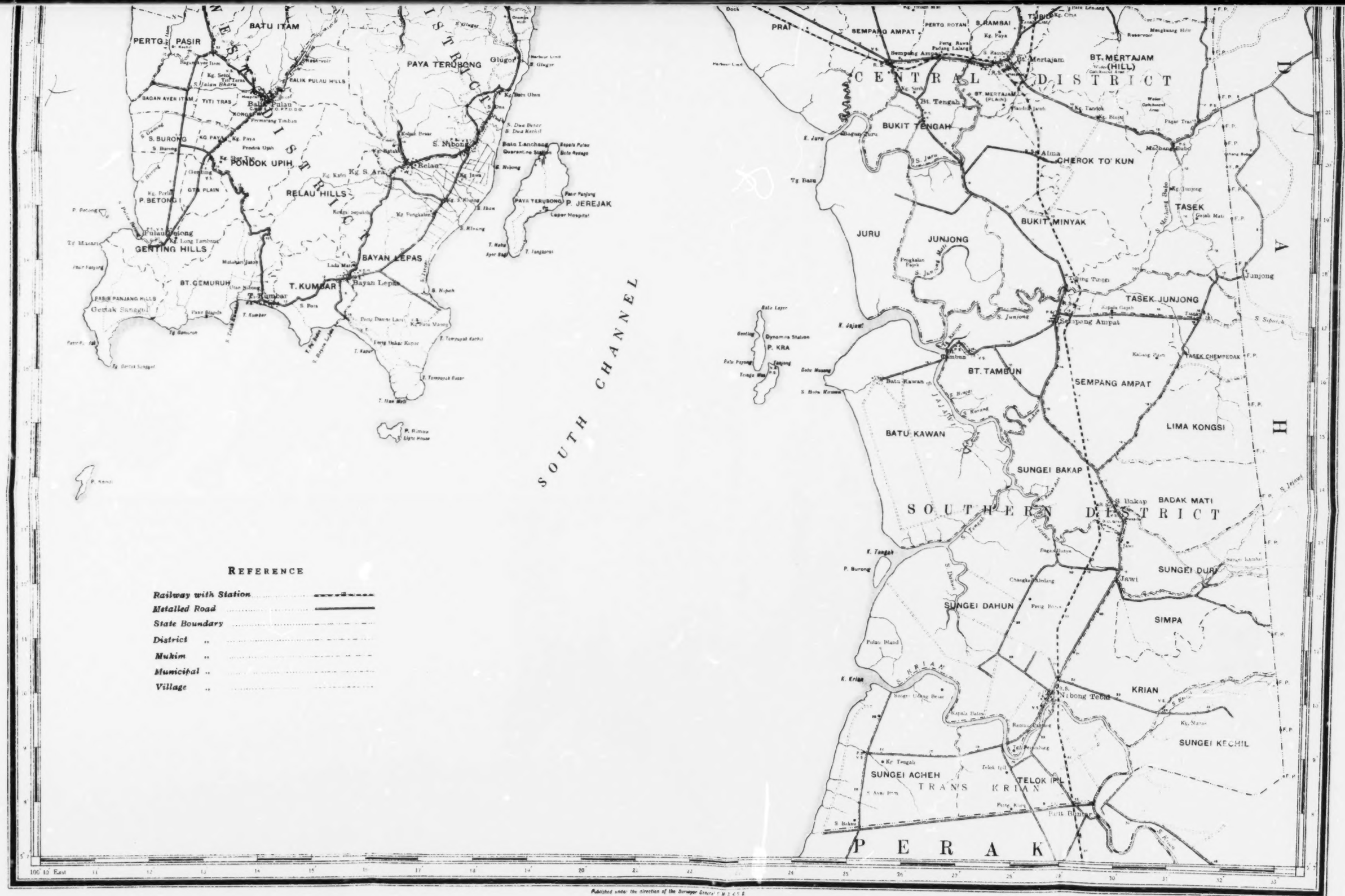
F. M. S. SURVEYS NO. 122-1932

MAP OF PENANG ISLAND AND PROVINCE WELLESLEY 1931

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

1 / 63360


K E D A H
NORTH CHANNEL
KUALA MUDA
LAHAR MINYAK
LAHAR IKAN MATI
PAYA KLADI
PENAGA
LAHAR TIANG
BERTAM
NORTHERN DISTRICT
TELOK AYER TAWAR
SUNGEI KREH
PERMATANG KRAI
S. DUA & MUKLOM
TELOK REMIS
JARAK
SUNGEI LOKAN
KUBU
BAGAN AJAM
PERMATANG PAUH
TELOK WANG
SUNGEI DERHAKA
PENANTI
BERAPIT
PRAI
SEMPANG AMPAT
BT. MERTAJAM (HILL)
CENTRAL DISTRICT
BUKIT TENGAH
PANTAI ACHEH
T. BAHANG
BATU FERINGGI
TG. TOKONG
S. PINANG
BUNGEI RUSA
BATU ITAM
PERTG. PASIR
PAYA TERUBONG
Glugor
Ayer Itam
Jelutong
Telok Bahang
Bagan Tuan Kechil
Bagan Serai
Padang Serai
Tikam Batu
Pinang Tunggal
Permatang Sintok
Permatang Buloh
Permatang Makiom
Permatang Pauh
Permatang Ara
Kubang Semang
Rampang Tiga
Bt. Mertajam
Bt. Tengah
Bagan Ajam
Bagan Luar
Bagan Ayer Itam
Titi Tras
Balik Pulau
Kg. Paya
S. Burong
Kg. Tengku
Kg. Bun Ubun
S. Dua Besar
S. Dua Kechil
Tanjong Bungah
Tanjong Tokong
Tanjong Pinang
Tanjong Bunga
Tanjong Pagar
Tanjong Tikus
Tanjong Batu
Tanjong Hutan
Tanjong Kupang
Tanjong Dumar
Tanjong Pachat Muka
Tanjong Duyong
Tanjong Aling
Tanjong Pandan
Tanjong Kelapang
Tanjong Kemang
Tanjong Kampi
Tanjong Kulak
Tanjong Bemurah
Tanjong Ayer
Tanjong Tengku
Tanjong Bunga
Tanjong Jarak
Tanjong Ara Kuda
Tanjong Lunas
Tanjong Tanjong
Tanjong Tandok
Tanjong Bunga
Tanjong Pasir
Tanjong Ayer Itam
Tanjong Ayer Itam
Tanjong Ayer Itam


REFERENCE
Railway with Station
Metalled Road
State Boundary
District ,,
Mukim ,,
Municipal ,,
Village ,,
WESTERN DISTRICT
PAYA TERUBONG DISTRICT
CENTRAL DISTRICT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
TRANS KRIAN
PERAK
SOUTH CHANNEL
BATU ITAM
PERTG. PASIR
PALIK PULAU HILLS
Balik Pulan
PONDOK UPIH
S. BURONG
P. BETONG
GENTING HILLS
RELAU HILLS
Relau
BAYAN LEPAS
Bayan Lepas
T. KUMBAR
BT. GEMURUH
Gertak Sanggul
PAYA TERUBONG
P. JEREJAK
Glugor
S. Nibong
P. Rimau
P. Kendi
BT. MERTAJAM
BUKIT TENGAH
CHEROK TO' KUN
BUKIT MINYAK
TASEK
JURU
JUNJONG
TASEK JUNJONG
Sempang Ampat
P. KRA
BT. TAMBUN
SEMPANG AMPAT
LIMA KONGSI
BATU KAWAN
SUNGEI BAKAP
BADAK MATI
SUNGEI DURI
SUNGEI DAHUN
SIMPA
KRIAN
SUNGEI KECHIL
SUNGEI ACHEH
TELOK IPH
Nibong Tebal
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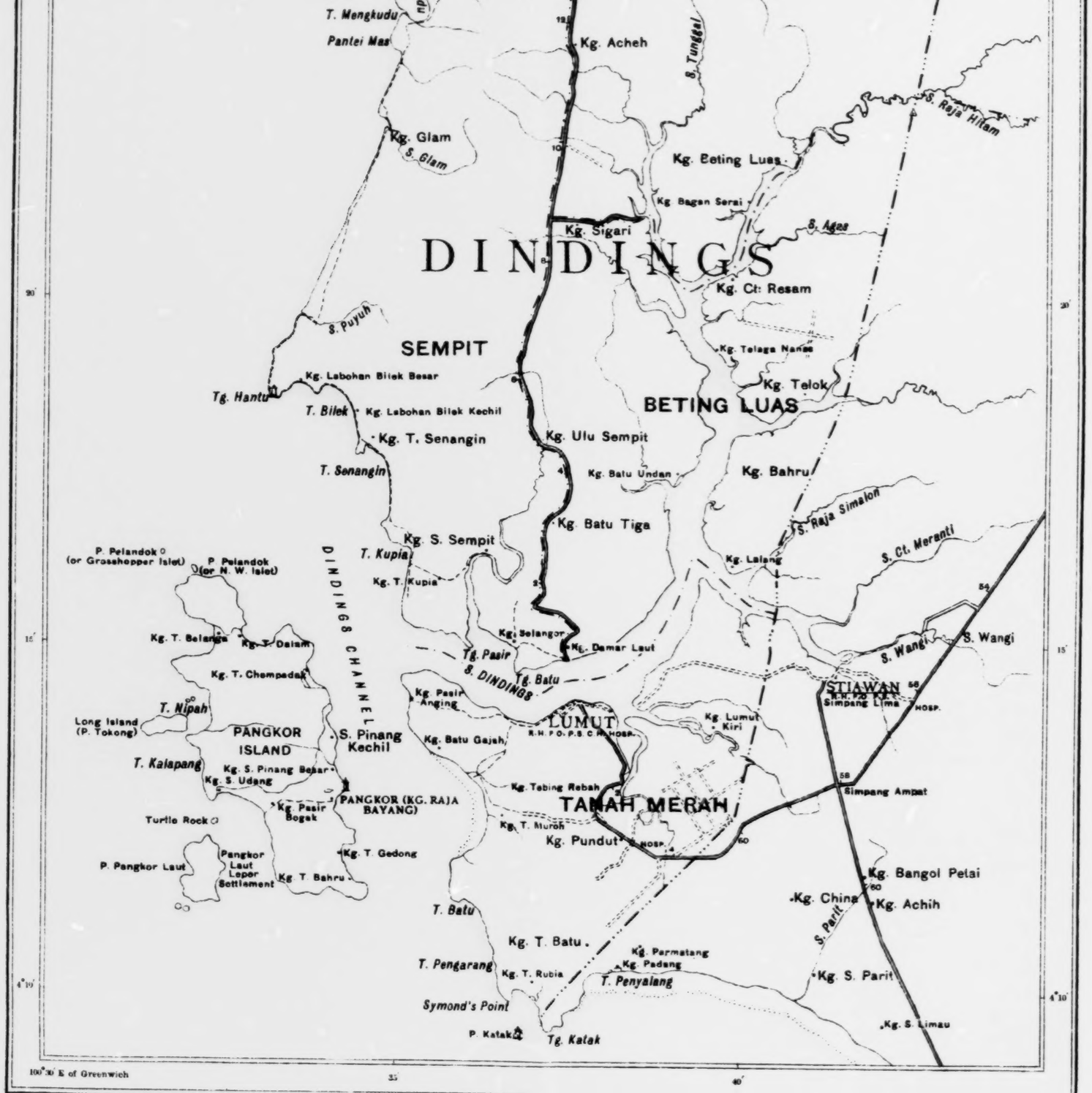
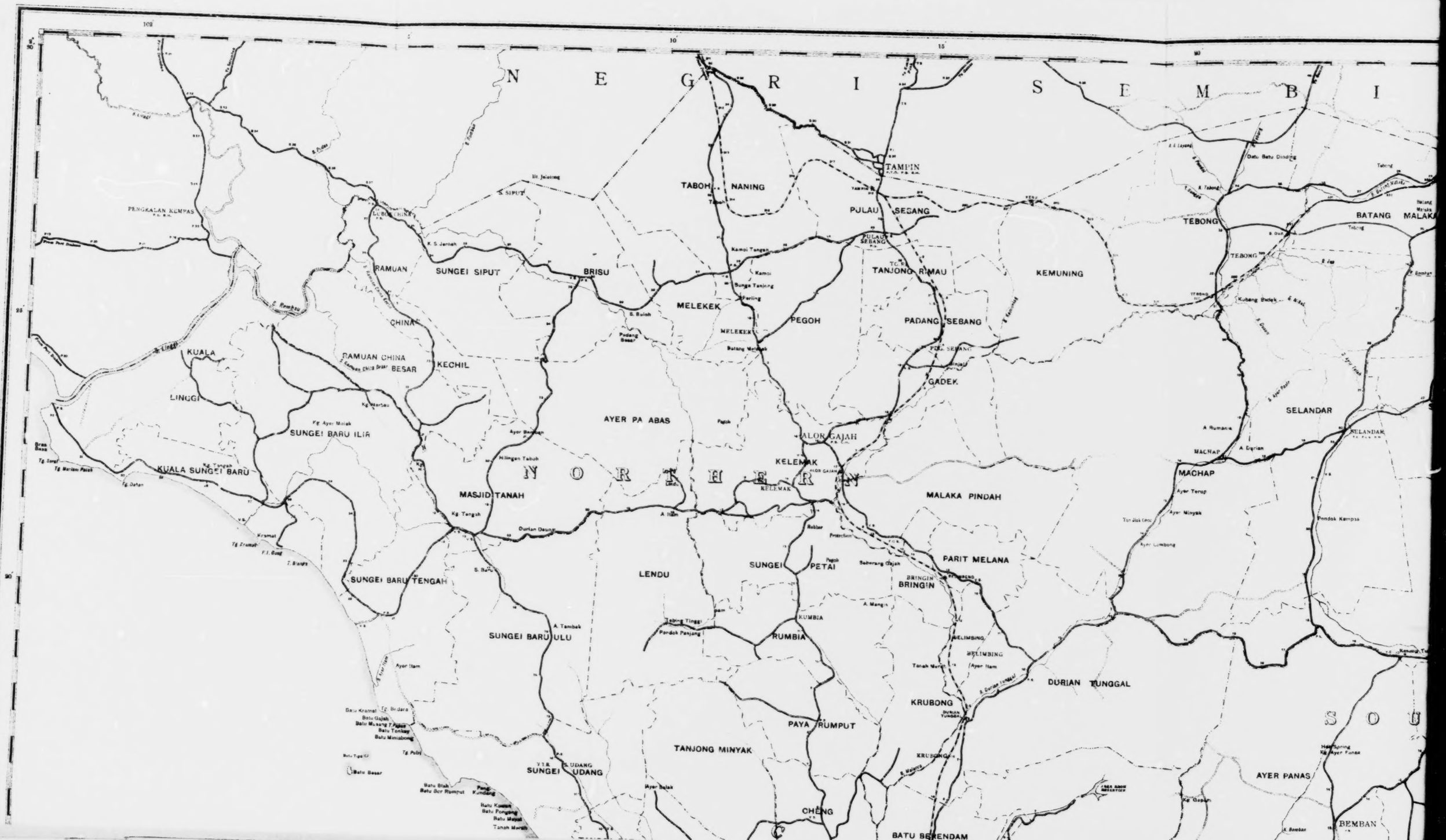
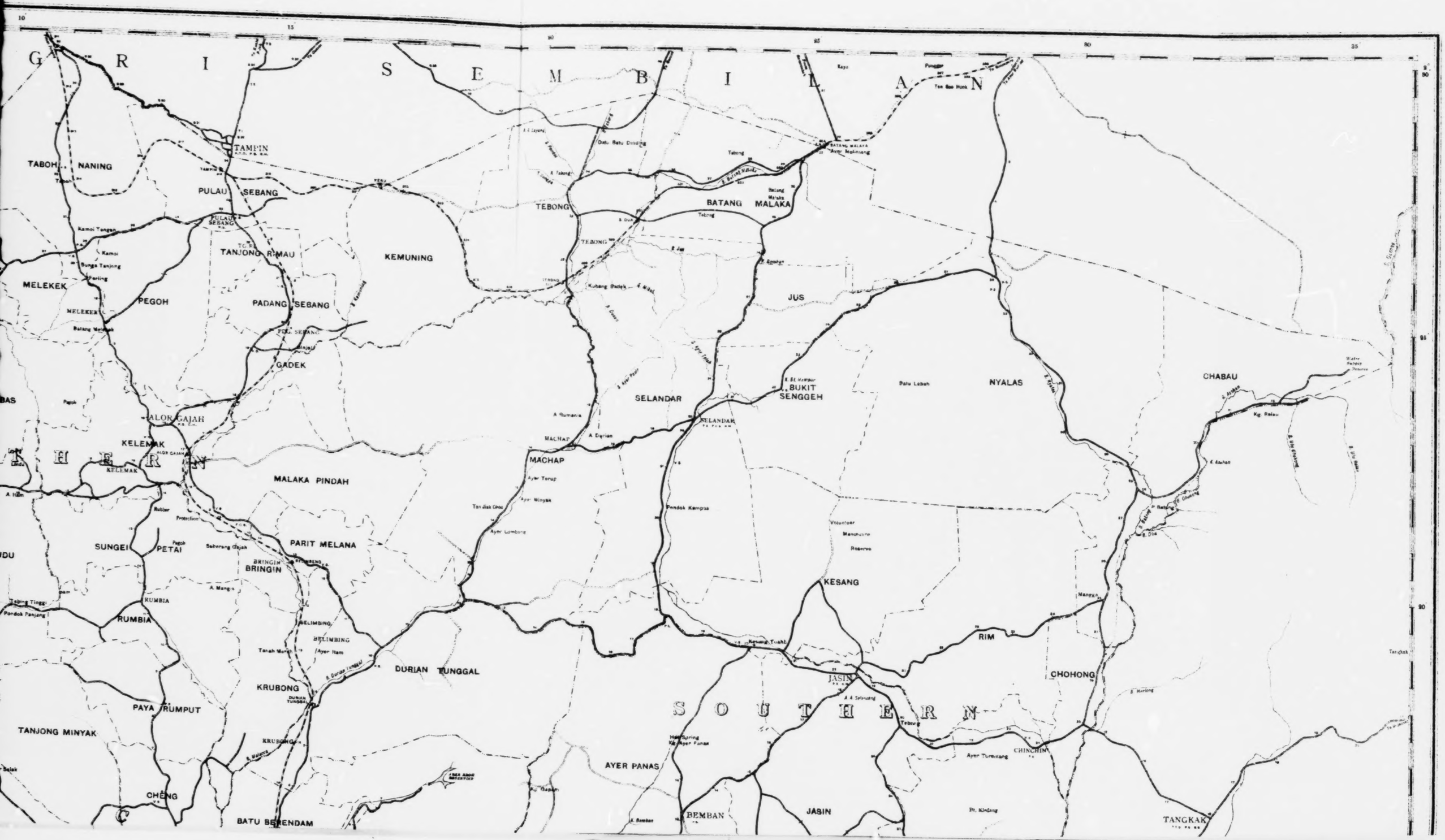
F.M.S. Surveys No. 122 1932

DINDINGS
1931
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3500
0
2
4 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
Mukim Boundary
100° 30'
35'
40'
4° 30'
25'
20'
S. Tiong
Lada
S. Panchor
Kg. Panchor
Kg. Permatang Serai
Kg. Batu Hampar
Matang Achih
S. Bruas
Kg. Cha Puteh
S. ROTAN
Kg. S. Tontong
S. Tg. Burong
PENG. BAHRU
R.H. P.S. C.H.
Kg. Pantai Remis
Tg. Burong
PANTEI REMIS
Tg. Batu
(or Datoh Kramat)
T. Nipah
P. Talang
Kg. T. Sera
S. Batu
T. Akuan
S. Mengkudu
T. Mengkudu
Pantei Mas
Kg. Acheh
S. Tunggal
S. Raja Hitam
Kg. Glam
S. Glam
Kg. Beting Luas
Kg. Bagan Serai
Kg. Sigari
S. Agas
DINDINGS
Kg. Ct: Resam
S. Pujuh
SEMPIT
Kg. Telaga Nanas


DINDINGS
SEMPIT
BETING LUAS
TANAH MERAH
LUMUT
STIAWAN
PANGKOR ISLAND
PANGKOR (KG. RAJA BAYANG)
DINDINGS CHANNEL
T. Mengkudu
Pantei Mas
Kg. Acheh
S. Tundal
S. Raja Hitam
Kg. Glam
S. Glam
Kg. Beting Luas
Kg Bagan Serai
Kg. Sigari
S. Ages
Kg. Ct. Resam
S. Puyuh
Kg. Telaga Nanas
Kg. Telok
Kg. Labohan Bilek Besar
Tg. Hantu
T. Bilek
Kg. Labohan Bilek Kechil
Kg. T. Senangin
T. Senangin
Kg. Ulu Sempit
Kg. Batu Undan
Kg. Bahru
Kg. Batu Tiga
S. Raja Simalon
Kg. S. Sempit
T. Kupia
Kg. T. Kupia
Kg. Lalang
S. Ct. Meranti
P. Pelandok (or Grasshopper Islet)
P. Pelandok (or N. W. Islet)
Kg. T. Belanga
Kg. T. Dalam
Kg. Selangor
Kg. Damar Laut
Tg. Pasir
Tg. Batu
S. Wang
S. Wangi
Kg. T. Chempadak
Kg. Pasir Anging
T. Nipah
Long Island (P. Tokong)
S. Pinang Kechil
Kg. Batu Gajah
Kg. Lumut Kiri
T. Kalapang
Kg. S. Pinang Besar
Kg. S. Udang
Kg. Tebing Rebah
Simpang Ampat
Kg. Pasir Bogak
Turtle Rock
Kg. T. Muroh
Kg. Pundut
Kg. T. Gedong
P. Pangkor Laut
Pangkor Laut Lepor Settlement
Kg. T. Bahru
Kg. Bangol Pelai
Kg. China
Kg. Achih
T. Batu
S. Parit
Kg. T. Batu
Kg. Permatang
Kg. Padang
T. Pengarang
Kg. T. Rubia
T. Penyalang
Kg. S. Parit
Symond's Point
Kg. S. Limau
P. Katak
Tg. Katak
100°30' E of Greenwich
35'
40'
15'
4°10'


N E G R I S E M B I
N O R T H E R N
S O U
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
PENGKALAN KEMPAS
RAMUAN CHINA
SUNGEI SIPUT
BRISU
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
KUALA LINGGI
RAMUAN CHINA BESAR
KECHIL
AYER PA ABAS
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
SELANDAR
MACHAP
SUNGEI BARU ILIR
KUALA SUNGEI BARU
MASJID TANAH
MALAKA PINDAH
SUNGEI BARU TENGAH
LENDU
SUNGEI PETAI
BRINGIN
PARIT MELANA
SUNGEI BARU ULU
RUMBIA
KUMBIA
BELIMBING
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
SUNGEI UDANG
CHENG
BATU BERENDAM
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN


G R I S E M B I L A N
T H E R N
S O U T H E R N
TAMPIN
TABOH
NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
JUS
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
SELANDAR
BUKIT SENGGEH
NYALAS
CHABAU
MALAKA PINDAH
MACHAP
SUNGEI PETAI
PARIT MELANA
BRINGIN
KESANG
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
RIM
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
CHOHONG
JASIN
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
AYER PANAS
CHINCHIN
CHENG
BATU BERENDAM
BEMBAN
TANGKAK

MALACCA TERRITORY

1931

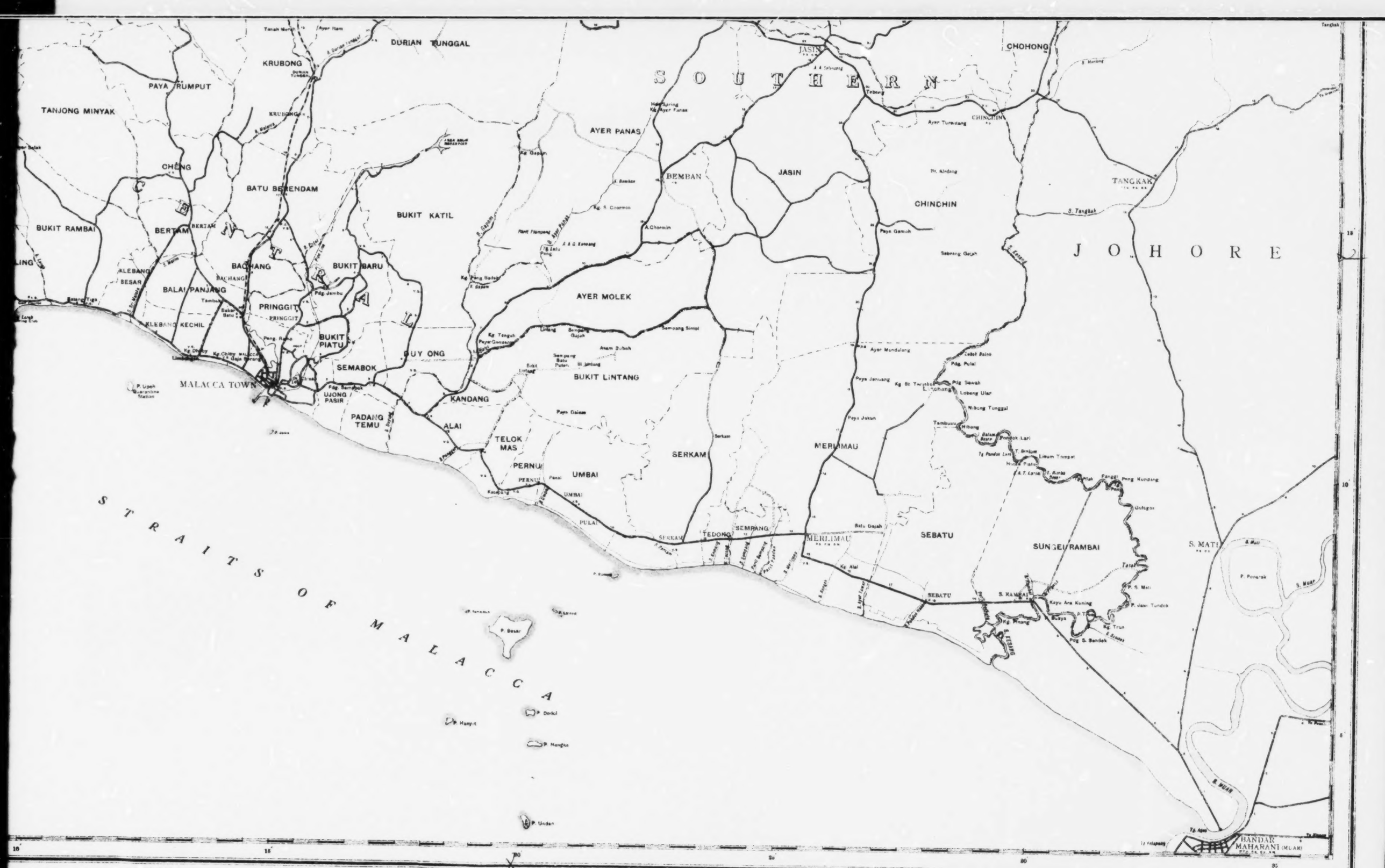
Scale 2 Miles to an Inch

Furlongs 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

REFERENCE

Railway with Station
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
District ,,
Mukim ,,
Municipal ,,

105° East of Greenwich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Singapore.
Labuan.
Penang Island and Province Wellesley.
Dindings.
Malacca Territory.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley and the Dindings), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands lie about 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town.

On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is *Province Wellesley*, a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. Headquarters are at Butterworth.

The *Dindings*, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth. A recent revisionary survey shows that the total area is about 637 square miles.

Labuan is an island, some 40 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365, and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of no great commercial importance, but possessing considerable agricultural resources.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing partly to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, partly to the development of trade with neighbouring countries, but mainly to its key position on the main ocean highway to the Far East.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a Settlement on it in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands were declared a British possession in 1857. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1900 it was made part of the Settlement of Singapore.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The characteristic features of the climate of the Straits Settlements are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures found in continental tropical areas are never experienced. Four seasons can be distinguished, namely, the South-West Monsoon from May to August, the North-East Monsoon from November to March, and two shorter seasons separating the end of each of these from the beginning of the other.

The winds of the South-West Monsoon, as experienced in the Straits Settlements, are very light and are frequently almost completely lost in stronger local circulations such as the regular land and sea breezes. There are indications that the movement dies out altogether south of Malacca and in Singapore the prevailing direction is probably South-East at this time of the year. The North-East Monsoon is a much stronger and steadier wind than the South-West Monsoon in the Straits Settlements. Between April and November, more particularly in Malacca and Singapore, short-lived, but violent squalls, known as "Sumatras" are liable to occur. A gust with a speed of 64 miles per hour has been experienced in one of these squalls.

While there is a well-defined seasonal variation in rainfall, there is no dry or wet season in the sense that such seasons are understood in typical monsoonal regions. Moreover, the variation is not the same everywhere. In Singapore, the average rainfall is 95 inches, with 183 rain days in the year. The wettest month is December

with 11 inches and May the driest with 7 inches. Malacca has an average yearly rainfall of 84 inches, August being the wettest month with 11 inches and January the driest with 3 inches. Penang, again, has its maximum rainfall in October, 17 inches, and its minimum in February, 3 inches. The average yearly rainfall here is 108 inches with 195 rain days.

Penang has the hottest days, but on the other hand enjoys rather cooler nights than other parts of the Colony. The highest temperature during the year was 95°F while the lowest was 68°F, both at Penang. Malacca has the coolest days. Although the days are frequently hot, and, on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The effect of the heat and humidity, without seasonal change, is, however, cumulative; and after a few years a change to a bracing climate becomes imperative for Europeans if health is to be maintained.

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Resident Councillor, Malacca, two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The Legislative Council is constituted by Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by the Standing Orders made by the Council. Under Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, its constitution was enlarged and for the first time contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The system of Government is similar to that obtaining in all Crown Colonies. Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the

Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for the Royal pleasure. The King has the right of veto on the Ordinances of the Colony.

For practical purposes the administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident. The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the Rural areas within the three Settlements.

The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

There has been no change in the system of Government of the Colony since its severence from India in 1867.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

In estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements for the year 1932 the method of calculating by geometrical progression has been discarded in favour of a calculation based on the figures obtained in the census of 1931, the excess of births over deaths and the excess of emigration over immigration figures since the census.

This change has been rendered necessary for the reason that since the date of the last census, and even before that date, there has been a general exodus of immigrant labourers, chiefly Chinese, Tamils and Javanese, and since these immigrants form such a large proportion of the total population, the excess of the figures for emigration over those for immigration has become the dominant factor.

The distribution of the population by race amongst the various Settlements as on 30th June, 1932, is estimated, as follows:—

	Singapore	*Penang*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*	*Total*
Europeans ..	7,718	1,473	309	22	9,522
Eurasians ..	7,099	2,370	2,041	36	11,546
Malaysians ..	74,381	120,122	96,953	5,009	296,465
Chinese ..	403,461	166,294	61,548	2,133	633,436
Indians ..	45,082	49,191	19,699	139	114,111
Others ..	8,247	2,538	637	62	11,484
	545,988	341,988	181,187	7,401	1,076,564

A striking feature of the above figures is the very large number of the Chinese, who greatly outnumber the total of all the other races together.

In the last fifty years the position as regards population has changed so fundamentally that it is thought worth while to produce here the following figures for each census from 1881 to 1931:—

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR CHINESE AND MALAY POPULATION

Year of Census		*Chinese*	*Malays*	*Total Population*
1881	..	174,327	194,469	423,384
1891	..	227,989	213,073	512,342
1901	..	281,933	215,058	572,249
1911	..	369,843	240,206	714,069
1921	..	498,547	255,353	883,769
1931	..	663,518	285,316	1,114,015

In 1881 therefore the Malays numbered 194,000 in round figures, and they exceeded the Chinese by 20,000. In 1931 the Malays had increased to 285,000, but the Chinese had increased to 663,000; and in these fifty years a Malay excess of 20,000 had been converted into a Chinese excess of 378,000.

It is questionable whether such a preponderance of any foreign race which is largely unassimilable and which retains its own customs and language is in the true interests of the social and economic progress of the people of the country.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year amounted to 41,106 as compared with 41,361 in the previous year.

The birth rate for the year was equal to 38.18 per thousand of the estimated population as against 37.42 in the preceding year.

The highest birth rate was that of the Chinese which was 40.41 per thousand.

The percentage of males born was 52.05.

Deaths.—The crude death rate was 22.80 per thousand, the lowest rate yet recorded. That for 1931 was 24.76 (corrected) and the average for the ten years 1923–1932 was 27.76 as recorded in the annual reports of the registration of births and deaths.

Infant Mortality.—The corrected infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 162.43 per thousand as against 180.65 in 1931 and an average of 202.17 over the ten years 1922–1931.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

Migration is a subject of interest owing to the attraction of the country to foreign capital, and to foreign labour particularly from China and India. Until July 1930 immigration was practically free; after that date a quota system was applied to the immigration of male labourers from China with the object of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 an Aliens Ordinance was passed extending this control to all immigrants of other than British or British Protected nationality.

Statistics of direct migration between Malaya and foreign (extra-Malayan) countries have been collected on a Malayan basis since the beginning of 1930 and published by the Malayan Statistics Department monthly in the *Government Gazette.* These show

particulars by race, sex, adolescence and country of origin and destination, and distinguish movements by land, sea and air. There is no control of internal movements between Settlements, or between Settlements and the Malay States, or between one Malay State and another within the Malayan Registration area.

Malayan migration statistics are of importance also as an aid, combined with registered births and deaths, to the estimation of population in inter-censal years, a reference to which is contained in an earlier part of this Chapter.

The following are the points of principal interest. The population of Malaya (to the nearest thousand) by the Census Report in 1931 was 4,385,000. The total number of arrivals in 1932 was 264,000 as compared with 330,000 in 1931. The total number of departures was 427,000 as compared with 517,000. There was thus a net loss of population of 163,000 as compared with 187,000, or of 3.7% of the 1931 population. The majority (97%) of these were Chinese and Southern Indians returning to their own countries. The emigrational surplus was 8,308 in January, reached a peak of 26,954 in June, and fell gradually to 7,052 in December.

The only race of which there was an excess of arrivals both in 1931 and 1932 were Northern Indians which comprises all natives of India north of a (rough) line between Madras and Bombay and including Bombay.

The following table is interesting as showing the racial composition of the migrational surplus in 1931 and 1932:—

MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

Race		*1931*		*1932*
Europeans and Americans ..	–	495	–	569
Eurasians	–	24	–	61
Japanese	+	384	–	798
Chinese	–	112,965	–	97,518
Malays	–	3,110	–	3,996
Northern Indians ..	+	1,256	+	1,680
Southern Indians ..	–	71,811	–	61,320
Others	–	764	–	396
Total ..	–	187,529	–	162,978

There was an excess of departures from Malaya to all foreign countries with the exception of Netherlands India from which, as in 1931, there was an excess of arrivals, due (again as in 1931) entirely to Chinese. It is significant that to the end of July, 1930, there was generally a surplus of Chinese emigrants from Malaya to Netherlands India, and that since August 1930, when control of immigration from China into Malaya was enforced, there has for each month been a surplus of Chinese immigration from Netherlands India into Malaya: in other words, the tide of Chinese migration between Malaya and Netherlands India appears to have turned since August 1930.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—Indian Immigration

The total number of immigrants for Malaya arriving from Southern India at Penang was 17,734 in 1932 as against 19,692 in 1931 showing a decrease of 1,958. All these immigrants arrived in the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers. In addition to these immigrants, 903 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes line: the latter paid their own passages and are not included in the following analysis.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (free labourers permitted to emigrate at the expense of the Immigration Fund to rejoin their families on estates in Malaya) ..	17
Other immigrants (traders, labourers and others who paid their own passages)	17,717
Total ..	17,734

Of the "other immigrants" 6,518 or rather more than 37% were of the labouring classes, the remaining 11,199 being traders and others. No definite information is available as to their destination but it is estimated that about two-thirds of them remained in the Colony. There were no assisted immigrants for the Colony.

The numbers of assisted passages taken during 1932 and the four preceding years for labourers and their families emigrating from Southern India to Malaya and paid for from the Immigration Fund were:—

1932	12
1931	91
1930	36,957
1929	76,248
1928	24,944

(ii).—Indian Emigration

The number of deck passengers from Penang to Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1932 was 84,501 (66,988 adults with 11,338 minors and 6,175 infants) as against 101,347 (81,190 adults with 13,728 minors and 6,429 infants) in 1931.

In addition to these, 550 deck passengers left Malaya for Southern India by Messageries Maritimes steamers.

Of the total number, 25,290 adults accompanied by 1,350 minors and 1,385 infants, paid their own passages, while 41,698 adults, 9,988 minors and 4,790 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department: of the latter, 5,842 adults, 886 minors and 387 infants were from the Colony.

Of the 41,698 adults, 9,988 minors and 4,700 infants repatriated through the Labour Department, 35,043 adults, 8,362 minors and 4,146 infants were fit unemployed labourers for whom work could

not be found in Malaya; 5,608 adults accompanied by 1,416 minors and 553 infants were unfit for further work, and the rest, 1,047 adults, 210 minors and 91 infants, were repatriated at the expense of private employers or Government Departments or with free passages granted by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
Sent at the expense of Estates and Government Departments	37	5	2
Sent at the expense of Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund ..	5,683	873	380
Carried free of charge by British India Steam Navigation Company	122	8	5
Total ..	5,842	886	387

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese labourers was restricted by proclamation under the Immigration Restriction Ordinance throughout the year. The restriction is applied to immigrants from China ports (including Hong Kong) only. From January to July the quota was fixed at 2,500 and from August to December at 1,000 per month. The total number of adult male Chinese entering the Colony under the quota was 18,741; the corresponding figures for 1930 and 1931 are 143,620 and 50,120.

No restriction is placed on the immigration of women and children. Eight thousand six hundred and fifty-two women and 6,141 children entered the Colony from China ports. The corresponding figures for the previous two years are:—

	Women	*Children*
1930	40,448	34,800
1931	17,042	11,923

The number of women per 1,000 men arriving in the Colony from China ports during the years 1930, 1931 and 1932 has been 282, 340 and 462 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 161,809 as against 212,900 in 1931.

Fares for deck passengers from Singapore to China ports during the year were from $12 to $13 (to Hong Kong) and from $14 to $17 (to Swatow and Amoy). Fares from China ports to Singapore are still considerably in excess of these rates and now stand at $75 (Hong Kong currency), $90 (Chinese currency) and $91 (Chinese currency) from Hong Kong, Swatow and Amoy respectively.

(*N.B.*—None of the above figures includes 1st and 2nd class passengers.)

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—PREVALENCE OF AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM PRINCIPAL DISEASES

(i).—General

(a) Malaria.—Two thousand six hundred and one deaths were registered as due to malaria fever and 2,051 deaths as due to fever unspecified, as compared with 3,505 and 1,502 deaths respectively for the year 1931.

(b) Tuberculosis.—Deaths to the number of 2,071 were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,580 in the year 1931.

Whilst pulmonary tuberculosis still continues to present one of the chief problems for preventive and curative measures in this country, the available statistics go to show that this disease is not on the increase, as is so frequently stated.

Steps have been taken to provide better housing and living conditions and the maintenance of a proper nutritional regimen in the daily life of the masses. Propaganda is carried out in schools, infant welfare clinics, dispensaries and elsewhere, with a view to educating the public how the disease may be avoided.

(c) Pneumonia.—Pneumonia accounted for 1,860 deaths as compared with 2,373 in 1931.

(d) Beri-Beri.—This disease is definitely on the decrease. Only 725 deaths were registered as being due to this disease.

(e) Dysentery.—Dysentery caused 541 deaths. The disease was less evident than in former years.

(ii).—Dangerous Infectious Diseases

(a) Plague.—No case of plague occurred in the Straits Settlements during the year.

(b) Cholera.—One case and one death occurred.

(c) Small-pox.—There were eight cases of small-pox with five deaths.

(iii).—Venereal Diseases

The treatment of these diseases is undertaken by a special branch of the Medical Department known as the "Social Hygiene Branch", under the control of the Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene.

There are 27 treatment centres in the Straits Settlements as follows:—Singapore 9, Penang (including Province Wellesley) 12 and Malacca District 6.

The number of new cases treated shows a fall for Singapore, *viz.* (males) 14,926 in 1932 as against 17,378 in 1931, probably due to the large number of repatriations owing to the slump conditions prevalent here. Penang shows a slight rise of 860 males treated in 1932 and Malacca also a small rise of 254 cases.

Number of Seamen Treated.—There were 636 new admissions to the clinics from sailors visiting the port of Singapore of whom 146 were British and 75 were other Europeans. Of the remainder 316 cases were drawn from Chinese plying on local craft. A special clinic is in course of erection for the treatment of sailors.

Serological Reactions.—Seventeen thousand seven hundred and four specimens of blood were examined by the Kahn Test, of which 8,581 were positive.

Propaganda.—Pamphlets and leaflets were freely delivered to the public, while posters calling attention to the dangers of venereal disease and the facilities for free treatment were posted daily throughout the town of Singapore. A locally made Cinema Film "Retribution" dealing with congenital syphilis was shown at various Chinese Associations.

Lantern Lectures on venereal disease were given to the senior boys leaving school, also to members of the Chinese community.

(iv).—YAWS

The treatment of this disease more than that of any other, perhaps, has led to the present faith which the Asiatics, more particularly the Malays, have in hypodermic and intravenous injections. The rapidity and certainty of cure has impressed the natives to such an extent that they now come forward voluntarily for treatment. Small epidemic foci still exist; it was these areas that accounted for the major portion of the 5,749 cases treated.

The disease is steadily decreasing in incidence.

B.—HOSPITALS, ETC.

(i).—HOSPITALS

Fifty-four thousand four hundred and forty-two patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony as compared with 58,526 in the previous year. The malaria admissions were 5,845 as compared with 6,509 in 1931. Admissions for venereal disease were 3,745 with 189 deaths, as against 3,946 with 172 deaths in the previous year.

The new General Hospital in Malacca is nearing completion and it is anticipated that it will be ready for occupation in December, 1933. When this institution is opened Malacca will be provided with one of the finest and most up-to-date hospitals in the East.

(ii).—DISPENSARIES

Out-patient attendances at Government Dispensaries showed a slight increase over last year, the figures being 260,882 patients with 525,081 attendances compared with 258,311 out-patients and 493,299 attendances in 1931.

The number of people seeking advice at the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, remained relatively constant at 36,000.

At a similar dispensary in Penang an increase from 15,722 to 19,942 was recorded.

(iii).—Motor Travelling Dispensaries

Motor Travelling Dispensaries are provided in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley. They visit outlying districts of each Settlement and dispense treatment for minor ailments of the inhabitants. Attendances for the whole of the Settlements totalled 164,000 compared with 103,000 in 1931.

(iv).—Leper Settlements

The Leper Settlement at Penang (Pulau Jerejak) has accommodation for males only. The number of patients at the beginning of the year was 679 and there were 194 admissions. Of these 14 were discharged as relieved and 5 cured or free from infection.

The Settlement at Singapore has accommodation for both males and females, but male patients are usually transferred to Penang as early as possible.

Admissions numbered 125 males (of whom 88 were transferred to Penang) and 22 females. Four male and 2 female patients were discharged free from infection.

Special treatment included subcutaneous infiltration of oleum hydnocarpus with 0.5% iodine and the subcutaneous and intradermal injections of Alepol 1% with 0.5% of carbolic acid. In addition ethel esters of hydnocarpus are also given intradermally.

Seven cases with perforating ulcers of the foot were treated by periarterial sympathectomy. All the ulcers healed in about one month's time.

Activities amongst the patients.—One hundred and fourteen able-bodied men were given employment as barbers, sweepers, dhobies, wood-cutters, etc. A few educated patients were employed as teachers, dressers and overseers. Many showed keen interest in work as independent artisans. The brass band continued to be popular.

A new innovation was the formation of several dramatic troupes.

Out-door sports were indulged in to an appreciable extent.

A Chinese school was opened during the year and 15 boys attended regularly.

The Boy Scouts Troop, now totalling 22, carried out regular exercises.

(v).—Mental Hospital

The hospital for the treatment of mental patients is suitably situated in pleasant surroundings in the Rural Area of Singapore. There were 1,688 patients at the beginning of the year, admissions numbered 434 and 1,341 patients remained at the end of the year. The increased number of admissions during 1932 may be largely attributed to the physical and mental stress consequent upon the unfavourable labour conditions. Patients whose mental and physical condition is suitable are employed in light manual labour in the hospital and its environments.

Industries.—Eight thousand eight hundred and eighty yards of cotton cloth were woven for use in the institution. Seventeen thousand and fifty pounds of vegetables were grown for the use of the patients and 1,600 coconuts harvested.

C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i).—QUARANTINE

One thousand one hundred and eighty-three visits in Singapore, and 378 visits in Penang (as against 697 and 375 respectively in 1931) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers. The magnitude of the duties entailed may be gauged from the fact that 241,277 persons were examined during the year. The figures show a diminution of 120,000 compared with 1931 chiefly due to the restriction, by legislation, of the number of immigrants from China.

Thirty-one thousand six hundred and thirty-nine persons were detained under observation in the Quarantine Stations at Singapore and Penang.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases at Singapore Quarantine Station was four for small-pox and at Penang Quarantine Station one for small-pox.

(ii).—RURAL CONSERVANCY

The more populous sections of the rural area in Singapore, have been gazetted as "Compulsory Nightsoil Removal Areas". In these areas, the conservancy removal was carried out by Chinese labour under the supervision of the Health Officer. The nightsoil of approximately one-quarter of the houses in the rural area of Singapore was removed by this method. Disposal is either by trenching or septic tank treatment.

During the year three hundred and twelve latrines were constructed or reconstructed, and one hundred and twenty-seven of an insanitary type were demolished. Twenty-five tube latrines were excavated, mainly in the Paya Lebar District.

Household refuse was collected by the Health Department and incinerated. The erection of five new incinerators and the replacement of two increased the number of serviceable incinerators to twenty-one.

A progressive conservancy policy in the rural areas of Penang resulted in the provision of 966 pit and tube latrines, 38 pail latrines and the reconstruction of 343 pail latrines to replace 1,096 insanitary latrines which were demolished.

(iii).—ANTI-MALARIAL WORK

The imperative need for economy resulted in a reduction in expenditure on permanent anti-malarial works, such expenditure being limited to the completion of existing works. The annual cost of oiling breeding places for the control of dangerous mosquitoes was reduced by extending where possible the oiling interval from a seven to a ten day period. A total expenditure of over $165,000 was incurred on all anti-malarial measures undertaken during the year.

CHAPTER V

Housing

The character of the housing of the wage earning population of the Straits Settlements varies in urban and rural areas. In municipal areas the houses may be classified as:—

(a) Compound houses occupied by the well-to-do residents.

(b) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by moderately well-paid employees.

(c) Terrace houses for the clerical classes.

(d) Shop-houses.

(e) Common lodging houses which are frequently over-crowded.

(f) Tenements in closely built areas, and

(g) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses in the outskirts of the city.

Old shop-houses in most cases are built in rows, of solid construction and two or more storeys. They are, in a large number of cases, insufficiently ventilated and, in many streets, are not provided with back lanes. The former defect conduces to the spread of tuberculosis and the latter defect interferes with the proper collection of night soil. Many of these houses are divided into small cubicles in the upper stories by the erection of temporary partitions, without regard to the entry of light and air. It is in these cubicles that the worst type of overcrowding is found, and it is not unknown to find in a street of these houses an average of 46 people per house. The majority of the labouring and artisan class find a home in these cubicles or in common lodging houses. With so many of the wage earners living in such ill-ventilated and insanitary dwellings, it is not surprising that tuberculosis in urban areas is so prevalent and that the infantile death rate is high. The common lodging houses are found in the densely populated areas and frequently consist of an over-crowded dormitory over a shop or store.

The landlords of this type of house property are almost exclusively Asiatic, and in the large towns Chinese property owners predominate.

In rural areas, houses of the wage earners are generally of the Malay and Chinese types, built of planks and roofed with palm leaves. Brick and tile shop-houses are found in some of the larger villages. The former type of houses are usually owned by the occupier. They are, as a general rule, clean, well-ventilated and not overcrowded; moreover, this type of house, being built of planks and palm-leaves, is admirably suited to the climate and is cool and comfortable to live in. The brick and tile shop-houses in the villages lend themselves to overcrowding like those in the towns, but the evils are less pronounced as the houses are not built so closely together. A large number of labourers on rubber estates are housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. These buildings in most cases conform to the standard design prescribed by the health authorities, and are therefore satisfactory when not overcrowded. Most of the houses, occupied by Malay small-holders and peasants, in rural areas are detached and built of planks or bamboo with attap roofs. They are

raised about four to six feet above the ground level. These houses are well-ventilated, cool and commodious. Practically all are owned by the occupiers.

It will be noted that action to relieve defects is required chiefly in the case of shop-houses and common lodging houses in towns, many of which contain cubicles and are dangerously overcrowded. Steps to ameliorate these conditions are being taken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore. On rebuilding by the owners, proper air space must be provided and back lanes must be made of a width of 15 to 20 feet. The Improvement Trust has entered on a fixed programme of driving back lanes through existing congested areas. This involves the reconstruction of the rear portion of the houses. Open area and domestic offices are provided in each case, the Trust paying the cost of this reconstruction. The Trust has also bought up several large blocks of slums, demolished them, and re-planned the lots to permit of sanitary buildings being erected. Roughly 50 acres of land bordering on the Chinese area, formerly occupied by squatters have been bought and filled in, provided with roads and laid out as building lots for sale with a view to relieving congestion. The Trust has bought up another large area of land which was covered with insanitary attap villages. These have all been demolished, the land filled in, and 224 artisans' quarters erected. They have erected 118 houses suitable for the clerical class. In the heart of the town, they have erected various blocks of tenement dwellings designed to give ample light and ventilation to each room. In Penang amelioration has been effected by the issue of nuisance notices under the Municipal Ordinance. The Municipality has also demanded alterations in buildings to comply with by-laws under the Municipal Ordinances with a view to improving light and ventilation and avoiding overcrowding. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings. Steps have also been taken to maintain the common lodging houses in a sanitary and uncrowded condition. In Malacca, amelioration is effected by constant inspection and action under the Municipal Ordinance and by-laws. In rural areas gazetted village planning schemes have been evolved so as to ensure a suitable layout of buildings. Demolition notices are enforced in towns and villages where such a course appears to be the only remedy. The work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. It can be stated with confidence that almost all buildings, now being erected in rural areas, are of moderately good and sanitary type without being too expensive.

There are no building societies in the Straits Settlements.

CHAPTER VI

Production

A.—AGRICULTURE

(a) Crops Grown by European and Asiatics

Rubber.—Economic conditions in the rubber industry were very depressed throughout the year. The average price of rubber per pound in Singapore was 7.01 cents, or more than 2½ cents lower than the very low figure for 1931. The bottom was reached in June when

the average price for the month was 4.95 cents. This was followed by a sharp rise in August and September, possibly due to reaction from the most acute phase of the depression, and for the last three months of the year the price remained steady at about 7½ cents.

Restriction of output with a view to improving market conditions was a subject which occupied the attention of the English and Dutch Governments at the beginning of the year, but the negotiations ended in the middle of March and a simultaneous announcement by the English and Dutch Governments was published to the effect that no satisfactory solution of the problem could be arrived at in the existing circumstances.

The total area under rubber at the end of 1932 was 337,907 acres, a slight decrease from the 1931 figure of 341,303 acres. Of the total area 62.6 per cent. consisted of estates of 100 acres or more and 37.4 per cent. of small estates of less than 100 acres.

Production as shown by exports was 49,862 tons as compared with 50,112 tons in 1931. With the exception of a small quantity absorbed by a Singapore manufacturer it is all exported. In accordance with the decision reached in 1930, no fresh alienation of land for rubber planting was made in the year and new areas have been planted only on land already alienated. Newly planted areas amounted to 144 acres only, mostly in Malacca.

In consequence of the depression most estates have experienced actual financial loss despite the remarkably low costs of production. Naturally the agricultural side of the industry has been almost entirely held up, though some attention has been given to tapping systems and to factory improvements, both with a view to decreasing production costs. A certain amount of attention has been paid to the possibility of increased consumption of raw material.

On small holdings even under the very low prices ruling severe tapping has been confined to a restricted number of localities where owners are unusually hardly circumstanced. There has been no general tendency to replace rubber by another crop although occasionally a small holder has cut out a portion of his poorest rubber in order to utilise the land for growing sufficient foodstuffs for his own needs.

Mouldy rot of the renewing bark is the only disease of any real importance so far as regards small holdings rubber, but it is a disease that, it is feared, is increasing in virulence. The question of this disease is particularly important in connection with small holdings as the owner, owing to low rubber prices, is unable to afford the necessary remedial treatment.

Coconuts and Coconut Products.—The area planted with coconuts is estimated to be 82,447 acres, but it is extremely difficult to make even a rough estimate of the total production. Many dwellings have small groups of palms planted about them and the nuts from these small patches are used entirely for local consumption. The produce of the larger estates however is used almost entirely for the production of copra, and here again no organisation for estimating the total quantity of copra exists. Imports from the Netherlands East Indies are considerable and are used both in production of coconut oil and for grading with Malayan produce for re-export.

A feature of the trade in recent years, and especially in 1932, is the steady increase in the local production and export of coconut oil. It is probable also that the local consumption of coconut oil, mainly for culinary purposes, is considerable, and reasonably steady.

Market conditions for coconut oil and other coconut products were adversely affected by economic conditions and although prices were somewhat higher than in 1931 they were still distinctly lower than in 1930 and previous years. The average Singapore price of "Sundried" copra was $5.74 per picul and "Mixed" averaged $5.22 per picul, an increase in each case of between 50 and 60 cents over 1931 prices. Coconut oil averaged $13 per picul as compared with $9.69 in 1931. Coconut oil cake averaged $2.10 per picul.

A feature of the year under review has been the improvement in the quality of locally produced copra prepared by small-holders. This is largely due to the propaganda carried on by the Department of Agriculture which has led to improvement in the matter of kiln construction on small holdings. Several of the approved pattern kilns have been erected in Province Wellesley and on these first quality copra has been produced. The investigations conducted by the Department of Agriculture have been undertaken with the financial assistance of the Empire Marketing Board.

Pests and diseases of coconuts have been kept well in hand and control of the coconut beetle was efficiently maintained. In Province Wellesley, however, there has been a serious attack from the caterpillar of the Zygænid moth and considerable damage resulted.

Coffee.—Singapore prices of coffee have shown but little fluctuation throughout the year. Palembang coffee averaged $17.74 per picul and Sourabaya coffee $24.12. The trade in coffee has been maintained and imports amount to nearly 5,000 tons and exports to over 2,000 tons. It would seem therefore that if Malaya can produce the right kind of coffee there is at hand an export trade in this product. Several brands of locally grown and prepared coffee are found in the retail market at prices ranging from 30 to 70 cents per pound.

Pests and diseases have not been unduly prevalent during the year.

(b) Crops Grown Exclusively by Asiatics

Padi.—The area under padi cultivation has shown a tendency to increase for some seasons past, presumably as the result of the economic depression affecting other crops. The increase has been slight but reasonably steady and the 1931–1932 season shows a total area of 67,980 acres devoted to rice growing. Most of this area is in Province Wellesley and Malacca: Penang has some four thousand acres, but the Dindings only a few hundred. Singapore Island has no padi.

The total area planted represented an increase of about 600 acres. The total yield is estimated to be approximately 26,391,000 gantangs which represents a little under 39,000 tons of milled rice, a slight increase over the previous season, and a slight decrease in yield per acre. Padi statistics are, however, difficult to collect, especially as regards yields. On the whole the season was a good one and a very satisfactory crop was harvested, although in Malacca high winds

caused some lodging of a heavy crop with some slight loss of harvested grain. The Dindings territory was an exception to this however and practically no crop was obtained there, the first sowing having been destroyed by dry weather and a great part of a later planting by sea water damage resulting from an exceptionally high tide.

The padi crop season in the greater part of Malaya extends from July to mid-January or February; prospects for the standing crop (1932–1933 season) are promising. In Province Wellesley dry weather delayed planting, but subsequently the weather has been generally favourable. There were floods in November, but less damage was caused to padi than had been anticipated in view of the damage done to roads and bridges, both on the mainland and in the island of Penang. In the Dindings territory the cultivators commenced the construction of a bund as a safeguard against floods due to high tides. In Malacca the crop is generally good on the inland areas, but on much of the coastal area it has suffered badly from lack of water and is unlikely to produce more than a light crop.

With regard to rat damage, in Province Wellesley and Malacca the systematic control measures organised under departmental supervision continued to function satisfactorily although reports indicate that in Province Wellesley slightly more damage occurred than in 1931. On the whole it seems that the cultivator is being induced by the present conditions to regard his padi crop as of greater importance than in more prosperous times and this, combined with continuous propaganda, has led to greater attention to control measures.

Experimental work during the year has comprised work on breeding and trying out new strains, on cultivation and manurial experiments, and investigations on padi soils. Further work has been done with regard to the question of stem borers, but there are still many complicating factors either not yet ascertained or as yet imperfectly understood.

At the commencement of the year the newly constituted Department of Irrigation and Drainage came into existence, inaugurated as the result of one of the recommendations of the Rice Cultivation Committee. Irrigation and drainage engineers have been appointed for Malacca and Penang and a number of major and minor schemes have been inaugurated. The duties of the Department are chiefly concerned with irrigation and drainage schemes for the extension of rice cultivation.

In Malacca the planting of padi is compulsory on practically the whole of the area regularly planted with wet padi, and suitable land newly alienated carries the same obligation. Furthermore, legislation provides for compulsory adherence to dates for the various cultivation operations in all such areas. This is not, however, the case in Province Wellesley, and legislation for fixing dates for cultivation operations in this Settlement is under consideration.

Pineapples.—By far the largest area under this crop in the Colony is in Singapore Island where the total area is now estimated to be 10,000 acres, an increase of 2,000 acres over last year. The main area in which pineapples are cultivated in Malaya is, however, the State of Johore where there are nearly 40,000 acres under the crop. There is some export of fresh fruit for canning from South

Johore to Singapore. There were four pineapple canning factories operating in Singapore at the end of the year. The capacity of these varies between 600 and 4,000 cases per day.

The average prices of canned pineapples for 1932 per case of 48 tins (72 lbs. of fruit) were: Cubes, $3.34; Sliced flat, $3.27; Sliced tall, $3.48. These prices show a decline over those of 1931.

Exports for Malaya showed a considerable increase in the year and stood at 66,291 tons, and an increase in the total value of the exports resulted despite the decrease in prices. Of the exports 84 per cent. is taken by Great Britain. British Possessions and Protectorates take rather more than half the remainder.

The Department of Agriculture has a Pineapple Experiment Station on Singapore Island at which investigations into the cultivation and manuring of pineapples are being carried on. Efforts to establish the cultivation of pineapples as a main crop and to improve the conditions of the pineapple industry generally have been continued. Legislation designed to give effect to the recommendations of the Pineapple Conference appointed by His Excellency the Governor at the end of 1930 (and to which reference was made in last year's report) has been considered. Especial difficulties are encountered owing to the necessity for obtaining agreement among the various administrations and the different commercial interests affected. The lines of the projected legislation comprise registration of factories, registration of identification marks for the produce of each factory, and provision for the introduction of inspection and grading of produce when such a course is indicated as feasible.

Fruit.—Fruit crops were generally good throughout the country but more especially so in Province Wellesley and Penang. Large quantities of rambutans were shipped from Penang to the Singapore market during the season.

The Department of Agriculture carried out a survey of fruit growing in Malacca during the year and 154 fruit holdings were under detailed observation. One of the striking factors disclosed was that less than 40 per cent. of the owners sold their produce with any regularity, the great majority being content merely to supply their own household requirements. Yet the import trade of fruit into the peninsula is considerable.

Vegetables.—There has been a considerable increase in vegetable growing of recent years, but imports, especially into Singapore, are still very considerable; as with fruit production there seem to be considerable possibilities for extension of cultivation to meet local requirements.

Vegetable growing is largely in Chinese hands and efforts are being made with a view to effecting possible improvement of the conditions under which the vegetables are grown. There is a Chinese Sub-Inspector attached to the Department of Agriculture and stationed in Singapore, a similar officer, destined for Malacca, is at present in training at the School of Agriculture while approval has also been given for the recruitment of an additional officer for similar work in Province Wellesley.

Tobacco.—Decreasing prices resulted in a marked decline in acreage of this crop during the year and, although interest in this crop is still maintained in Singapore, in Province Wellesley the area at the end of the year was 41 acres only as compared with 105 at the end of 1931. On the other hand it must be remembered that the area under tobacco at any one time gives an inadequate representation of the importance of the industry, as the crop is grown in scattered plots and with little regard to season.

A Committee was appointed by His Excellency the Governor recently to consider the possible effect of tobacco cultivation on revenue, but it had not presented its report at the end of the year. Considerable attention has been paid to the crop by the Department of Agriculture and numerous experiments have been carried out. Two lines of development appear to be indicated—the growth of filler tobacco for cheroots and the production of bright leaf for cigarettes. Experimental work on flue curing is at present in progress.

Cloves.—This crop is grown mainly by Chinese and is confined to Province Wellesley and Penang. An increase in the Penang price at the end of the year is stated to be due to competition amongst rival dealers, but is probably connected to some extent with an attempt by growers to obtain better prices as the result of direct trading.

(c) Livestock

Stock.—The dairy farm formerly operated in Singapore by the Singapore Cold Storage Co. was organised as a separate undertaking during the year and is now known as the Singapore Dairy Farm. Considerable development has taken place in connection with this undertaking and during the year, additional breeds of cattle have been tried out and the size of the farm extended. The farm supplies milk of very high grade the purity of which is checked by periodical bacteriological examination. It constitutes an extremely interesting example of the commercial possibilities of dairying on modern scientific lines under tropical conditions.

(d) Agricultural Organisation

The re-organisation of the Department of Agriculture, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, in accordance with the scheme propounded by the Director of Agriculture in 1930–1931 and sanctioned by the Secretary of State was brought into force at the commencement of the year.

Under the scheme the Department is divided into four branches, *viz.*—

(a) The Research Branch under the Chief Research Officer comprising six Research Divisions each under a divisional chief. This section is maintained at the Department's Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the Federated Malay States;

(b) The Field Branch comprising the agricultural organisation in the various States and Settlements with an Agricultural Officer in charge of each unit responsible to the Chief Field Officer at Headquarters and to the administrative officer in each area;

(c) The Agricultural Education Branch comprising the School of Agriculture under the Vice-Principal;

(d) The Economics and Publication Branch under the charge of the Agricultural Economist.

The scheme also included provision for the erection of new headquarters offices and laboratories for the Department in Kuala Lumpur, the present accommodation being inadequate and unsuitable. The erection of these has, however, been deferred owing to financial stringency.

In connection with the Research Branch work has been maintained in the various scientific divisions. In conjunction with the Field Branch, breeding, selection, varietal manurial and cultural trials with padi are carried out at the Rice Experiment Station at Pulau Gadong in Malacca, while similar work on pineapples is performed at the Pineapple Experiment Station at Lim Chu Kang in Singapore; the opening up of other stations and, in particular, a fruit station in Penang has been postponed owing to the financial situation. The Field Branch maintains two Agricultural Stations, one at Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley and one at Sungei Udang in Malacca at which demonstrations are given, planting materials of good quality are supplied, and certain experiments carried out.

School gardens, of which there are 121 in the Colony, provide another means of instruction and propaganda. Regular periodic visits are made to these by Departmental officers and, where the movement has made sufficient progress, competitions are held.

The Rural Lecture Caravan, jointly maintained by the Departments of Agriculture and Co-operation and the Rubber Research Institute, has made tours during the year in Province Wellesley, the Dindings and Malacca and definite proof of results accruing from the Caravan propaganda are now forthcoming.

The School of Agriculture at Serdang, opened in May, 1931, passed through a somewhat critical year. It is during periods of acute depression such as the present, however, that the School can exert its greatest influence. There is accommodation for 80 students at the School, but the average attendance throughout the year has only been 35. This was in part due to the suspension of recruitment for Agricultural Students and Pupils, both in the Federated Malay States and in the Straits Settlements. A film of some 800 feet depicting the work of the School and the students has been completed and will be included in the programmes of the Rural Lecture Caravan.

The Agricultural Department continued to issue various publications, comprising the Malayan Agricultural Journal issued monthly in English together with quarterly agricultural journals in Malay and in Chinese. In addition special bulletins containing accounts of work on a large scale are issued from time to time (seven were published in the year) while pamphlets in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil are published as occasion demands.

Owing to the need for retrenchment it became necessary appreciably to reduce the staff of the Department during the year and proposals were approved for the retrenchment of officers and for the considerable curtailment of expenditure.

(e) Methods and Conditions of Recruiting South Indian Labour

Elaborate machinery exists for the recruitment in normal times of South Indian labour, chiefly for work on rubber, coconut and oil palm estates.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 and the Rules made thereunder, and a special General Order of the Government of India defines the conditions on which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work is permitted to the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States.

There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labour for skilled work, but the recruiting of skilled labour in British India for work in Malaya is practically non-existent.

The foundation of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labour is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is composed of contributions from all employers (including the Governments of Malaya) of South Indian labour. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may be used solely for the importation of and in the interests of South Indian labour. Included in these interests are the maintenance of homes for decrepit and unemployed Indian labourers and the repatriation of and assistance to Indian labourers in need of relief; during the past two years the resources of the Fund have been extensively used for these purposes.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being train fares of emigrants from their homes to the ports of Negapatam and Madras and their feeding in the Emigration Camps at these places while awaiting shipment, passages from Madras or Negapatam to the Straits, the expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang, Port Swettenham or Singapore, transport thence to their places of employment in Malaya and the payment of recruiting allowances to the employers by whose agents they had been recruited.

These agents, known as Kanganies, are sent over by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. The recruiting allowance paid to the employer is intended to recoup him for this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

(i) he must be an Indian of the labouring classes.

(ii) he must have been employed as a labourer on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit for a period of not less than three months.

Licences are issued by the Deputy Controller of Labour in Penang and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty and the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 per head for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the office of the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments with the approval of the Government of India to supervise emigration to Malaya, or in Negapatam to the office of the Assistant Emigration Commissioner. Only on endorsement by one or other of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually six months and is limited to one year.

After having his licence registered the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents in India. There he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) and he then proceeds to his own village where he informs his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate.

When the kangany finds people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Munsiff or Headman whose duty it is to see that there is no valid objection to the person emigrating. If satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman he takes them to the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Madras or Negapatam, either himself prepaying the train fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents employed by the Fund.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government—the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped, unless he is himself returning to the Colony when he is paid the balance due to him on arrival, the kangany receives his commission less the amount of his advance from the financial agents.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charges and is kept purposely low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from $3 to $20 and is at present fixed at $10. The latter figure is designed to cover all legitimate out of pocket expenses with just sufficient margin to induce employers to recruit up to their own requirements.

Besides the emigrants recruited by kanganies for individual employers any *bona fide* agricultural labourer who is physically fit, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant, can obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing. They are for the most part returning emigrants who are

proceeding to their old places of employment and as they are not recruited neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as *ex-officio* Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee, which consists partly of officials and partly of unofficials, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited, are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no "contract" or indentured labour in the Colony.

There are 83 estates in the Colony owned by Europeans and 129 owned by Asiatics. The number of South Indian labourers (excluding their dependants) on the European owned estates on the 31st December, 1932 was 12,587 and on the Asiatic-owned estates 1,284.

The same procedure applies in regard to recruitment of South Indian labour for the Railways, the Municipalities and the Public Works Departments.

Languages of Indian Immigrants

Of the Southern Indians who form over nine-tenths of the total Indian population practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam. The vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil, and of the remainder the Malayalis are about three times as numerous as the Telugus.

The remaining Indian population consists of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani, with a few hundreds from Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

B.—FORESTRY

Except for Singapore Island, where the forests have been depleted owing to pressure of population, the Straits Settlements are fairly well provided with forests in respect of which a conservative policy is followed. It was decided, in 1931, to abandon the attempt to continue the protection of the remnants of the Singapore forests, with the exception of Bukit Timah Reserve, which was to be retained on grounds of amenity: the remaining reserves were to be revoked after such saleable material as was left in them had been disposed of under the control of the Commissioner of Lands. This process was not sufficiently advanced during the year under report to call for any revocation.

There is a fairly large sawmill industry in Singapore which depends largely on the adjacent islands of Netherlands India for its raw material, but also draws log supplies to some extent from Johore. The output of sawn timber is partly absorbed in supplying the needs of the Island, the remainder being exported to a wide range of markets overseas. Considerable supplies of timber for such purposes as piling are also derived from the Dutch Islands, but durable

hardwoods required for consumption in Singapore are derived chiefly from the mainland of Malaya. A project was in contemplation in a Singapore sawmill at the close of the year for cutting timber for experimental shipment to the United Kingdom, using raw material derived from Johore.

The Settlement of Malacca is well provided with forests, chiefly of the plains type, which promise to constitute a valuable asset when they have been brought under regular management. The forests of Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings are mainly hilly, but contain fair quantities of superior hardwoods and constitute a useful source of local supply.

The forest reserves of the Straits Settlements at present occupy 180 square miles or 12 per cent. of the total area of the Colony. On the revocation of the Singapore reserves, which occupy an area of 25 square miles, the percentage will be reduced to 10.

The intensification of the depression resulted in a fall in revenue from $27,863 to $23,050, and expenditure was curtailed from $87,425 to $68,103. In these and the following figures Singapore is not included.

The outturn of timber, firewood and charcoal in cubic feet amounted to 278,325, 380,806 and 53,675 as against 365,552, 690,951 and 27,595 in 1931.

The scheme for conversion of the Malacca forests into regularly managed stands was continued, though at a slower rate in view of the financial situation, and progress was made with schemes for regenerative treatment on similar lines in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings.

The senior executive staff was reduced to one full time officer: an Assistant Conservator in charge of Malacca. Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings are included in the charges of Assistant or Extra Assistant Conservators of the Federated Malay States staff, who are responsible also for executive work in adjacent areas of the State of Perak. Supervisory charge of Singapore was held by the Commissioner of Lands, exercising the powers of the Director of Forestry under the Forest Ordinance within the Island; of Malacca by the State Forest Officer, Negri Sembilan; and of the other Settlements by the State Forest Officer, Perak North. The subordinate forest staff was reduced to 2 forest rangers, 5 foresters and 30 forest guards.

The Federated Malay States organizations for forest research and education, forest engineering and marketing also serve the needs of the Colony. The main research organisation deals with forest botany, ecology, silviculture, wood technology, timber testing and investigation of forest products generally, and a school for training forest subordinates is attached to it. The Forest Engineer is concerned with the improvement of methods of extraction, conversion and transport of timber and other forest produce. The Timber Purchase Section serves as an agency for direct purchase of timber on behalf of Government Departments and others from forest contractors, and assists the latter in marketing their output.

C.—FISHERIES

The total weight of fish landed in the Colony in 1932 was approximately 20,000 tons. This amount of fish is valued at approximately 4¼ million dollars or $217 per ton.

There were 6,117 Malay fishermen employed in the industry, 4,753 Chinese, 907 Japanese, 572 Indians and 63 Eurasians, in all a total of 12,432 persons, excluding a large number who are occasionally engaged in fishing.

This is a decrease of 1,286 from 1931 and is due primarily to the depressed industrial conditions and the inability or disinclination of the fish financiers to advance money to the smaller fishermen, who in consequence have either given up fishing, or have taken up fishing as a part time occupation and consequently do not appear in the returns.

Revenue from boat licences amounted to $2,963 as against $2,909.50 in 1931, and from licences for various types of gear $10,296 as against $11,764 in 1931. These increases are due to the collection of arrears for 1931. Actually there was a decrease of 73 in the number of fishing boats registered in 1932 (5,678 fishing boats of all kinds were registered as against 5,751 in 1931). These, with the exception of 67 Diesel engined craft used by the Japanese, were all sailing boats used for drift netting, seine netting and long lining.

The Japanese again landed a large proportion of the supply of fish for the Singapore market, amounting to about 4,755 tons, or approximately 42% of the total supply. Their powered boats have increased from 57 in 1931 to 67 in 1932.

The net weight of salt fish exported from the Colony amounted to 3,852 tons valued at $2,052,148. This, estimated as fresh fish, would represent approximately 7,704 tons and is mostly horse mackerel (Caranx), Indian mackerel (Scomber) and herring-like fishes (Clupeoids). Most of the salt fish was exported to Java. Canned fish amounting to 830 tons and valued at $247,428 was imported for local consumption. It consisted mostly of Californian sardines in one pound tins.

Fishing throughout the year has been normal.

D.—MINERALS

Tin.—Mining operations in the Colony were confined to the Settlement of Malacca where there were three places at which tin was worked during the year. The production of tin-in-ore at 72% amounted to rather less than 35 tons on which royalty amounting to $3,834 was paid. The whole of the production went to Singapore for sale and smelting. The labourers were all Chinese and no Europeans were engaged in the industry. No prospecting licence was issued.

Tin smelter production amounted to 49,945 tons, as compared with 87,514 tons in 1931, or 49% of world smelter production (103,300 tons). The decrease was due to the policy of international tin control. The price of tin was £139 a ton at the beginning and £1-9 a ton at the end of the year. The tin ore smelted in the Straits Settlements

came principally from the Malay States and also from a wide range of countries including Alaska, China, Japan, Indo-China, Siam, Netherlands India, Burma, Tanganyika and the Union of South Africa.

Phosphates.—Deposits of phosphate of lime on Christmas Island were worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. The production in 1932 was 84,197 tons valued at $1,431,349, or $17 (£2) a ton, as compared with 65,849 tons valued at $1,119,433 in 1931, or one per cent. of estimated world production, (7,300,000). The labour force consisted almost entirely of Chinese specially recruited by the Company in Singapore for work on the Island. The output was exported entirely to Japan.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The Straits Settlements is part of the Malayan registration area. Statistics of Malayan trade have been published since 1922, separate figures for the Straits Settlements being discontinued in 1928. For particulars of the trade of Malaya, reference is invited to the monthly and annual reports published by the Statistics Department*.

The trade of the Colony, of which three-quarters is with foreign countries and one-quarter with the Malay States, consists principally of the entrepôt trade of the free ports of Singapore and Penang which serve as collecting and distributing centres for the countries of the Archipelago—Malaya, Netherlands India, North Borneo, Sarawak, Indo-China, Siam and Southern Burma. The commodities known in the world's markets as Straits Produce include rubber, tin, copra, arecanuts, palm-oil, tinned pineapples, gums, pepper and other spices, the manufactures distributed in exchange being chiefly household stores, clothing, machinery and cement. Singapore is also an important distributing centre for oils—lubricating oil, liquid fuel, kerosene and motor spirit—and there is a bunker trade at both ports in bunker coal and oil fuel. Malacca has an historic past: it is a collecting and distributing station for the centre of the Peninsula, but its importance has diminished with the development of long-haulage railway traffic from Singapore and Penang, and of Port Swettenham, a railway port.

The ports of the Colony are free from dues and duties, except excise duties, which are levied on liquor, tobacco and petroleum. Preferences on liquor and tobacco, and a 20% *ad valorem* tax on first registration of non-British motor vehicles, were introduced as a result of the Ottawa Agreements during the year.

The trade of Malaya in merchandise, bullion and specie amounted in value to $746 (£87) millions, a decrease of 16% on 1931. No single figure is available to indicate the quantity or tonnage of the

*1. Foreign Imports and Exports, Annual.
2. Report on the Foreign Trade of Malaya, Annual.
3. Annual Summary of the Monthly Returns, Annual.
4. Foreign Imports, Exports and Shipping, Monthly.
5. Average Prices, Declared Trade Values, Currency, Exchange and Cost of Living, Annual.

trade, but evidence has been given to the Trade Commission that cargo shipped to Europe constituted a record and to America declined only slightly as compared with the previous year. Nor is any distinction possible between exports and re-exports, owing to the nature of the entrepôt trade at Straits Settlements ports.

This $746 millions consisted of imports $380 millions and exports $366 millions. To the exports may be added $13 millions representing the value of bunker coal, oil fuel and stores taken on board ships on the foreign trade for consumption on board. There is thus almost an exact balance between the declared values of imports and exports.

Of this $746 millions, $676 (£79) millions represented the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements*, a decrease of 17% on 1931. The value of imports into the Straits Settlements was $348 (£41), a decrease of 15%, and of exports $327 (£38) millions, a decrease of 20% on 1931.

Of Malayan trade, 15% was with the United Kingdom, 17% with other British Countries and 68% with non-British countries, representing an increase in the proportion of trade between Malaya and British countries of 3½%. The folowing are the countries with which the principal trade was done, with respective values:—

Netherlands India	..	$190	millions,	£22.2 millions
United Kingdom	..	$114	„	£13.3 „
United States of America	..	$ 79	„	£ 9.2 „
Siam ..	..	$ 61	„	£ 7.1 „
Japan ..	..	$ 57	„	£ 6.7 „
Australia ..	..	$ 30	„	£ 3.5 „
China ..	..	$ 26	„	£ 3.0 „
India ..	..	$ 26	„	£ 3.0 „

The ten principal imports, in order of gross values declared, were motor spirit, rice, tin-ore, cotton piece-goods, kerosene, liquid fuel, cigarettes, rubber, copra and milk; the principal exports (including re-exports) being rubber, tin, motor spirit, copra, rice, kerosene, dried fish and tinned pineapples.

The following notes are added on certain features of the principal exports:—

(i) *Rubber.*—Imports amounted to 92,874 tons valued at $9,787,000, a decrease of 26% in quantity and 48% in gross value as compared with 1931. The price of rubber was 3¼*d.* a lb. at the beginning and 2 7/16*d.* at the end of the year. Of imports, 81% came from Netherlands India and the balance in more or less equal quantities from Sarawak, Siam, Indo-China, North Borneo and Burma.

Exports of rubber (including re-exports) amounted to 478,000 tons or 67% of world output, a fall of 8% in quantity and 34% in gross values, as compared with 1931. Of the exports, 57% was to the United States of America, 15% to the Continent of Europe, 14% to the United Kingdom, 9% to Japan and 5% to other countries.

A feature of rubber was the fact that the decline in price caused an appreciably greater contraction in the output from small holdings

* *See* Foreign Imports and Exports of Malaya, Appendix *A*.

than from European estates, the reasons being two, firstly that small holders paid more attention to foodstuffs and secondly that the larger estates reduced considerably their cost of production.

(ii) *Tin.*—Imports of ore decreased from 44 to 28 thousand tons or by 36%, and in value from $30 to $23 millions. Exports of tin decreased from 84 to 48 thousand tons or by 43%, and in value from $83 to $56 millions. Of imports of ore, 44% came from Siam, 35% from Netherlands India and 21% from other countries. This ore, with the entire output of the Malay States, is smelted in Singapore and Penang into tin for export. Of exports of tin, 42% went to the United States of America, 34% to the Continent of Europe, 12% to the United Kingdom and 12% to other countries. The reduction of output, both of ore and smelter production, was due to the policy of tin control which was in force in the Malay States, Siam, Nigeria, Bolivia and the Netherlands Indies, to the extent of an average restriction of 56⅓% on the International Tin Committee's assessment of the output of 1929, throughout the year.

(iii) *Cotton piece-goods.*—Imports increased from 100 to 150 million yards and in gross value from $14 millions to $18 millions, of which 57%, in terms of quantity, came from Japan, 26% from the United Kingdom and 17% from other countries, including Russia. The proportions in quantity from Japan and the United Kingdom in 1931 were 50% and 22% respectively, with 28% from other countries.

(iv) *Tinned Pineapples.*—Exports increased from 59,459 to 66,292 tons, or an average of 39,000 cases a week, of which 84% went to the United Kingdom, 4.5% to Canada, 4.2% to the Continent of Europe and 7% to other countries. The gross value increased from $7,083,000 to $7,914,000. The industry received a benefit from the reduction of duty from 3 cents to 1 cent (gold) a lb. on imports into Canada accorded to Empire tinned pineapples as a result of the Ottawa Conference.

(v) *Copra.*—Imports increased in quantity from 87,000 to 100,000 tons and in gross value from $7 to $8 millions, of which 88% came from Netherlands India, 6% from North Borneo and 6% from other countries. Exports increased in quantity from 188,000 to 197,000 tons and in gross value from $16 millions to $19 millions, of which 69% went to the Continent of Europe, 24% to the United Kingdom, 5% to the United States of America and 2% to other countries. The price of copra and other coconut products increased during the year.

(vi) *Rice.*—Although Malays are experts in rice-cultivation, they grow rice for their own needs and not as a commercial crop. The States of Kedah and Perlis alone have an exportable surplus which is consumed in other parts of Malaya. For other Asiatic races, amounting to 63% of the population, rice is imported and constitutes an important item in the barter trade of Singapore and Penang.

Imports of rice decreased in quantity from 691,000 to 592,000 tons and in value from $48 millions to $40 millions, a reduction due partly to a reduced population; of imports, 60% came from Siam,

37% from Burma, 1.5% from Saigon and 1.5% from other countries. Exports, of which all but 1,917 tons were re-exports, increased from 175,000 tons to 183,000 tons, declining slightly in gross values from $13.4 millions to $12.6 millions. Of these exports, 83% were to Netherlands India, 7% to Sarawak, 3% to North Borneo and 7% to other countries.

The price of rice declined from $4.46 to $3.64 a pikul or from .93*d*. to .76*d*. a lb.

(vii) *Palm-oil.*—Imports amounted to 14 tons valued at $2,564, from Sumatra, as compared with 89 tons (from the same place) the previous year. Exports which were thus almost entirely domestic production, increased from 4,664 tons to 7,906 tons, and in value from $1,027,000 to $1,139,000. Of exports 45% went to the United Kingdom, 17% to the Continent of Europe, 15% to Sumatra, 12% to the United States of America, and 11% to other countries.

Production is principally in the State of Johore. A bulking plant in the Singapore Harbour Board area was erected during the year from which oil is conveyed direct in a pipe line to the ships at the wharves.

Tables I-XVIII, as published in the previous report, have not been reproduced as this detailed information is contained in the separate reports on the foreign trade of Malaya for the year 1932 to which reference has already been made.

CHAPTER VIII

Wages and the Cost of Living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for Southern Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts over Malaya and these rates tend in practice to regulate the rate of wages earned in other districts and by labourers of other races.

In the Colony the only key district in which standard wages were in force was Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates were 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer and 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female, as in the previous year.

The average price per gantang (8 lbs.) of No. 2 Siam rice in Singapore, Penang and Malacca declined from 32, 38 and 27 cents in January to 28, 30 and 27 cents in December.

In the island of Penang and in the Dindings daily rates varying from 35 to 40 cents for a male labourer and from 27 to 32 cents for a female labourer were paid. The labour forces on Province Wellesley estates are very settled. On the older estates which have employed Tamil labour for a long time many of the labourers have been born on the estates and are frequently not entirely dependent on their check-roll wages.

In Singapore the daily rates of wages on estates ranged from 35 to 55 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian male labourer and from 32 to 35 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian female labourer.

Many employers paid their tappers by results. The rates of wages paid to Chinese and Javanese labourers were about the same as those paid to Indians. Government Departments paid from 47 to 84 cents and miscellaneous employers from 50 to 85 cents.

In Malacca, able-bodied Indian adult male labourers on estates earned 35 cents and able-bodied adult female labourers 27 cents a day. Store and factory labourers received 40 to 50 cents. In the Government Departments the rates of wages were from 40 cents for males and 32 cents for females. Chinese were mostly employed on contract at rates varying from 35 to 45 cents a day. Javanese and Malays earned as much as Southern Indians.

The law requires every employer to provide at least 24 days' work in each month to every labourer employed.

Workmen employed in skilled trades naturally commanded much higher rates of wages.

There is no indentured labour in the Colony.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living, reference is invited to the separate report on this subject published annually by the Statistics Department. Local commodity prices declined by 17% in wholesale and by 11% in retail values as compared with 1931. Exceptions to the general decline were coffee beans, coconut oil, copra, kerosene, pepper (black), tapioca and tin. The decline, however, was not so steep as in the previous year, and quantitative imports and exports in certain important articles increased. The price of tin at the beginning of the year was £139 and at the end of the year £149 a ton. The corresponding prices of rubber were 3¼*d.* and 2 7/16*d.* per lb. The following are weighted index numbers of the average market prices of 15 principal commodities (13 wholesale and two retail) published in the monthly Trade Return:—

Year	*1929*	*1930*	*1931*	*1932*
Index Numbers ..	100	80.9	59.6	49.1

There was also a general decline in the market prices of foodstuffs as reported by the Municipal Authorities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca and published monthly in the *Gazette*. The decrease was more or less uniform for the principal articles under all the heads (meat, eggs, fish, vegetables, fruit, currystuffs and sundries) which were taken into account and depended to some extent on the supplies available, particularly in the case of fish. The weighted index number of the general food budget, based on Singapore market prices, for the years 1914 to 1932 were as follows, and it is interesting to note that the index for 1932 would appear to be below that of 1914.

Year	*1914*	*1922*	*1926*	*1929*	*1930*	*1931*	*1932*
Index Numbers	100	137	152	140	126	102	94

Municipal assessment values indicating rent movements during 1932 showed decreases for Singapore of 19%, Penang 15% and

Malacca 10% at the end of December as compared with the previous year. There was a decline in the cost of living of 13.1% in the Asiatic standard, of 11% in the Eurasian standard and of 7.6% in the European standard, particulars of which for each month during 1932 and annually from 1914 (1915–1917 excepted) are published in the report of Average Prices mentioned above.

CHAPTER IX

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in the Colony in English and in various vernacular languages—Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools, *i.e.* places where fifteen or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, except where the teaching is of a purely religious character, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance, 1926. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher of an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is unsanitary or that is likely to be used for the purpose of propaganda detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director of Education may also, in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board, in addition to school fees, receives the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas to be devoted to the purposes of education within the Colony.

B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The English Schools are schools in which English is the medium of instruction. Few of the pupils are English speaking when they join, and the lowest class may be composed of children speaking

between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and they are given an education which ends as a rule with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though one or two stay on and prepare for the London Matriculation Examination.

The fees are $30 (£3 10*s.*) a year for the first six years (*i.e.* for the years spent in the Primary Division of the school) and $48 (£5 12*s.*) a year for the remaining period. Attendance is not compulsory.

In 1932 there were 24 Government and 31 Aided Schools in the Colony—24 situated in Singapore, 22 in Penang, 8 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 26,319 (10,217 in Government and 16,102 in Aided Schools).

Of the 26,319 pupils in English Schools, 4,333 or 16.46% of the pupils were enjoying free education. The details of the nationalities so benefited were 1,005 Europeans and Eurasians, 1,512 Malays, 1,558 Chinese, 230 Indians and 28 others.

The Aided English Schools are managed by various Missionary bodies—The Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, the Portuguese Catholic Church, and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of Missionary teachers at the rate of £420 per annum for a male and £280 per annum for a female missionary. Capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government under certain conditions.

The basis on which Grants-in-Aid are paid is now being revised consequent on the report of a committee appointed by Government in 1932 to enquire into the matter.

The Government Afternoon schools in Singapore, which were designed in 1930 to accommodate the many surplus pupils who are below the standard required for the Government and Aided morning schools, reached a very satisfactory standard in 1932. They give a sound elementary English education on the same lines as that given in morning schools—excluding Physical Training and Art—to boys in classes from Primary to Junior Cambridge. The enrolment increased from 416 in 1931 to 724 in 1932, while the number of pupils in private schools showed a similar decrease. In 1932 the total expenditure was $32,404 and the total revenue $26,528. Under the new arrangements these classes will be entirely self-supporting in 1933.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—

(a) those controlled by religious bodies and accommodated in proper school buildings;

(b) those carried on by individuals (mainly Indians) for profit and accommodated in any sort of building from shop-house or private house to office or godown. In the case of the latter overcrowding is common and a cheap and meagre staff is generally employed. The pupils at such schools are usually overaged or dull or both. In Singapore in 1932 there were 55 such schools with an enrolment of 5,700.

There is no central college for the training of teachers for English Schools. Such training is supplied at Normal Classes held at one centre in each of the three Settlements. The students who attend these Normal Classes, men and women alike, are required to hold Cambridge School Certificates with credits in at least two of the subjects English, Elementary Mathematics, History, Geography and Drawing or Certificates accepted by the Director of Education in lieu thereof, and they must be at least 16 years of age: they must have also satisfied the Education Department in an Oral English Examination. Those selected are appointed as Student Teachers and they then spend three years in an English school studying and watching the teaching. In the mornings they spend at least two hours in the classrooms studying teaching methods or themselves teaching prepared lessons. In the afternoons and on Saturday mornings they attend the Normal Classes. The Normal Class Instructors are European Masters and Mistresses, the majority being Government officers. The subjects of instruction are English (Language and Literature), the Theory and Practice of Teaching, Hygiene, Physical Training and, in some centres, Art. An examination has to be passed each year, those for the first and third years being conducted by a central authority and that for the Second Year by the local Inspector of Schools and Instructors. Student Teachers who pass the Third Year Examination become "Trained Teachers".

Certain selected students, student teachers or teachers are given three-year scholarships to Raffles College there to undergo a course of practically university standard to fit them for the teaching of subjects in the secondary classes of the English schools. They are allowed to specialise in certain branches. In 1932 there were 48 of these College students, 23 from Singapore, 19 from Penang and 6 from Malacca.

C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School, Kuala Lumpur, which provides courses of training for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, and which gives accommodation also to a class conducted by the Survey Department for its own untrained subordinates.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements, but pupils may proceed to the Malayan School

of Agriculture at Serdang, Federated Malay States, where one-year and three-year courses of study are available.

Commercial Education.—Courses of study covering two years are provided by the Commercial Department of Raffles Institution, Singapore, and by the Government Commercial School, Penang.

In addition Evening Classes are conducted at Singapore in Typewriting, Shorthand, Book-keeping, Plumbing (theoretical) and Sanitary Engineering, Building Construction, Theory of Structures, Surveying, Chemistry and Navigation. There is also an Evening Class at Malacca, but Typewriting is the only subject taught.

Industrial Education.—The Singapore Trade School admitted 43 new students in January 1932. The minimum educational standard for entrants was raised, no boys being admitted who had not passed Standard VI. Many had considerably higher qualifications. Forty-four students commenced their second year course at the same time, making a total of 87 for the year 1932. By the kindness of the Far East Acetylene Company, 12 boys received a month's training in Oxyacetylene welding at Pasir Panjang.

Tests were given in both practical and theoretical work at the close of each term. These revealed continuous satisfactory improvement. The bench work has now reached a very high standard, the work done by the best boy being accurate to within 1/8th of 1/1000th of an inch in all directions, and on the lathe to 1/1000th of an inch. Local firms and employers of labour have taken a keen interest in the school and have shown their appreciation in a practical way by valuable and educationally useful gifts, including units of electrical equipment, carburettors, and a Ford sectionised Chassis. This school functions not merely as a workshop, but as an educational institution with a life and tradition of its own.

The new Trade School, Penang was opened on 1st June, 1932 with 35 students, of whom over one-third were boys with either Junior or School Certificates. This school also provides a three-year course in Fitting, Motor Mechanics, Plumbing, etc. It is doing satisfactory work.

D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore and Raffles College, Singapore. The course of the College of Medicine covers six years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial list of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

Raffles College, Singapore was opened in 1928 in order to place education of a University standard within the reach of all the youths of British Malaya who are capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three-year courses in Arts and Science. Diplomas are awarded to successful students.

Two scholarships, known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 for the first year and £400 for any subsequent year up to six years, may be awarded in each year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the Cambridge Delegacy, and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential College at Oxford or Cambridge.

The annual examination for these scholarships, the ninth since they were restored by Government in 1923, was held in October. The two successful candidates were Mr. TAN SIM ENG and Miss T. A. OEHLERS, both of Raffles Institution, Singapore. The former proposes to study Law and the latter Medicine. Thirteen candidates competed for this examination.

E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay Vernacular Education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by the Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give a general and practical education to those boys who have no desire for an education in English, and who will find employment either in agriculture or in appointments in which a knowledge of the vernacular is all that is required, and (ii) to provide a sound foundation in the vernacular on which an education in English can be superimposed in the case of boys who desire to proceed eventually to an English School.

The school course normally lasts five years, in the course of which period the pupils pass through five standards. The subjects of the curriculum are Reading and Writing (in the Arabic and Romanised script), Composition, Arithmetic, Geography, Malay History, Hygiene, Drawing and Physical Training. Boys do Basketry and Gardening in addition and girls do Needlework and Domestic Science.

In 1932 there were 216 Malay Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 23,657 pupils. In addition there was an aided school at Pulau Bukom, Singapore, with 54 pupils.

Those who are to become teachers in the Malay Vernacular Schools are in the first instance selected from the pupils who have shown promise. As pupil-teachers they both teach and study till they attain their sixteenth birthdays, about which time they sit for an examination qualifying for admission to the Sultan Idris Training College, Tanjong Malim. If they do sufficiently well they are accepted into the College and there undergo a three year course. Graduates of the College are designated "Trained Teachers".

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese Schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1932 was 10 in Singapore, 24 in Penang and 3 in Malacca. The grants-in-aid are now being revised consequent on the report of a Committee appointed by Government in 1932 to enquire into the matter.

There are three types of schools:—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.* schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members";

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on school fees, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1*s.* 2*d.*) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s.* 8*d.*) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of the Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The Primary course in Chinese schools normally takes six years to get through. The Government has little, if any, control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance or the length of holidays in any except the Aided Schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curricula.

There was only one purely secondary school in the Colony—the Chinese High School in Singapore. In Penang there were three schools for males providing a secondary education, together with a primary course, and one in Malacca, but the course of study in the last was not complete. Four girls' schools in Singapore, and one in Penang provided a Normal Class.

At the close of 1932 there were 325 registered schools with 1,069 registered teachers and 22,028 pupils (of whom 5,495 were girls).

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil schools in Penang and Province Wellesley and all those in Malacca are estate schools, founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder are private schools run by Mission bodies or Committees. There are some private schools in Singapore which are of a poor standard.

The number of Tamil schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1932 was 22 in Penang and 11 in Malacca, with an average enrolment of 1,371 and 286 respectively. No Singapore schools are in receipt of grants-in-aid. The grants-in-aid are now being revised consequent on the report of a Committee appointed by Government in 1932 to enquire into the matter.

No fees are charged in Estate schools, but in some of the schools run by private bodies the pupils pay. There is usually an arrangement in such schools whereby poor children pay little or nothing. The subjects of the curriculum are reading, dictation, writing, arithmetic,

and in the higher classes, composition and geography. The standard of work differs considerably from school to school, but the general standard in reading, writing, dictation and simple arithmetic is good.

F.—MUSIC, ART AND DRAMA

Music.—Singing is taught as a class subject in the lower classes of all English schools. Folk songs, national songs, Rounds and Nursery Rhymes are taught as aids to the teaching of English. In some senior schools, lessons on musical appreciation are given and illustrated by gramophone selections. It is reported that a fair percentage of the pupils attending schools show musical aptitude. An oral test proved that about 60 per cent. of the pupils in the singing classes have an ear for music. A number of schools have orchestras.

Periodical orchestral Concerts for the benefit of the school children in Singapore are held with great success. These provide an excellent training in musical appreciation at an extremely low cost to Government.

Art.—All English schools and many vernacular schools follow a progressive scheme in Art which is revised annually. The work is uniformly good in Singapore and Penang schools.

Drama.—Dramatisation forms a part of the English curriculum of all English schools. The lower standards act simple plays and dramatise stories. The senior boys and girls act scenes from Shakespeare.

G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas Home (a Church of England institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children, without restriction as to race or religion, from all over Malaya. There was an average of 12 boys and girls in the Home during 1932. This Home is at Penang. It gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor.

There are eleven orphanages in the Colony (three in Singapore, six in Penang and two in Malacca), with 1,121 orphans in 1932, maintained by various religious bodies. The majority of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught housekeeping and needlework. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as mui tsai, who complain of ill-treatment, are detained in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300.

CHAPTER X

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

Communication by sea between the various settlements which comprise the Colony is frequent and regular.

There is a weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan, which is carried out by ships belonging to the Straits Shipping Company. Malacca is in constant and regular touch with Singapore and Penang through the vessels of the Straits Steamship Company. In addition to the local services between Singapore and Penang, a large majority of the mail and passenger ships which call at Singapore, either eastward bound or westward bound, call at Penang also. Christmas Island is served by the *s.s.* "Islander" belonging to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which maintains a five-weekly service.

In regard to its external sea communications the Colony is extremely favourably situated, Singapore being a modal point for traffic between Europe, Netherlands India and the Far East.

The slump in world trade continued throughout 1932 and shipping was proportionately affected—the tonnage showing a further decrease as compared with the year 1931. (*See* Tables on pages 40 and 41).

Owing to this depression there were more than 2,000 unemployed seamen (Chinese, Bengalis and Malays) in Singapore.

The tonnage of all vessels, *i.e.* merchant vessels, native craft, men-o'-war, etc., entered and cleared at the six ports of the Colony during the year 1932 was 45,781,288 tons, being a decrease of 405,459 tons as compared with the year 1931.

Of this decrease Singapore is responsible for 523,096 tons; Penang for 100,662 tons; Labuan, Dindings and Christmas Island together for 19,187 tons; while Malacca shows an increase of 237,486 tons.

Comparing the tonnage of merchant-vessels only (*i.e.* all vessels above 75 tons net register) the decrease is 194,996 tons.

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1928	..	..	..	42,987,154 tons
1929	..	..	..	45,435,395 „
1930	..	..	..	46,588,856 „
1931	..	..	..	*43,632,445 „
1932	..	..	..	43,437,449 „

* The apparent decrease in the tonnage is due to the change in classification from "under 50 tons" in 1930 to "under 75 tons" in 1931.

Statement showing Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels entering and clearing the Ports of the Straits Settlements, 1932

Nationality	Singapore						Penang					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	4987	10,001,858	..	..	56	242,516	2938	7,674,308	..	..	16	8,240
American ..	89	465,811	..	..	..	..	75	417,627	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	73	26,961	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	155	616,358		..	..	..	90	325,336	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	4568	6,389,201	..	..	..	..	1077	1,206,805	..	..	..	..
French ..	405	1,897,142	..	..	14	61,800	92	735,932	..	..	2	13,200
German ..	299	1,324,674	..	..	..	..	170	761,676	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	119	675,204	..	..	8	35,260	50	197,664	..	..	2	2,100
Japanese ..	1352	5,293,138	..	..	1	38,800	220	1,013,774	..	..	..	..
Latvian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	762	1,354,627	..	..	..	..	182	225,260	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	7	24,548	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	2	2,864	..	..	2	7,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	66	180,686	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	54	216,546	..	..	..	..	40	155,642	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	150	81,153	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	364	200,641	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1,738
Yugo Slavia ..	2	7,126	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	13454	28,758,538	30869	1,271,193	84	385,376	4934	12,714,024	12448	524,529	26	25,278
± 1931 ..	−631	−472,312	−2597	−110,810	+2	+60,026	−470	−13,412	−1269	−51,865	−16	−35,028

Statement showing Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels entering and clearing the Ports of the Straits Settlements, 1932

Nationality	MALACCA						LABUAN					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	1036	916,248	..	..	..	..	264	229,754	..	..	..	..
American ..	2	1,018	..	..	..	..	2	1,316	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	32	117,808	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	34	69,572	..	..	..	..	6	2,084	..	..	..	..
French ..	10	44,954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	72	314,712	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Latvian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	77	60,623	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1,436	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	32	24,482	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yugo Slavia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1295	1,549,417	5019	107,380	..	..	278	224,590	2923	29,983	..	..
± 1931 ..	−134	+178,524	−215	−16,620	..	..	+7	+3,138	+48	+4,172	−10	−20,714

NOTE:—To the above figures must be added:—
Dindings. Total Net Tonnage entered and cleared 1932:—84,506 tons—a decrease of 22,850 tons.
Christmas Island. Total Net Tonnage entered and cleared 1932:—96,474 tons—an increase of 17,016 tons.
Total Tonnage entered and cleared in 1932:—45,781,288—a decrease of 405,459 tons.
Total Merchant ship tonnage entered and cleared in 1932:—45,370,634 tons—a decrease of 409,753 tons.
Total Merchant ship tonnage over 75 tons entered and cleared in 1932:—43,437,449 tons—a decrease of 194,996 tons.
Total Merchant ship tonnage under 75 tons entered and cleared in 1932:—1,933,085 tons—a decrease of 214,857 tons.

B.—ROADS

The total mileage of metalled roads in the Colony at the end of 1932 was 936, of which 239 miles of roads and streets were maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and 697 miles in the Rural areas were maintained by the Public Works Department for Government. In addition to the metalled roads, there are 131 miles of gravel roads, natural road and hill path maintained by Government.

The mileage in the various Settlements is as follows:—

—	Municipal	Government			Total
	Roads & Streets	Metalled Roads	Unmetalled & natural Roads	Total	
Singapore	153·5	106·4	3·1	109·5	263
Penang	68	70·7	40·3	111·0	179
Dindings	..	33·4	19·7	53·1	53·1
P. Wellesley ..	..	181·5	25·6	207·1	207·1
Malacca	18	285·2	21·3	306·5	324·5
Labuan	..	19·8	21·4	41·2	41·2
Total ..	239·5	697·0	131·4	828·4	1067·9

Expenditure.—The total special expenditure on the remetalling and reconstruction of roads outside the Municipalities during the year was $353,029 and the length of roads so dealt with was 17.6 miles.

The expenditure on maintenance, amounting to $462,140, was reduced to a minimum owing to the need for strict economy, but the roads were nevertheless maintained at a standard of efficiency requisite to meet the demands of modern traffic.

The cost of maintenance per mile of metalled and unmetalled roads over the last five years was as under:—

	$
1928	871
1929	872
1930	970
1931	965
1932	558

The average cost over the same period was $855 per mile.

The principal reconstruction work was on the main Singapore—Johore road where a length of 8 miles is being widened to 30 feet between curbs, straightened, and surfaced with asphaltic concrete, 2½ miles having been completed by the end of the year.

The Singapore Municipality spent a sum of $1,022,203 on roadwork and drains, including 1.69 miles of new road construction. An experimental length of rubber roadway was laid in Raffles Place, one of the busiest shopping and business thoroughfares in Singapore. The rubber surface was laid by a firm of local contractors, by a patent process, in the form of a continuous carpet ¾″ thick.

The area laid was 871 square yards at a cost of $3,383 or $3.90 per square yard. The paving stands up well to the traffic and its resistence to skidding as measured by the co-efficient of friction, is greater than the best non-skid dressed sheet asphalt and concrete pavings in the city.

The Penang Municipality spent a sum of $97,974 and the Malacca Municipality a sum of $37,000 on maintenance and reconstruction of roads.

Traffic.—Most of the roads in the Colony are subject to very heavy motor lorry traffic and loads of 14 tons on two axles have been found using the highways. The average weight of traffic per day at the traffic census point on the 7th mile main Trunk Road (Singapore to Johore) was 5,157 tons, the intensity of traffic per foot width of road per day being 260 tons.

C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Singapore and Penang (Prai) are the termini of the main West Coast Line. Singapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, but communication between Prai and the island of Penang is by ferry. Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Penang another line runs North to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles.

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant cars and sleeping saloons. The journey of 488 miles takes 22 hours.

Deviation of the railway in Singapore between Bukit Timah and the Tanjong Pagar docks was completed and the line was opened for traffic on the 3rd May, 1932.

D.—AIRWAYS

Singapore Civil Aerodrome.—The construction of the Singapore Civil Aerodrome was commenced in 1931 and continued throughout 1932. It is hoped that it will be ready for use in 1936. The work involves the reclamation of approximately 264 acres of the Kallang Basin, a tidal basin, situated only two miles from the centre of Singapore and between the business and residential areas, which form the Eastern portion of the city. The amount of filling necessary for the reclamation work is estimated to be 7,000,000 cubic yards.

When it is completed Singapore will possess a landing ground of 1,000 yards diameter and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes practically in the heart of the city and fully equipped with hangars, workshops and offices for both land and seaplanes.

During 1932 $908,780 was spent, the actual reclamation work having been commenced in May.

Pending the completion of the Civil Aerodrome the Royal Air Force Base at Seletar is used by commercial aircraft through the courtesy of the Air Ministry, hangar accommodation having been specially provided for Civil aircraft.

Penang.—The construction of the Penang Civil Aerodrome near Bayan Lepas, about 10½ miles south of Georgetown, was commenced in March and the principal levelling and drainage work completed by the end of the year at a cost of $135,741. The turfing and finishing work was still in progress, but it is interesting to record that the first aeroplane to use the aerodrome landed unofficially in January, 1933.

The main landing ground is 1,000 yards in diameter and is drained by an open perimeter ditch and by a system of sub-soil drains. In addition a space is being provided 200 yards wide, all round the landing ground to give extra clearance for aeroplanes taking off.

Malacca.—Work has been carried out on the golf course at Lerek, six miles North of Malacca Town, to make a landing ground for aeroplanes in case of emergency.

Particulars of the Air Mail and public transport services are given in the section following dealing with posts.

E.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(a) Posts

Postal facilities are provided in all the towns and larger villages in the Straits Settlements. In addition to the Head Post Offices at Singapore, Penang and Malacca and the Post Office at Labuan, there were 57 post offices in the Colony on the 31st December, 1932, this number including various offices where limited postal duties are carried out by postal agents. The number of posting boxes, exclusive of those at Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies, was 195 on the 31st December. Ninety-four licences for the sale of stamps were issued during the year.

On the 1st January, 1932, the minimum rate of postage on local letters was raised from four cents to five cents, and on letters for other British Empire countries from six cents to eight cents. The postage rates now in force are as follows:—

—	Letters		Postcards		Printed Papers
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	Every two ozs.
Foreign ..	12 *cts.*	6 *cts.*	6 *cts.*	12 *cts.*	2 *cts.*
Imperial ..	8 „	4 „	4 „	8 „	2 „
Local ..	5 cents not exceeding 2 ozs.	1 „	2 „	4 „	2 „

The continued trade depression was reflected in the volume of business conducted by the Post Office throughout the year, most of the activities of the Department showing a decline as compared with previous years. The number of postal articles dealt with during 1932 is estimated at 40,760,530, a decrease of 11 per cent. as compared with 1931. These figures include official, ordinary, registered and insured letters, postcards, printed papers, commercial papers and sample packets and parcels. Closed mails in transit, to the number of 134,489 sacks, were handled at Singapore, Penang and Malacca, during the year.

Regular weekly mails for Europe were forwarded alternately by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company

and by the British India contract service *viâ* India. The average time taken by mails from Singapore to reach London was 23 days *viâ* India and 22 days by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. In the reverse direction mails from London to Singapore took an average time of 22 days in transit. Vessels of the Blue Funnel, Rotterdam Lloyd, Royal Dutch (Stoomvaart Maatschappij "Nederland"), Messageries Maritimes and Lloyd Trestino lines were also utilised for the transport to Europe of correspondence specially superscribed for conveyance by these vessels.

During the year there were a number of developments in connection with air mails and the volume of air mail correspondence continued greatly to increase. Very little use is now made by the public in the Straits Settlements of the Imperial Airway service between Karachi and London, as the time taken in transit from Malaya to London by this route, *viz.*, about 18 days, affords only a small advantage over the ordinary mails. The Dutch Air Mail in operation between Bandoeng and Amsterdam, calling at Alor Star, was however extensively used and continued to furnish a rapid, regular and reliable service, the average time taken in transit between Alor Star and London being about 9 days.

In March, air mails for the Sudan, Central, East and South Africa were instituted, to connect at Cairo with the southward-bound machines of Imperial Airways, conveyance from Alor Star to Cairo being effected by the Bandoeng—Amsterdam Dutch Air Mail. By this route, mails for Cape Town can reach their destination in 16 days from Alor Star.

The weekly Dutch Air Mail service between Singapore, Palembang and Batavia continued to operate successfully throughout the year, and the conveyance of air mail parcels by this service was introduced on the 1st July. The Dutch Air Mail from Singapore to Medan was discontinued in the early part of the year because of insufficient traffic. Additional air mails for Netherlands India are now despatched by the outward-bound machines on the Amsterdam—Bandoeng flight.

During the year special low air mail fees were made applicable to postcards addressed to various countries.

The operations of the Money Order Branch of the Post Office in 1932 amounted to $4,873,956; the principal business being with India, which absorbs about 60 per cent. of the total value of money orders issued in the Colony, and with the Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands India, Ceylon, China and Siam.

(b) Telegraphs

Eleven submarine cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang 5, thence to Madras 2.
to Colombo 2.
to Deli 1.
To Batavia 2, thence to Cocos 1.
To Banjoewangi 1, thence to Port Darwin 2.
To Hong Kong 1, thence to Manila 1.
thence to North China 1.
thence to Macao 1.
To Cochin China 1, thence to Hong Kong 1.
To Labuan 1, thence to Hong Kong 1.

There are also Government telegraphs lines from Penang to Province Wellesley and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. In Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings there are 179 miles of telegraph wire, 21 miles of submarine cable containing 379 miles of wire, 2,310 miles of overhead telephone wire, and 41 miles of underground telephone cables containing 6,610 miles of wire.

In Singapore, the route and wire mileage is as under—

	Route Mileage	Wire Mileage
On Public Roads and on Posts & Telegraphs Poles within Railway Reserves	49 Miles	145 Miles

There are 254 miles of telegraph and telephone line in Malacca.

There are 45 Telegraph Offices in the Colony. During the year 657,772 telegrams were dealt with, a decrease of 24 per cent. from the 1931 traffic.

(c) Telephones

The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is operated by the Oriental Telephone Company; the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca by the Post Office.

The number of direct exchange lines connected to the Telephone Exchanges in the Straits Settlements (excluding Singapore) on the 31st of December, 1932 was 1,552, a decrease of 238 compared with 1931. In addition there were 854 extension lines, extension bells and private lines, a decrease of 10 compared with 1931. The net revenue derived from telephones was $332,044, a decrease of $10,024, compared with the previous year.

The "Carrier Frequency" systems of speech transmission between Singapore and Penang and between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh, Federated Malay States, referred to in the previous year's report continued to work satisfactorily. The revenue derived from these links was well maintained throughout the year.

One additional telephone exchange at Kepala Batas in Province Wellesley was brought into service on 7th December, 1932.

As a convenience for long distance trunk users a "Personal Call" service was introduced on 15th June, 1932. This service permits of a call being booked for connection to a specified person, the trunk fee being chargeable only if the required person speaks. A small additional fee per call is charged to cover the extra cost of completing such calls. This fee is chargeable whether the call is effective or ineffective.

(d) Wireless

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony situated respectively at Paya Lebar, Singapore, and Penaga, Province Wellesley. The machinery and apparatus at both stations were maintained in good working order throughout the year and point to point and ship to shore communication was carried on without interruption. The station at Paya Lebar carries out point to point communication with Kuching, Sarawak and Christmas Island, in addition to a ship to shore service. The station at Penaga communicates with ship stations and receives the British Official Wireless press transmitted by Rugby. Point to point communication is established between Penaga and Bangkok; and telegraph business between Malaya and Siam is conducted by this means whenever there is a failure of the telegraph line between Penang and Bangkok.

Regular transmissions of broadcast programmes from the British Broadcasting Corporation's Empire Station at Daventry, England, were commenced on December 19th. These transmissions were received in this country between 9.30 P.M. and 11.30 P.M. local time.

CHAPTER XI

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures

A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, ½ cent and ¼ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter denomination. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5 and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.

During the War, and for some years after, notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony. When Great Britain abandoned the Gold Standard during the War and again in September 1931, the dollar automatically followed suit. The present position is therefore that the dollar is linked to sterling at the value of 2*s.* 4*d.* in terms of that currency.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2*s.* 4 3/16*d.* to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in

exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2*s.* 3¾*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $68,496,575 in currency notes and $3,612,793 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $136,417 as compared with $136,690 at the end of 1931.

At the beginning of the year 1932 the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $67,414,796. There was a slight demand by the public for Currency during the month of February, to meet which $425,700 were issued in exchange for sterling. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for silver current coin during the year under review, the result over the whole year being that on 31st December, 1932, the note circulation stood at $68,496,575.

The liquid portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $42,538,392.67, consisting of $19,267,235.31 in silver and $2,539,163.36 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £2,418,732.12.8. in sterling and short dated investments in London. During the year on account of the high premium on gold in terms of sterling opportunity was taken to realise the gold held locally and in London amounting to £401,582. The profit on the sale amounted to $1,126,433.33 and was carried to the credit of the liquid portion.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $84,893,334.58; the cost price of those investments having been $78,432,436.16.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.* in current silver coin in the Colony and in Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year was $42,538,392.67 and the investment portion amounted to $84,949,249.67. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $58,991,066.59 as compared with an excess of $45,254,421.87 at the end of 1931.

There was a nett withdrawal by the Treasury of $275,407 in subsidiary silver coins during the year and a nett decrease of $2,366 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $9,181,554 were in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $725,228 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1930 was $729,841.25 and at the end of 1931 $727,657.25.

Sixteen millions two hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and one and three-quarter notes to the value of $73,732,750 were destroyed during the year as against 17,237,573¾ to the value of $83,528,735 in 1931.

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year 1932:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
„ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
„ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited.
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
„ Banque de L'Indo Chine.
„ National City Bank of New York.
„ Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
„ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
„ Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
„ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
„ Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
„ Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
„ China and Southern Bank, Limited.
„ Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
„ Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
„ Kwong Lee Banking Company.
„ Eastern Bank, Limited.
„ National Commercial and Savings Bank, Limited.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 5/32 and 2/3¾. The higher rate was obtainable only over a very short period at the beginning of the first quarter.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December was 29,630 as compared with 27,324 on the 31st December, 1931, an increase of 2,306. During the year 7,211 new accounts were opened, while 4,905 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was $5,725,444 as compared with $5,028,579 on the 31st December, 1931. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $193 as compared with $184 at the end of 1931.

The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December was $5,449,929 and the market value of these investments according to Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $6,252,006.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(a) Standard of Length, the Imperial yard.
(b) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.
(c) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese steelyards (called "daching") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal local measures used with their relation to English standards:—

Local Term		*Relation to English Standard*	
The chupak	equals	1	quart.
The gantang	,,	1	gallon.
The tahil	,,	$1\frac{1}{3}$	ozs.
The kati (16 tahils) ..	,,	$1\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.
The pikul (100 katis) ..	,,	$133\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls) ..	,,	$5,333\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.

CHAPTER XII

Public Works

The Public Works Department underwent a change on the 1st January, 1932, when the staffs of the departments in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States were amalgamated into a single Malayan Civil Engineering Service. The title of the Colonial Engineer, Straits Settlements, was changed to that of Director of Public Works, Straits Settlements and Adviser, Public Works, to the Malay States.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department of the Straits Settlements for the year 1932 was $8,874,769, a decrease of $3,837,395 compared with the year 1931.

The details of the expenditure are shown in the following table:—

Head of Estimates	Expenditure	Settlement	Total Expenditure	Expenditure Extraordinary
Personal Emoluments	690,471	Singapore ..	5,480,042	4,122,514
Other Charges ..	188,234	Penang ..	1,180,409	747,768
P. W. Annually Recurrent	1,702,793	Dindings ..	95,835	39,080
P. W. Extraordinary	6,211,720	Province Wellesley	556,405	230,670
Miscellaneous Services	4,310	Malacca ..	1,514,312	1,053,162
Work done for the Departments ..	77,240	Labuan ..	47,765	18,525
Total ..	8,874,768	Total ..	8,874,768	6,211,719

The percentage cost of establishment to total expenditure was 7.8%.

The senior staff of the Department on 31st December, 1932 consisted of 33 Engineers and 7 Architects compared with 35 Engineers and 7 Architects on 31st December, 1931.

The average value of work carried out per Engineer unit, including Architects, was $221,869.

The Roads and Government Buildings in the Colony were maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the year, the expenditure on maintenance work being as follows:—

	1932 Exp.	1931
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals ..	792,422	1,460,718
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works ..	910,371	1,018,138
	1,702,793	2,478,856

In addition to the Road maintenance work a sum of $741,148 was spent on reconstruction, widening and straightening. The roadwork is described in Chapter X *B*.

The total expenditure on new buildings and miscellaneous works was $5,470,578 (compared with $8,711,591 in 1931).

The principal works of interest completed during the year were as under:—

Singapore.—

Telok Ayer Basin, completed at a cost of $1,682,000 and officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on 26th September, 1932.

Quarters for 14 married Dressers ($69,000) and 100 Attendants ($153,680) at the General Hospital.

New Volunteer Headquarters and Drill Hall ($265,000).

Barracks for married Sikh Police at Pearls Hill ($385,000).

New Monopolies Building, Wallich Street, including Post Office and Film Censors Office ($313,120).

Installation of machinery at new Printing Office ($201,500).

School at Bukit Panjang ($122,000).

Penang.—

The Penang Trade School.

New Assembly Hall for Hutching's School and various extensions.

Malacca.—

Malacca Portuguese Settlement and groynes for its protection.

Emergency landing ground for aeroplanes.

The following were the largest works in hand, but not completed at the end of the year.

Singapore.—

New Civil Aerodrome.

The new Pier, the structure of which has since been completed at a cost of $463,000.

New Maternity Ward at Kandang Kerbau Hospital.

New Police Barracks at Hill Street.

Central Police Station.

Police Station and Quarters at Kandang Kerbau.

Police Station, Beach Road.

Reclamation of the foreshore in front of Beach Road.

Reclamation, dredging and new road construction at Sungei Berlayer.

Penang.—

Landing Ground for Civil Aerodrome.

Penang Hospital—100 Attendants Quarters.
Class III Wards.
Nursing Staff Quarters.

Province Wellesley.—

Water Supply, Bukit Mertajam, Prai and Butterworth.

Malacca.—

New General Hospital estimated to cost $2,030,000.

New General Post Office.

Waterworks.—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are adequate and up-to-date. The various installations in the rest of the Straits Settlements are controlled by the Public Works Department and were maintained throughout the year.

Investigations and preparatory work were carried out for new supplies in Penang Island and for the villages of Mesjid Tanah and Batang Malaka in Malacca.

Work on the 12″ pipe line for the new supply to Bukit Mertajam and Prai was commenced.

Electric Light and Power.—Power Stations are owned and operated by the Municipalities of Singapore and Penang and also by the Singapore Harbour Board. Electric current for Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley is obtained on contract from the Penang Municipality. Malacca Electric Lighting, Ltd. supplies Electricity in the Malacca Municipal Area.

Small installations outside these areas and the installations to all Government Buildings are maintained by the Public Works Department, the total expenditure on maintenance in 1932 being $180,080.

Reclamation Work and Dredging.—One of the principal events of the year was the successful completion and ceremonial opening of Telok Ayer Basin which marked the finish of a major improvement scheme. The Telok Ayer Reclamation work was commenced over 40 years ago and has included the reclamation of 75 acres of valuable land in the heart of Singapore, the construction in 1908 of a detached

breakwater and sheltered wharves and the construction in 1930–32 of a Tidal Basin, for light craft, of 25 acres, lined with a stepped sea wall 3,077 feet long.

Another important improvement scheme, Beach Road Reclamation, was commenced in 1931 and by the end of 1932 205,000 cubic yards of earth filling and dredgings were deposited, reclaiming approximately 7 acres of foreshore. The total area to be reclaimed is 47 acres.

The reclamation of other areas in Singapore was continued, the works in hand being nearly completed by the end of the year.

The Dredgers "Mudlark", "Tembakul" and "Todak" carried out deepening work in the Singapore River, Telok Ayer Basin and Sungei Berlayer throughout the year and 366,000 cubic yards of material was removed and deposited on the reclamations.

Two small grab dredgers were obtained from England and put to work at Telok Ayer and the Rochore River towards the end of the year.

The rivers and drainage channels in Singapore, Penang and the Dindings, and the sea and river walls and lighthouses were maintained in good condition.

Apart from some river clearing, the Irrigation and Drainage work previously carried out by the Public Works Department in Malacca and Province Wellesley was handed over to the new Drainage and Irrigation Department.

Sanitation.—The Singapore Municipal Sewage Department controls 62 miles of sewers, pumping plants and a Disposal works, dealing with 4,000,000 gallons a day, but there is still a large part of Singapore not yet sewered. Schemes and estimates for sewering the rest of Singapore have been prepared and investigations made into the possibility of discharging sewage to sea and the question is being referred to a consultant.

Penang.—Work on the Penang main sewerage scheme was commenced during the year and the sea outfall flume was constructed.

Where possible Government buildings and quarters are connected to these Municipal sewage schemes, but elsewhere small septic tank installations are relied on in all districts for water borne sewage. The maintenance of all sanitary installations was carried out by departmental labour. The principal Sanitation Scheme installed during the year was at the important St. John's Island Quarantine Station, four miles off Singapore, where a sea-water borne sewerage scheme costing $150,000 was installed. The system which includes a complete salt water supply for its operation is designed for dealing with 80,000 gallons per day and necessitated the laying of five miles of pipes.

General

The Public Works Department entered into 374 contracts during the year and completed 413, 101 having been in hand on 31st December, 1932.

There was a fall during the year in the cost of both labour and materials and there was keen tendering for all works.

The Retrenchment Committee appointed by Government in October, 1931 made its report in 1932. The total amount originally provided in the Estimates for Public Works was $18,013,258. As a result of the recommendations of the Committee savings amounting to $5,662,766 were effected in the estimates, reducing the figure to $12,350,492, while the actual expenditure amounted to $8,874,768 or $3,475,724 less than the reduced provision.

This reduction in work caused a large reduction in staff employed. Many skilled workmen have left the country and will be difficult to replace when again required.

Drainage and Irrigation

The Drainage and Irrigation Department, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, was created in January, 1932 as a result of the recommendations of the Rice Cultivation Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor and High Commissioner to report upon the problem of extending rice cultivation in Malaya. From that date all matters pertaining to drainage and irrigation were transferred from the control of the Public Works Department to that of the new department. The staff was drawn from the Public Works Department.

Owing to its central position and to the fact that accommodation was available, Kuala Lumpur was chosen as the headquarters of the organisation.

When the department was first formed there was only one irrigation engineer at work in the Colony. He was stationed at Malacca, where for several years irrigation schemes on a small scale had been planned and carried out by the Public Works Department. The activities of the Department in 1932 were therefore confined, principally, to carrying on drainage and irrigation works in Malacca and the survey and investigation of potential padi areas in Province Wellesley, the Dindings and Penang Island.

Malacca.—In Malacca satisfactory progress was made on a scheme originally designed by the Public Works Department for the irrigation of 313 acres of existing and 359 acres of potential padi land at Chohong.

Another scheme for the drainage and irrigation of about 2,600 acres of swamp in the Bachang—Tanjong Minyak area was re-designed and a considerable reduction was thereby made in the estimated expenditure, while the area to be brought under cultivation was increased by about 400 acres, but owing to the imperative need for economy work, was held up until the end of the year.

In addition several minor schemes were prepared for execution in 1933 and extensive surveys were undertaken. All existing irrigation dams in Malacca were maintained by the Department.

A Drainage Board was constituted for Malacca Settlement and two meetings were held during the year.

The total expenditure for Malacca for 1932 under all heads was $23,289 and the staff at the end of the year consisted of one Assistant Drainage and Irrigation Engineer, four Technical Subordinates, one

temporary Surveyor and one Clerk, for all of whom special provision had to be made.

Penang.—There was no provision for the establishment of a branch of the new department for the Settlement of Penang, but recommendations to this end were made during the year and subsequently His Excellency the Governor approved, in principle, the formation of such a Branch with headquarters in Province Wellesley where there are extensive areas awaiting development.

There were no items of Special Expenditure in the 1932 Estimates, and the total expenditure from Annually Recurrent votes was only $1,375.

The Drainage and Irrigation Engineer, Krian, Federated Malay States, inspected the irrigation works of Glugor Estate, Penang and reported on desirable improvements to the system. He also carried out a contour survey of the trans-Krian area in Province Wellesley and prepared a preliminary scheme for the irrigation of the area by utilising the waters of the Krian Irrigation System when supplemented and investigated the Sungei Junjong Mati in Province Wellesley with a view to improving the drainage of padi lands in that area.

Investigations in the Dindings were made into the proposal to construct a bund at Tanjong Burong to keep out sea water, the capacity of an outlet drain serving Huntley Estate (Lumut) to drain adjoining areas and the potentialities for wet padi cultivation of an area south of the Melintang Forest Reserve.

A Drainage and Irrigation Board was also constituted for the Settlement of Penang at the end of the year.

CHAPTER XIII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

The Courts for the administration of civil and criminal law in the Colony are as follows:—

(a) The Supreme Court
(b) District Courts
(c) Police Courts
(d) Coroners' Courts

An Ordinance (No. 5 of 1931) providing for the creation of a Court of Criminal Appeal, to hear appeals from convictions had in trials before the Supreme Court, was passed in 1931, but has not yet been brought into force.

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record and exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction, in each case both original and appellate. When exercising appellate civil jurisdiction, the Court is styled the Court of Appeal. An appeal may lie from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. Criminal trials are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

District Courts, presided over by a District Judge, are constituted in each of the four Settlements. They have both civil and criminal jurisdiction, for the exercise of which, in the case of Singapore, separate Courts exist. In certain instances, the District Judge is assisted by an Assistant District Judge. The jurisdiction of District Courts is, normally, limited to suits involving not more than $500, when heard before a District Judge and $100, when heard before an Assistant District Judge.

Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is, in the main, criminal and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

B.—POLICE

(i).—Organisation

The organisation of the Straits Settlements Police is shewn in the subjoined diagram. Briefly the scheme is that each Settlement is in charge of a Chief Police Officer, whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended, in most cases, by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties, but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

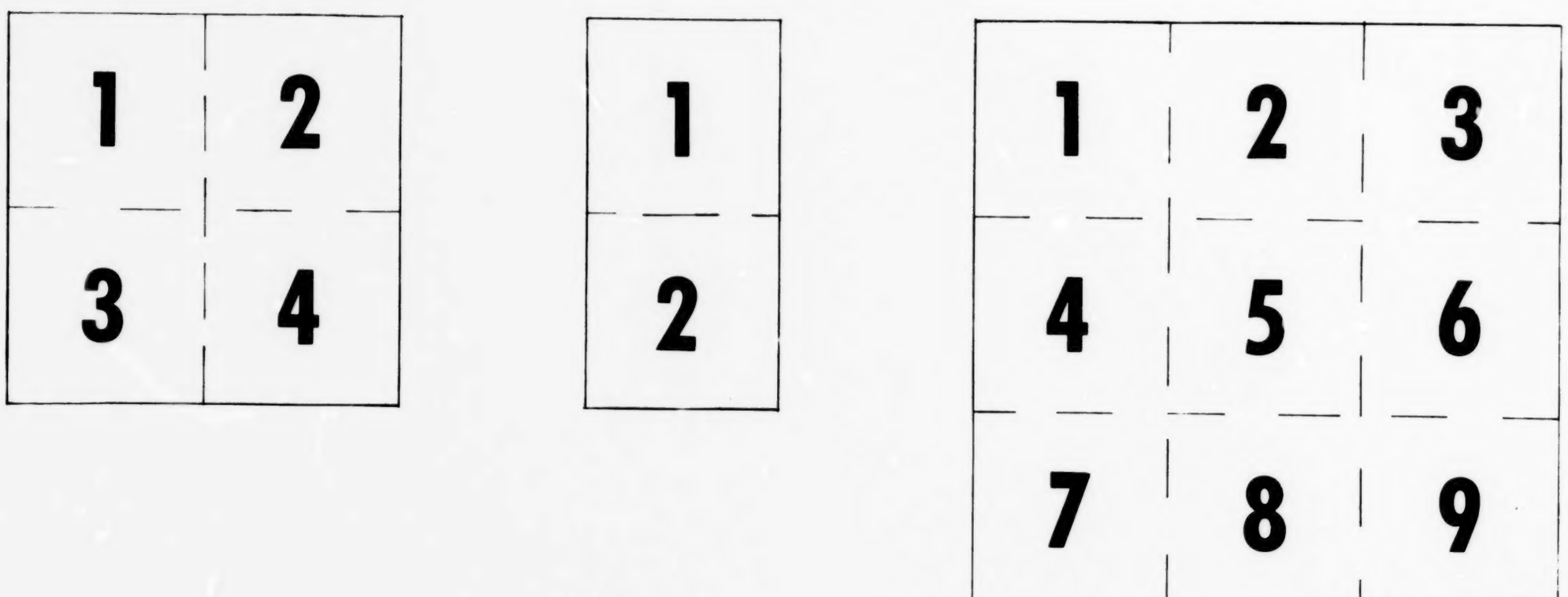
(a) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned in the investigation of any crime which is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(b) The Depôt, at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men of the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

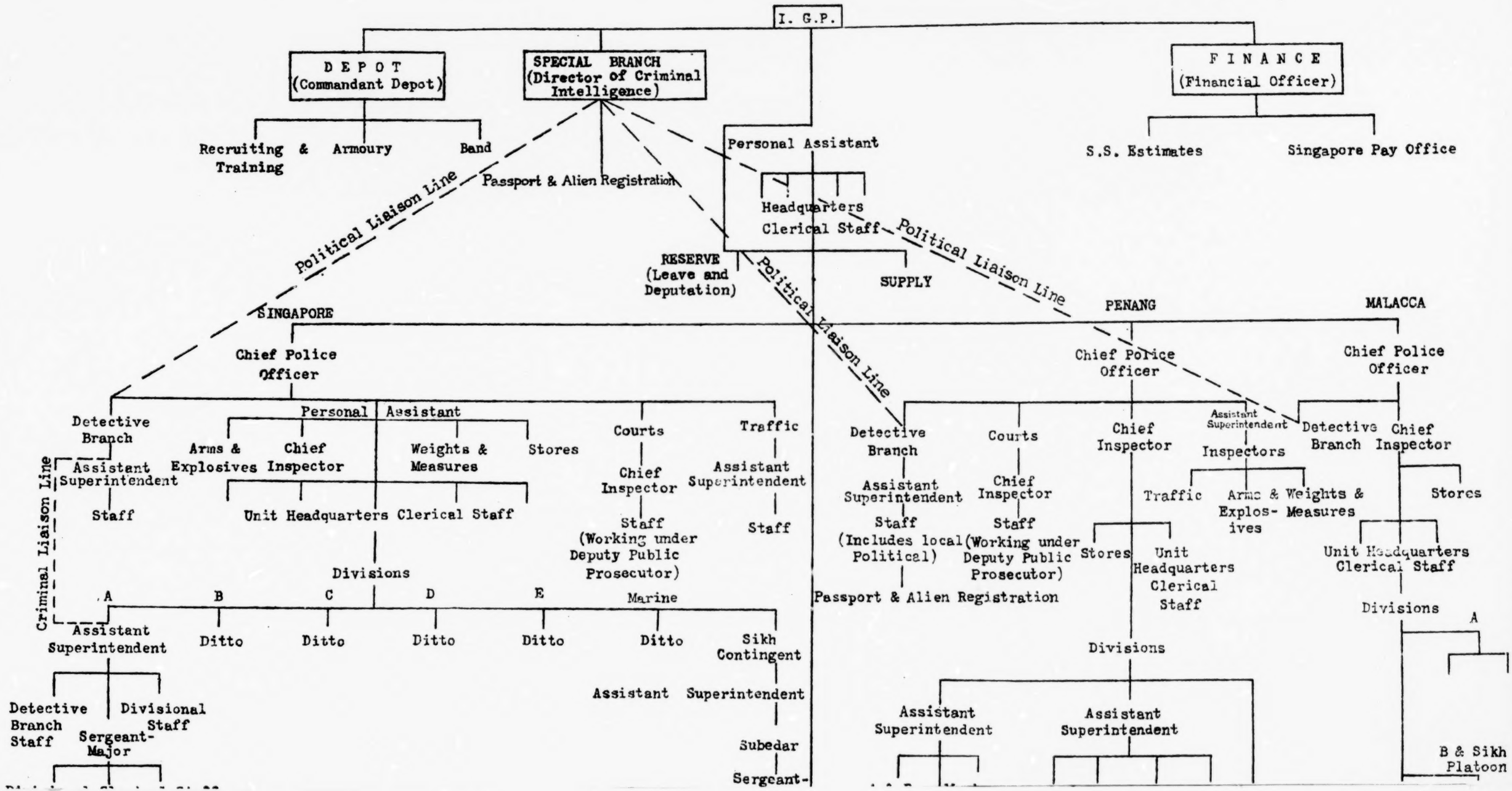
(c) The Financial Branch.

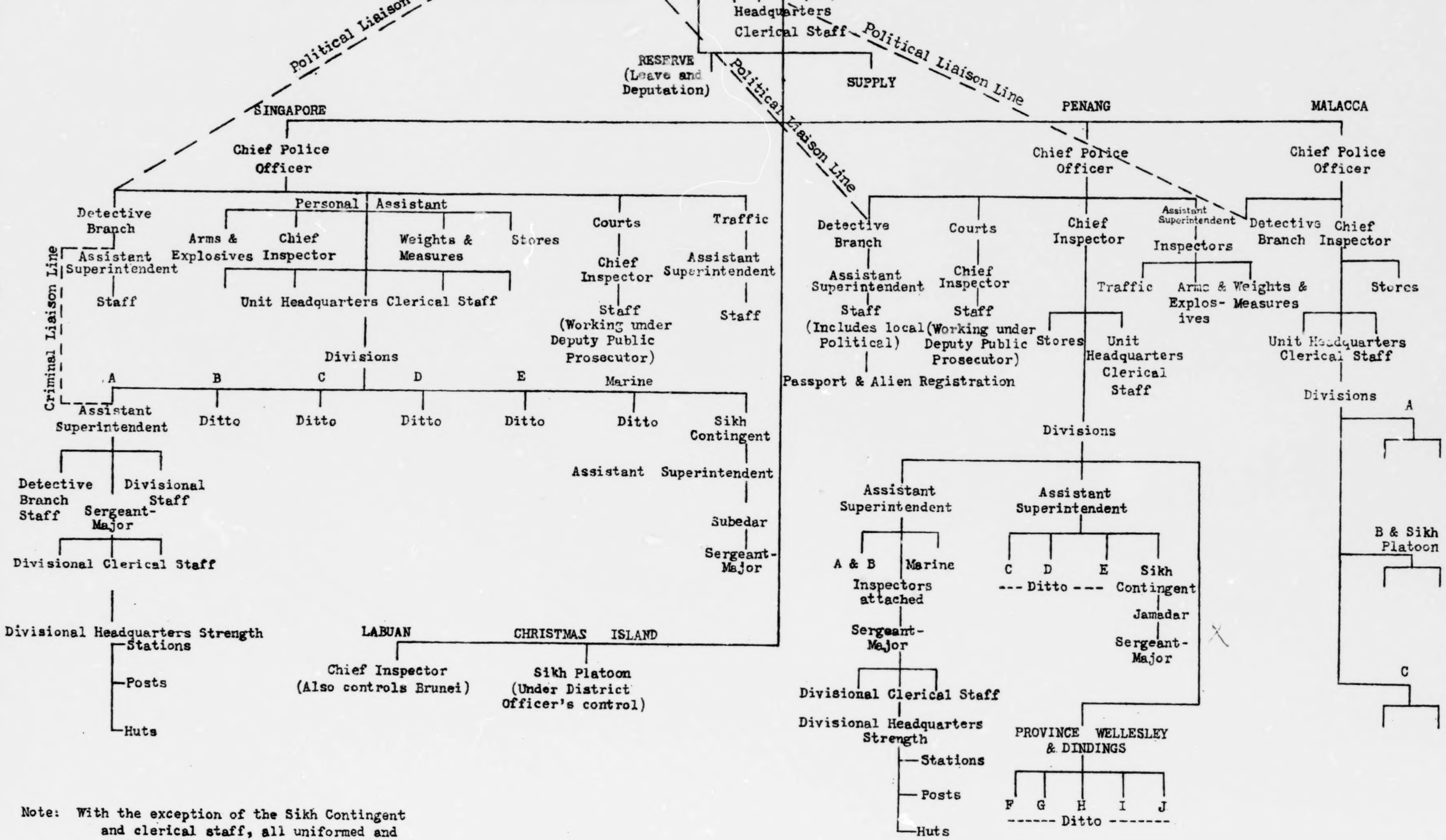
Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, the former being an Officer

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



ORGANISATION OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POLICE





Note: With the exception of the Sikh Contingent and clerical staff, all uniformed and plain clothes officers are supplied by the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent.

of the Attorney-General's staff, the latter an Officer of the Malayan Civil Service. They are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts.

The Singapore office includes the Settlement of Malacca within its scope.

(ii).—Crime

Seizable offences reported during 1932 numbered 7,440, a decrease of 46 compared with the 1931 figure. Arrests were made in 3,477 of the cases and resulted in the accused in 2,687 cases being convicted.

The decrease in the number of crimes of violence against the person reported in 1931 was even more pronounced in 1932.

The total number of robberies of all kinds is the same as last year. Simple thefts and thefts in dwellings combined shewed increases in all Settlements, particularly so in Penang and Malacca. On the other hand Province Wellesley shewed a slight decrease. The Malacca figure is the most unsatisfactory, the Settlement total being about 60% above the average for the period 1927–1930 inclusive. A part of this increase is attributed locally to thefts by coolies leaving the Settlement on repatriation and by tapping coolies who have made reports to cover their own defalcations.

Housebreakings and thefts shew small decreases in Singapore and Malacca, which are almost entirely offset by increases in Penang and Province Wellesley. The total, 856, is 16 below that of 1931. During the past few years there has been an unusual increase in this type of crime throughout the Colony, which cannot be ascribed solely to stricter methods of classification. Compared with 1927 there has been a rise of 100% in Singapore and 50% in Penang, while the Province Wellesley and Malacca totals have trebled themselves.

Cases of extortion were less numerous than in 1931, Malacca being the only Settlement in which the figure has risen. In addition to 77 actual cases of extortion, there were 78 recorded attempts, 74 of which belong to Singapore.

Other noticeable points in respect of seizable crime include a drop from 46 reports in 1931 to 8 in 1932 under the heading "Exposure of infants"; a further rise in the number of serious cheatings or frauds, a type of offence which is twice as numerous as it was a few years ago, and a considerable decrease in the number of prosecutions under the Seditious Publications Ordinance.

Reports of non-seizable offences totalled 91,274 as compared with 97,965 in 1931. In 64,323 of these cases prosecutions were undertaken by the Police.

(iii).—Secret Societies

The following remarks apply almost exclusively to Singapore. Society and faction troubles in Penang were negligible, while Malacca suffered only from the misdoings of various gangs of coolies and loafers banded together by loose ties and quarrelling or "squeezing" spasmodically.

It can truthfully be said, for the first time in several decades, that the actual damage achieved by society and gang activity has

been almost negligible. This effect has been attained, however, only by constant drudgery in seeking and recording information of the daily and weekly movements of the leaders of each gang and by making it plain that the Police are aware of their doings and intentions. Trouble is avoided only by an up-to-date intelligence service and the year has not passed by without various alarms and several reports of potential as well as actual disturbances.

The attack on known leaders of gangs and societies and the prompt punishment or expulsion of those whose doings threaten the peace and good order of the town help to break up each combination before it becomes well established and makes leadership unpopular. Society finance is in a very parlous state. Without funds and permanent leaders nothing important or prolonged can be sustained. The absence of serious trouble enables the specialist detective branches to concentrate more and more upon the doings of individual members. The obvious improvement of this intelligence service has earned the appreciation of the Courts and the department has not lacked support in that direction. The proceeds of such extortion or squeezing as was carried out in 1932 in all probability found their way into individuals' pockets rather than into gang or society funds.

There was only one murder during the year ascribable to society activity and, apart from one serious affray in December, no important disturbance connected with society or gang activity.

Hokkien Societies

Singapore.—Only five groups of Hokkien societies, comprising 70 pangkengs or coolie houses, remained as separate organisations at the end of the year and at least half of these pangkengs were barely kept alive from day to day. Even the stabler half are more in the nature of gangs of hooligans employed in the settlement of disputes than of members of any centralised organisation.

There were 20 fights or affrays between members of these various groups and gangs and three other fights between them and Cantonese or Teo Chiu gangs. Firearms are alleged or known to have been used in three cases, but without deadly intention. In several cases trouble had been anticipated and police precautions prevented developments. Inter-gang rivalry was the direct cause of the fighting in four cases only. Miscellaneous causes, such as petty extortion from hawkers, quarrels about debts and forged notes, rivalry in the twakow traffic and other forms of business accounted for many other cases. In two cases police officers on duty in the streets were attacked. Five cases can definitely be attributed to hooligans preying upon waitresses in coffee shops or upon the shop-keepers. A large number of men was arrested and many were expelled from the country or convicted and punished.

There were also three clan fights, two of which arose out of petty gambling quarrels. None of these cases had any group or pangkeng significance. Society documents were found on several occasions, but in most cases had obviously been "planted". Genuine documents are rarely found in these days.

Teo Chiu Societies

Singapore.—Two of the Teo Chiu societies active in 1931 have disappeared, leaving about ten societies or groups, which call for constant supervision. All have been comparatively quiet, including the once powerful and dangerous San Ji group. There were only eight fights or affrays between members of these various groups or gangs and one fight with bullies of the Hokkien "24" group. A raid was made on the pangkeng of the Seh Tang group on the 15th September and the headman was killed accidentally by falling from a height in the rush to quit the premises.

There was no recorded case of firearms being used during these fights. There was a good deal of extortion, but no case of interference with waitresses in coffee shops. The Police effected a large number of arrests and were able to expel or punish most of the persons arrested.

Cantonese Societies

Singapore.—Activity was very much curtailed throughout the year; there was no organised action and the various groups found it difficult to raise funds. There was little gang fighting, the most serious affair being a fight between two sub-branches of the Khuan Yi society, when four men on one side were stabbed, one fatally. The cause of the fight was jealousy over the collection of so-called protection money from coffee shop waitresses. Except for one other stabbing affray between men belonging to branches of the Khuan Yi and the powerful Heng group, all other disputes were of minor importance.

Firearms were carried on several occasions, but generally for the purpose of intimidation. Shots were fired by Cantonese gangsters once only during a fight with Hokkiens of the "24" group—this case is one of the three mentioned above. In all there were seven arrests of Cantonese in possession of firearms, resulting in five convictions. One accused died while awaiting trial.

The Heng Yau branch, which had been dormant since the middle of 1931, attempted to revive, but the arrest and conviction of the headman in possession of documents, etc., effectively quashed the effort. Another branch of the Heng group, the Heng Wah, received a severe setback with the arrest and conviction of four men, the seizure of a pistol, knives and several society documents.

Boyanese Societies

Singapore.—There is little worth comment under this heading. Records have been kept up-to-date. There has not been any trouble worth mention and one or two of the "pondoks" have been formally registered.

C.—PRISONS

At the beginning of the year there were 1,888 prisoners in the five prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island). Twenty-one thousand six hundred and seventy-three were admitted during the year as compared with 21,518 during 1931 and 21,676 were discharged. One thousand eight hundred and eighty-five remained at the end of the year. There were 294 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 2,040 were admitted and 1,969 were discharged.

"Lower-Grade", "Short-Sentence" and "Revenue-Grade" men are employed at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

"Middle-Grade" prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The "Upper-Grade" men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc.

Remission of sentence may be earned by prisoners sentenced to Penal Servitude or Rigorous Imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile prisoners are kept separate from adult prisoners, as far as conditions permit.

At present, time is not allowed for the payment of fines, but this question is under consideration.

Under Section 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code Courts may, in their discretion, release on probation any first offender convicted of theft, cheating or any other offence punishable with not more than two years' imprisonment.

The health of the prisoners has been satisfactory throughout the year and the rations have been good and adequate.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory, Singapore, is the only institution in the Straits Settlements for the incarceration of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and it is not in any way connected with Prisons administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of 7 and 16 are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of 18.

At the end of 1931 the inmates numbered 126. Sixty-eight were released and 63 admitted during 1932. One died during the year. At the end of 1932 there were thus 120 inmates.

Of the 63 boys admitted during the year, 51 were from the Straits Settlements, 10 from the Federated Malay States and 2 from the Unfederated Malay States. Fifty-three were Chinese, 4 were Malays and 6 were Indians. Forty-seven were committed for criminal offences, including attempted rape, criminal breach of trust, fraudulent possession of property, housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 32 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 15 were committed for vagrancy and 1 as being uncontrollable.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, cooks, rubber tappers, grass cutters, gardeners, washermen, orderlies and general coolies. They were all taught Romanised Malay for two hours daily, with the exception of 9, who continued their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

Boys released, who had no parents or relatives or friends, were either found work or were adopted by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Twenty-five Ordinances were passed during the year 1932. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and fifteen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The list of Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances is as follows:—

(1) The Public Revenue Protection Ordinance (No. 3) empowers the Governor to issue a temporary order authorising the immediate collection of the new duties set forth in a Bill or Resolution approved by the Executive Council and pending before the Legislative Council.

(2) The Mui Tsai Ordinance (No. 5) makes it clear that a mui tsai is not to be given the status of a chattel and provides for a system of registration of such females.

(3) The Pensions (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance (No. 7) in the interests of economy permits the retirement irrespective of age of public officers with not less than 10 years' service. The Ordinance is intended as a temporary measure and consequently provision is made for it to cease to be in force when so ordered by the Governor in Council.

(4) The Audit Department Titles Ordinance (No. 8) alters the title of the Auditor-General to that of "Auditor".

(5) The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 9) which is modelled chiefly on the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, No. VIII of 1923 enables workmen engaged in certain hazardous occupations to recover compensation in respect of personal injury caused by any accident arising out of, and in the course of, their employment.

(6) The Aliens Ordinance (No. 18) regulates the admission and residence of aliens in accordance with the political, social and economic needs of the various administrations of Malaya. It also provides an easy method of deporting undesirables.

(7) The Daylight Saving Ordinance (No. 21) provides for the time of the Straits Settlements being twenty minutes further in advance of Greenwich mean time.

(8) The Registration Ordinance (No. 25) makes provision for the compulsory registration of such male British Subjects of pure European descent as are of military age with the object of facilitating the preparation of schemes for the best utilization of available man power in cases of emergency.

The list of Amending Ordinances is as follows:—

(1) The Passengers Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) extends the provisions of the law to regulate the entrance or departure of persons either by land or air.

(2) The Railways (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2), in order to avoid delay, empowers the Railway Administration to fix special rates, subject to a statutory maximum, without reference to the Governor in Council for approval.

(3) The Seditious Publications (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 4) empowers action to be taken in the Colony in respect of publications directed against the Rulers or Governments of any of the Malay States.

(4) The Alien Missionaries (Repeal) Ordinance (No. 6) removes the restrictions imposed on aliens engaged in missionary or educational work in the Colony.

(5) The Vagrancy (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) provides for a simple and definite procedure for regularising the removal of lunatic or leprous vagrants to a lunatic or leper asylum and their return to the house of detention when cured. The liability of vagrants to punishment for refusal or neglect to avail themselves of employment found is repealed, and the Ordinance is extended to apply to alien vagrants repatriated or dealt with by all protected Malay States.

(6) The Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 11) effects a number of miscellaneous alterations which experience has shown to be necessary.

(7) The Cinematograph Films (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) gives more effective control over the importation of films and makes certain other amendments considered desirable in the light of experience gained since the Cinematograph Films Ordinance was passed in 1928.

(8) The Registration of Aliens (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) enables an alien, where the alien's destination is within the Malay Peninsula, to travel without having his passport or certificate of registration endorsed. Where the alien's destination is outside the Malay Peninsula the existing requirement for endorsement prescribed in the case of journeys by sea is extended to journeys by air.

(9) The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) abolishes the system requiring an employer to send to the Controller of Labour a statement giving particulars of each labourer newly engaged. It also provides that a domestic servant under 18 may leave his employer's service without notice, unless a legal agreement to the contrary has been entered into.

(10) The Billiards (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) constitutes the Chief Police Officer as the authority for the licensing of billiard saloons *vice* the Board of Licensing Justices.

(11) The Imperial Light Dues (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17), in accordance with the direction of the Secretary of State in his Despatch No. 148 of 18th

April, 1932, authorises the collection in the Colony of dues in respect of certain lighthouses and a buoy in the West Indies.

(12) The Telegraphs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) vests in the Governor in Council certain powers for the control of wireless telegraphy. Power is also conferred on the Governor, in cases of emergency, to withdraw the use of any telephone trunk line or exchange system.

(13) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 20) introduces certain alterations in the conduct of examinations for certificates of competency, and provisions for the return of distressed seamen, for the compliance of foreign vessels with the law relating to life-saving appliances and load-line, and for an improved method of registering and licensing boats.

(14) The Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 23) removes the anomaly whereby prohibited articles posted outside the Colony are free from the restrictions which apply to such articles posted within the Colony.

(15) The Women and Girls Protection (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 24) includes among other amendments a provision for the trial in camera of certain other offences affecting the person and a provision to regularise the practice of receiving women and girls from certain of the Unfederated Malay States for detention in the Colony.

The Subsidiary Legislation issued during the year was as follows:—

(1) Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery)—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 4 for the inspection and control of machinery and approved by the Legislative Council on 26th January, 1932, are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 215 of 5th February, 1932.

(2) Ordinance No. 55 (Telegraphs)—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 6 to provide for the acceptance of night letter telegrams are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1627 of 26th August, 1932.

(3) Ordinance No. 80 (Military Manœuvres)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 9 it is proclaimed in *Gazette* Notification No. 55 of 15th January, 1932, that all the area within the limits defined therein shall be a firing ground.

Rules made by the General Officer Commanding the Troops under section 12 in respect of the use of the firing ground proclaimed in *Gazette* Notification No. 55 of 15th January, 1932, are published in the *Gazette* Notification No. 56 of 15th January, 1932.

Rules made by the General Officer Commanding the Troops under section 12 for securing the safety of the

public during the use of the firing ground are published in the *Gazette* Notification No. 1526 of 12th August, 1932.

Rules made by the General Officer Commanding the Troops under section 16 and approved by the Legislative Council on 4th April, 1932, are published in the *Gazette* Notification No. 704 of 15th April, 1932.

(4) Ordinance No. 88 (Wild Animals and Birds)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 2 (*c*) it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 757 of 22nd April, 1932, that the killing or taking of the bird commonly known as the Christmas Island Fruit Pigeon is prohibited within the area of Christmas Island for the period of one year from the date of the publication of the notification.

(5) Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal)—By-laws for the suppression of cruelty, by overloading, to draught cattle and buffaloes in the Rural Board of Penang made under section 57 (1) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2249 of 13th November, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council on 25th February, 1932.

By-laws for the use and storage of cellulose solutions made under sections 204 (6), 57 (i) (*ff*), and 370 and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 395 of 26th February, 1932, were confirmed by the Governor in Council on 14th March, 1932.

(6) Ordinance No. 151 (Seditious Publications)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 4 it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 59 of 15th January, 1932, that the importation or bringing into the Colony of the Hindi newspaper known as "Swantantra" is prohibited.

(7) Ordinance No. 176 (Passports)—New Regulations prohibiting any person or class of persons from entering or leaving the Colony without the production of a valid passport are made by the Governor in Council under section 2 and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1236 of 1st July, 1932.

(8) Registration of Schools Ordinance 1926—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 27 (i) (*c*) it is published in *Gazette* Notification No. 2256 of 25th November, 1932, that the use of certain text books in registered schools is prohibited.

(9) Architects Ordinance 1926—By-laws made under section 3 (2) to provide for the registration and examination of architects in the Colony are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1343 of 8th July, 1932.

(10) Immigration Restriction Ordinance 1928—Proclamations dated 30th March, 1932, 27th May, 1932, and 31st August, 1932, prohibit the entry of adult male Chinese immigrant labourers into the Colony for further

period of three months as it is considered that the entry of such labourers is likely to increase the severity of unemployment in the Colony.

(11) Women and Girls Protection Ordinance 1930—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 23 for the protection of women and girls and approved by the Legislative Council on 8th August, 1932, are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1523 of 12th August, 1932.

(12) Mui Tsai Ordinance 1932—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 13 for the registration and control of the mui tsais are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 2300 of 2nd December, 1932.

(13) Aliens Ordinance 1932—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 30 for the control of aliens admitted into the Colony are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 2445 of 17th December, 1932.

As regards factory legislation, Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery) makes provision for the inspection of boilers, engines and other machinery and for regulating their control and working. Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 4 for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the Ordinance and published as Notification No. 2142 in the Gazette of 30th October, 1931, were approved by the Legislative Council on 26th January, 1933, and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 215 of 5th February, 1933.

Ordinance No. 197 (Labour) also contains numerous provisions aiming at the amelioration of the conditions under which labourers perform their work and also contains provisions similar to those of the Truck Acts in England.

As regards compensation for accidents, section 8 of Ordinance No. 111 (Civil Law) makes provisions for compensation similar to those adopted in Lord CAMPBELL'S Act (The Fatal Accidents Act, 1846). In 1932 the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance was passed, but has not yet been brought into force. This Ordinance as above stated provides for the payment by certain classes of employers, to their workmen, of compensation for injury by accident arising out of and in the course of their employment.

No legislative provisions exist for sickness or old age.

CHAPTER XV

Public Finance and Taxation

The revenue for the year 1932 amounted to $44,562,294.92, which was $14,172,250.92 more than the original estimate of $30,390,044 and $4,804,799.92 in excess of the revised estimate of $39,757,495.

The expenditure was $34,196,482.65 being $11,338,988.35 less than the original estimate.

It will be seen therefore that in respect of the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Headings, the year's working resulted in a surplus of about $10.3 millions.

(i).—REVENUE

The revenue was $17,960,767.27 more than that of 1931. Details are shown in the following Table:—

Heads of Revenue	1931	1932	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ..	2,404.24	2,436.32	32.08	..
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	16,651,059.40	18,811,399.98	2,160,340.58	..
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-aid ..	1,149,958.33	1,157,714.90	7,756.57	..
4. Posts and Telegraphs ..	2,136,78[illegible].83	2,161,061.29	24,276.46	..
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,750,990.63	1,670,954.20	..	80,036.43
6. Interest ..	3,808,466.24	6,147,899.07	2,339,432.83	..
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ..	859,745.75	14,473,933.58	13,614,187.83	..
Total exclusive of Land Sales and grants-in-aid	26,359,409.42	44,425,399.34	18,146,026.35	80,036.43
8. Land Sales ..	211,132.52	130,981.29	..	80,151.23
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	30,985.71	5,914.29	..	25,071.42
TOTAL REVENUE ..	26,601,527.65	44,562,294.92	18,146,026.35	185,259.08

The increase under the head Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified, is chiefly attributable to an increase under the following subheads:—

	$
Opium	816,611
Petroleum Duties	1,375,599
Stamp Duties	188,797
Tobacco Duties	476,162

The duty on petroleum which has a flashing point below 73° Fahrenheit was raised from 5 cents to 35 cents per gallon on the 28th September, 1931.

There are decreases under the following subheads, "Liquors" $482,862, Pawnbrokers Ordinance $173,656, Fines and Forfeitures etc., District and Police Courts $40,861.

The decrease in Rents on Government Property is due mainly to less rents being received from the Telok Ayer Reclamation and also to the cancellation of temporary permits on Crown Lands.

The increase under Interest is due to the Interest on Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund Investments being transferred to Revenue from 1st January, 1932.

The large increase of $13.6 millions in Miscellaneous Receipts is accounted for by the fact that the figure includes a sum of $10 millions transferred from the Currency Guarantee Fund and also by the appreciation of Colony Investments on revaluation according to market value as on 31st December, 1932.

Land Sales continue to show a falling off, which is due to the general trade depression.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of expenditure are set out below:—

Heads of Expenditure	1931	1932	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ..	37,083.40	37,083.40	..	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc.	1,836,088.10	2,039,673.46	203,585.36	..
3. Charitable Allowances ..	44,340.18	33,820.79	..	10,519.39
4. The Governor ..	141,151.68	125,059.92	..	16,091.76
5. Civil Service ..	705,898.21	732,224.83	26,326.62	..
6. General Clerical Service	1,090,904.62	1,119,367.63	28,463.01	..
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident ..	134,166.42	124,251.09	..	9,915.33
8. Secretary to High Commissioner ..	11,193.35	10,352.02	..	841.33
9. Agricultural Department	96,270.10	90,993.27	..	5,276.83
10. Analyst ..	9,530.66	14,195.43	4,664.77	..
11. Audit	32,294.43	37,405.33	5,110.90	..
12. Audit, External ..	(a) 23,578.73	..	..	(a) 23,578.73
13. Chinese Secretariat ..	211,184.60	225,439.75	14,255.15	..
14. Co-operative Societies ..	36,535.60	42,701.70	6,166.10	..
15. Drainage and Irrigation	..	19,657.18	19,657.18	..
16. Ecclesiastical ..	24,700.00	..	..	24,700.00
17. Education	1,937,027.44	2,234,075.39	297,047.95	..
18. Fisheries	38,510.30	30,203.49	..	8,306.81
19. Forests	75,181.30	48,672.97	..	26,508.33
20. Gardens Botanical ..	121,890.23	112,463.47	..	9,426.76
21. Labour Department ..	63,097.81	140,010.98	76,913.17	..
22. Land and District Offices	255,148.85	285,044.04	29,895.19	..
23. Legal	397,354.82	398,164.08	809.26	..
24. Marine	652,382.03	599,074.39	..	53,307.64
25. Marine Surveys ..	87,197.31	92,447.03	5,249.72	..
26. Medical	452,919.31	480,826.31	27,907.00	..
27. Medical, Health Branch	717,479.57	569,700.89	..	147,778.68
28. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	125,724.94	110,293.06	..	15,431.88
29. Medical, Hospital and Dispensaries ..	2,443,878.95	2,156,868.46	..	287,010.49
30. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	4,189,285.65	3,947,142.84	..	242,142.81
II. Local Forces ..	576,813.76	369,635.89	..	207,177.87
31. Miscellaneous Services ..	11,589,314.90	2,499,611.81	..	9,089,703.09
32. Monopolies	1,340,838.01	1,231,610.56	..	109,227.45
33. Museum and Library, Raffles	57,643.79	49,080.26	..	8,563.53
34. Police	3,290,873.95	3,176,278.77	..	114,595.18
35. Post Office	2,299,770.95	1,713,250.01	..	586,520.94
36. Printing Office ..	268,231.67	212,591.16	..	55,640.51
37. Prisons	495,313.96	506,068.61	10,754.65	..
38. Public Works Department	666,031.08	794,178.22	128,147.14	..
39. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ..	1,048,606.03	1,034,621.87	..	13,984.16
40. Public Works, Extraordinary	8,197,700.40	5,762,213.03	..	2,435,487.37
41. Statistics	40,062.53	36,156.55	..	3,905.98
42. Survey Department ..	423,531.22	422,725.37	..	805.85
43. Transport	375,464.63	351,988.68	..	23,475.95
44. Treasury	107,622.78	91,529.92	..	16,092.86
45. Veterinary	73,134.83	72,098.05	..	1,036.78
46. Grants-in-aid Colonial Development Fund ..	6,762.41	15,630.69	8,868.28	..
TOTAL ..	46,802,558.03	34,196,482.65	893,821.45	13,499,896.83

(a) Expenditure Credit

The increase in Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc., is mainly due to the increases in the Commutations of Pensions to Officers who have exercised their option under the Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance 1926, Gratuities to officers not entitled to pension, Gratuities to families of deceased officers and Refund of Bachelors' Contributions under the Widows and Orphans Pensions Ordinance.

The External Audit Department was merged with the Audit Department with effect from 1st January, 1932 and is under the direct control of the Director of Colonial Audit. The increase in the Audit Department is due to a new item, Share of Home Expenditure, and to an increase in transport and other allowances.

The increase under Chinese Secretariat is mainly due to the repatriation of destitutes and decrepits in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

The Drainage and Irrigation Department came into operation from the 1st January, 1932.

Ecclesiastical expenditure was transferred to Miscellaneous Services Other Charges, Annually Recurrent.

The increase under Education is due to increments in accordance with approved graduated schemes, to promotions, to additions to staff for new schools under Personal Emoluments and to the increased amount of the Government contributions to the Education Department.

The increase in the Labour Department is mainly due to the Colony's share of the cost of repatriating Indian labourers from Malaya in 1932.

Under Medical General there was an increase of $22,200 due to the new posts of Director, Deputy Director and Secretary to Director created in 1932, of which $15,600 was recoverable from the Federated Malay States.

The big decrease under Miscellaneous Services is due to the fact that in 1931 large sums were expended under the following special heads:—

	$	c.
Balance of Colony's share of the Railway deviation from Bukit Timah to Tanjong Pagar ..	2,288,320	00
Depreciation in value of Surplus Investments in order to reduce them to market value as on 31st December, 1931	2,116,083	27
Acquisition of land for a Civil Aerodrome ..	1,080,489	47

The abolition of Temporary Allowances in 1932 also accounts for the decrease under Miscellaneous Services.

The decrease under Monopolies is due to the reduction of the Working Expenses and Maintenance of Government Shops.

The decrease under Police is due to the reduction under Personal Emoluments on account of the retirement and retrenchment of staff and also due to the savings on Other Charges Annually Recurrent.

The decrease under Post Office is mainly due to vacancies remaining unfilled, discontinuance of overtime allowances, cessation of Special Train Service and reduction in special expenditure.

The increase under Public Works Department is mainly due to payment of personal emoluments to engineers and architects on loan from the Federated Malay States, to temporary clerical and architectural assistance and to travelling allowances.

The decreases under Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure and Public Works Extraordinary are due to savings effected on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution, the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last five years and the portion of it which has been spent in Public Works:—

Year	*Total Expenditure*	*Public Works Extraordinary*
1928	31,047,608	5,489,873
1929	31,936,283	5,133,968
1930	35,000,586	5,658,712
1931	42,613,272	8,197,700
1932	30,249,340	5,762,470

The amounts paid as Defence Contribution for the last five years are:—

	$
1928	3,960,000
1929	3,775,714
1930	4,239,728
1931	4,189,286
1932	3,947,143

Refunds of $139,500 and $454,397 received in 1928 and 1929 in respect of overpayment in the financial years 1926–1928 and 1927–1928 respectively are not included in the above figures.

(iii).—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December,

	$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities		
Deposits:—		
Court	2,107,440.20	
Bankruptcy	1,072 472.28	
Mercantile Marine Fund	756,938.80	
Police Reward Fund	3,794.52	
Malacca and Districts, Miscellaneous ..	124,869.32	
Penang and Districts, Miscellaneous ..	263,871.52	
Miscellaneous	2,088,247.12	
		6,417,633.76
Drafts and Remittances	..	45,794.88
Suspense Account: Stores, P. W. D.	3,295.41	
Suspense Account: Coins for reminting, etc. ..	2,539,163.36	
Suspense Account: Interest, Currency Commissioners ..	61,993.27	
Suspense Account: Other items	193,655.50	
		2,798,107.54
Loans:—		
Straits Settlements 5½% War Loan 1918-1928	100.00	
Straits Settlements 6% War Loan 1916 ..	1,900.00	
Straits Settlements 5½% Conversion Loan 1919-1929	3,100.00	
		5,100.00
Surplus:—		
Amount set aside for Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	124,082,281.00	57,544,891.54
Balance of general surplus		66,537,389.46
TOTAL ..	..	133,348,917.18

The Surplus on 31st December, 1932, amounted to $66,537,389.46, of which approximately $38 millions were liquid. Against this commitment on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other administrations amounted to $8,634,416 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounted to $10,717,401. In addition, the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1933 amounting to $5,628,146 and further commitments in connection therewith amounting to $7,415,996 had to be met. The total commitments and contingent liabilities on 1st January, 1933 against the surplus thus amounted to $32,395,959.

LIABILITIES

1932 were as follows:—

			$ c.	$ c.
Assets				
Investments:—		$ c.		
Colony	Crown Agents on Deposit	33,281,287.01		
	Fixed Deposit	6,328,000.00		
	Miscellaneous	719,190.46		
			40,328,477.47	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ..			57,544,891.54	
Court			1,077,389.50	
Bankruptcy			935,588.58	
Mercantile Marine Fund			687,580.20	
Other Investments			1,200,728.87	
				101,774,656.16
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents) ..			..	655,714.28
Advances			..	2,289,467.48
Imprests			..	2,074.56
Cash in Transit			..	14,457.54
Suspense Account	Subsidiary Coins held by the F.M.S. Treasury		95,100.00	
	Stores, P. W. D.		157,002.51	
	Other items		497,039.60	
				749,142.11
Loans:—		$ c.		
Municipality, Singapore		539,289.46		
Municipality, Penang		125,000.00		
Municipality, Malacca		364,940.33		
			1,029,229.79	
Brunei Government			2,000.00	
Kelantan Government			5,130,683.98	
Trengganu Government			3,986,485.01	
Singapore Harbour Board			4,801,015.93	
Penang Harbour Board			2,747,965.71	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang			53,250.00	
Singapore Cricket Club			3,399.25	
Stadium Association			10,000.00	
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ..			107,750.66	
				17,871,780.33
Indian Agency Account			..	79,634.61
Cash			..	9,911,990.11
	TOTAL ..		..	133,348,917.18

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½% Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted on the 31st December, 1931 to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ..	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ..	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and cost of conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ..	3,388,205
	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was $2,079,909 in 1932. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been allotted. The value of the Investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1932 was approximately $16,472,300.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 stands at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on this loan is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provision of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Taxation

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony and from the profits on the opium monopoly, which is entirely controlled by the Government. The other main items are Stamp Duties, Estate (Death) Duties and Pawnbrokers' licences, which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years.

The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from licences.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licences for the year 1932 was $18,811,400 forming the greater portion of the Colony's Revenue and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$
Liquors	2,557,137
Opium Revenue	6,891,347
Pawnbrokers Licences	481,478
Petroleum Revenue	2,845,108
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services) ..	798,362
Stamp Duties (Estate Duties)	747,375
Tobacco Duties	3,876,913

The only fiscal measure approximating to a customs tariff is the imposition of duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony.

Excise revenue is comprised principally of the revenue from the opium monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of similar brand. The only liquor manufactured locally, which is subject to this duty, is samsoo. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy, but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp duties including Estate (Death) Duties form an important source of Revenue. Estate Duties, revised with effect from 1st January, 1932, are based on a graduated scale from a minimum of 1% on estates with a principal value of over $1,000 to 20% on estates with a principal value of over $10,000,000.

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provision of the Stamp Ordinance 1929. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only ..	25 cents.
Bill of Exchange including Promissory Note	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof.
Cheque	4 cents.
Conveyance Maximum ..	$1.50 for every $250 or part thereof.
Mortgage Maximum ..	$1.00 for every $500 or part thereof.
Receipt	4 cents.

A Betting Tax was introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932 and the amount collected in 1932 was Singapore $189,737.50 and Penang $78,575.70.

CHAPTER XVI

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of the majority of the Straits-born Chinese, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet, but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be: Hokkien, 43.2%; Cantonese, 21.4%; Tiu Chiu, 17.4%; Hakka (Kheh), 7.9%; Hailam, 5.4%; Hok Chhia, 1.5%; Hok Chiu, 1.3% and other dialects, 1.9%.

Of the Southern Indians who form over nine-tenths of the total Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam. The vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Malayalis are about three times as numerous as the Telugus.

The remaining Indian population consists of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani, with a few hundreds from Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

B.—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886, now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands), provided for a statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and of which the form was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued in the past, but the policy now is to restrict the issue of such Grants, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99-years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is now alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99-years, but there are a few leases of 999-years and a few Statutory Grants.

Alienated land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99-year leases from the Crown in the case of estates, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 127 (Labuan) and is alienated ordinarily by public auction.

The titles existing are leases of 999-years or less, but since 1919 leases for 30-years only have been granted.

Throughout the Colony alienation of the foreshore is governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

C.—CO-OPERATION

Progress has been maintained in all branches of Co-operation in each Settlement.

In Singapore, where Urban Co-operation makes most appeal, there are now 12 societies as compared with 7 in 1931. Paid up

share capital increased from $415,432 to $549,000 and the membership from 3,720 to 5,226.

The amount of subscribed share capital deposited in the banks or invested in gilt-edged securities increased from $296,072 at the end of last year to $360,181 at the end of 1932.

During the year a start was made to organise Thrift Societies amongst the labourers of the Singapore Municipality and one society was registered during April. At the end of the year, the membership of this society was 744 and the total subscription capital was $9,902.

In Malacca, there was no change in the number of salary earners' societies. These societies increased their membership slightly from 1,051 to 1,106, but there was a substantial increase in the amount of paid-up subscription which came to $155,500 as compared with $119,446 at the end of 1931.

The eight Rural Credit Societies continued to function throughout the year, but with a decreased membership, which fell from 336 to 319. The paid-up capital at the end of the year was $8,411 as against $8,560 previously.

During the year, two societies for estate labourers were registered, and at the end of the year these two societies had a membership of 228 with a paid-up subscription capital of $1,016.

In Penang and Province Wellesley there are now seven Thrift and Loan Societies as compared with eight for the previous year. The Province Wellesley Police Society was merged into the Penang Police Society, as it was found that, owing to constant transfers of the members from one place to the other, complications arose in the accounts of the two societies. The total membership of these societies has decreased slightly from 2,866 last year to 2,668 at the end of 1932. Paid-up subscription capital has increased from $182,995 to $234,400. The total amount invested in gilt-edged securities or deposited in the banks now amounts to $161,819 as compared with $128,892 at the end of the previous year.

There has been no change in the number of Rural Credit Societies which are still six in number. The total membership was 142 and the paid-up capital $4,693. The reserve fund totalled $997. Cash in hand or at the bank amounted to $3,126.

At the beginning of the year, there were 7 societies for Indian estate labourers in Province Wellesley. During the year, a society for the Indian labourers of the Penang Smelting Works at Butterworth was registered. This society has a membership of 84 and a subscription capital of $320. The total membership of the eight societies was 1,007 as against 1,534 previously. The paid-up subscription capital amounted to $19,681 as compared with $19,213 at the end of the previous year.

In spite of the continued trade depression, the societies are doing excellent work and the increased demand for Indian labourers societies is most marked. Although at the end of the year only four additional societies had been actually registered, several others are in the process of formation.

D.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief was on duty throughout the year.

Mr. M. B. SHELLEY acted as Colonial Secretary until the 5th February when Sir JOHN SCOTT, K.B.E., C.M.G., returned from leave and resumed office.

Major-General L. C. L. OLDFIELD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya and Group Captain A. H. JACKSON, Officer Commanding Royal Air Force, Far East, remained at their posts throughout the year.

Captain M. BROCK BIRKETT, D.S.O., R.N., was succeeded by Captain M. R. J. MAXWELL SCOTT as Captain-in-Charge of His Majesty's Naval Establishments.

Sir SAMUEL WILSON, permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, arrived in the Colony on the 10th November.

On the 2nd February the Crown Prince and Princess of Belgium, travelling incognito as Count and Countess Leopold de Rethy, arrived in the course of a tour of the Far East and on the 11th July His Highness the Sultan of Brunei passed through on his way to Europe.

The New Year Honours List contained the following names:—

Sir JOHN SCOTT, K.B.E.

Mr. V. A. LOWINGER, C.B.E. (Civil Division).

A. S. HAYNES,
Ag. Colonial Secretary, S.S.

SINGAPORE, *22nd August*, 1933.

APPENDIX "A"

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MALAYA

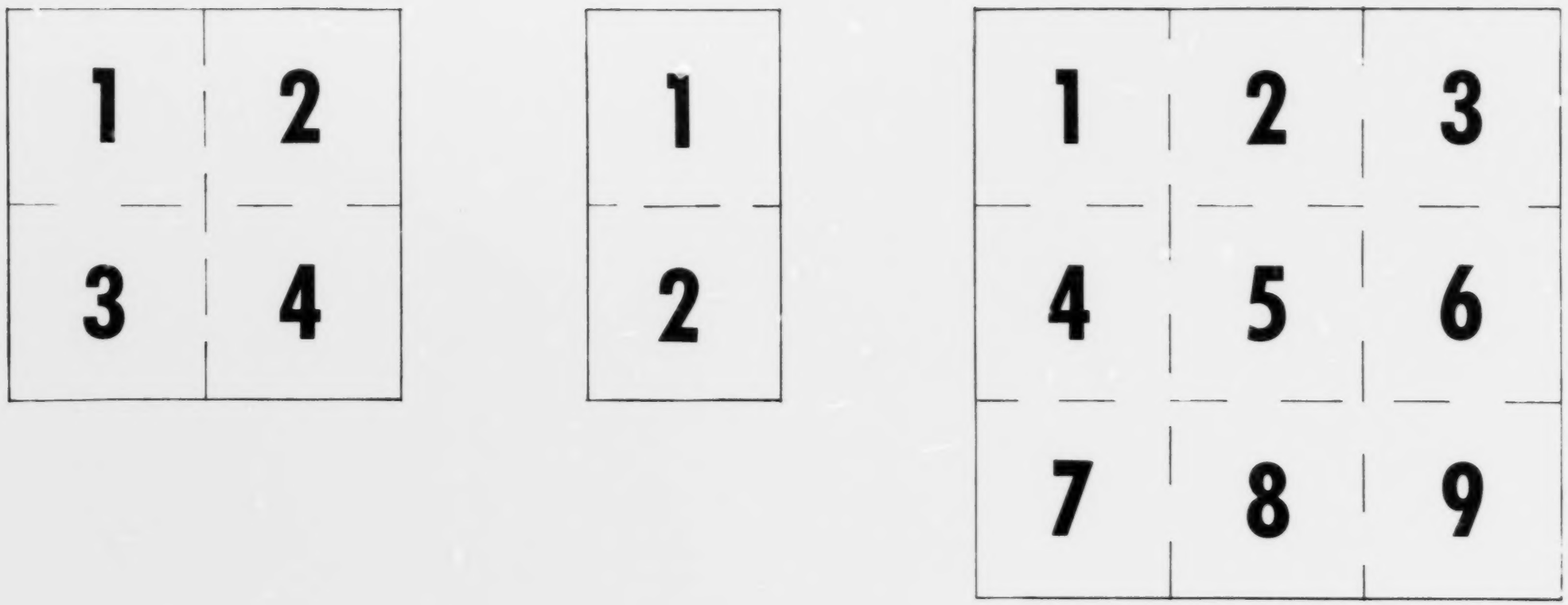
Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Colonial Office List	35/-	The Crown Agents for the Colonies, London
Blue Book	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Singapore
Annual Departmental Reports ..	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Singapore
Census Report, British Malaya, 1931	$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies; Malayan Information Agency, London
Malayan Statistics	$1	Malayan Information Agency, London
Report on visit to Malaya, etc. (Ormsby-Gore)	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 28th February, 1931 (Boulter)	2/-	H. M. Stationery Office
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50*cts.*	The Dept. of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ..	50*cts.* to $2	The Forest Dept., S.S. & F.M.S.
Tin Fields of the Federated Malay States (Scrivenor)	..	Malayan Information Agency, London
The Geology of Malayan Ore Deposits (Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London
A Sketch of Malayan Mining (Scrivenor)	..	Mining Publications Ltd., London
The Geology of Malaya (Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London
Malaya, Its People, Flora and Fauna (Enriquez)	21/-	Hurst & Blackett Ltd., London
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula (Ridley)	£11-11-0 5 vol.	L. Reeve & Co., London
The Birds of the Malay Peninsula (Robinson), 2 vols.	35/- p. vol.	H. F. and G. Witherby, London
The Birds of Singapore Island (Bucknell and Chasen) ..	$5	The Government Printing Office, Singapore Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Singapore
Malayan Fishes (Maxwell) ..	$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore
Oxford Survey of British Empire, Volume II	15/-	Oxford University Press
One Hundred Years of Singapore (Makepeace, Brooke, Braddell), 2 vols.	out of print	John Murray, London
Banner, H S. A., Tropical Tapestry	12/6	Thornton Butterworth Ltd., London
Evans, Ivor H. N., Studies in Religion Folklore and Custom in B.N.B. and Malay Peninsula ..	20/-	Cambridge University Press
Evans, Papers on the Ethnology and Archæology of the Malay Peninsula	15/-	Cambridge University Press

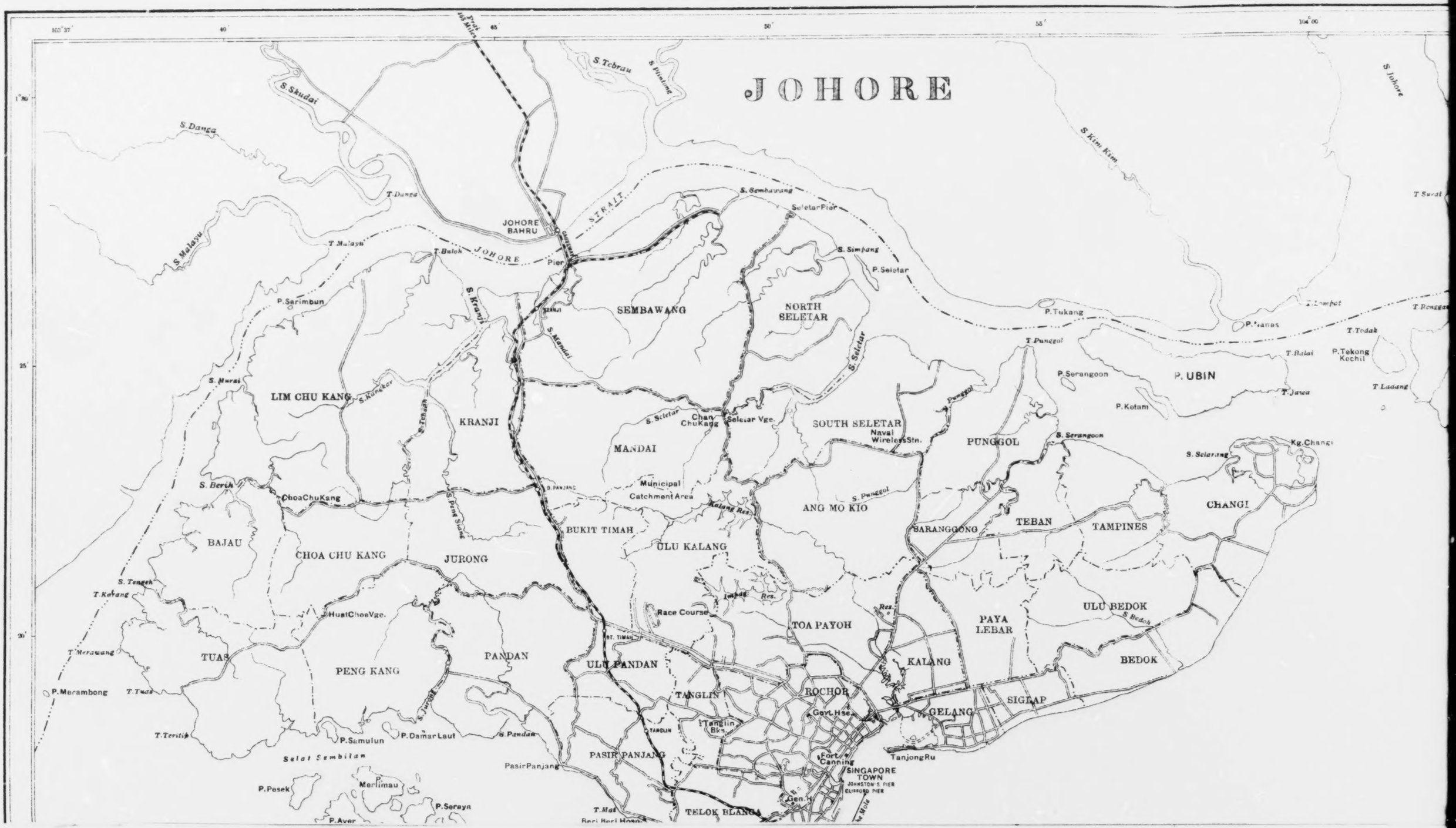
APPENDIX "A"—*concluded*

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MALAYA—*concluded*

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
·rman, R. L., Handbook to British Malaya	2/6	Malayan Information Agency, London
Gibson, Ashley, The Malay Peninsula	5/-	J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., London
Gimlette, J. D., Malayan Poisons and Charm Cures	10/-	J. & A. Churchill, London
Lucas, C. P., Historical Geography of British Dominions, Vol. I ..	not sold separately	Oxford University Press
Maxwell, Sir W. G., In Malay Forests	5/-	William Blackwood, London
·ills, L. A., British Malaya 1824-·867	$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore
›ng Ong Siang, One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore	30/-	John Murray, London
Swettenham, Sir F., British Malaya	12/6	J. Lane, London
'heeler, L. R., The Modern Malay	15/-	Allen & Unwin, London
lkinson, R. J., Papers on Malay Subjects (Incidents of Malay Life; Law, etc.)	$1 each	The Committee for Malay Studies, F.M.S.
Winstedt, R. O., Malaya ..	out of print	Constable & Co., Ltd.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.

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S. Skudai
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T. Danga
S. Malayu
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T. Balok
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Causeway
Pier
STRAIT
S. Tebrau
S. Pintung
S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
S. Simpang
P. Seletar
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
T. Surat
P. Sarimbun
S. Kranji
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
S. Mandai
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T. Tedak
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
T. Ladang
T. Punggol
S. Seletar
P. Serangoon
P. UBIN
T. Jawa
P. Kotam
S. Murai
LIM CHU KANG
S. Kangkar
S. Tengah
KRANJI
S. Seletar
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
Punggol
PUNGGOL
S. Serangoon
S. Selarang
Kg. Changi
MANDAI
Municipal Catchment Area
S. Berih
Choa Chu Kang
S. Panjang
S. Punggol
ANG MO KIO
Kalang Res.
CHANGI
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
BARANGGONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
S. Tengah
T. Kelang
Hualt Choe Vge.
Race Course
Jelak Res.
Res.
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
T. Merawang
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
P. Merambong
T. Tuas
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
Govt. Hse.
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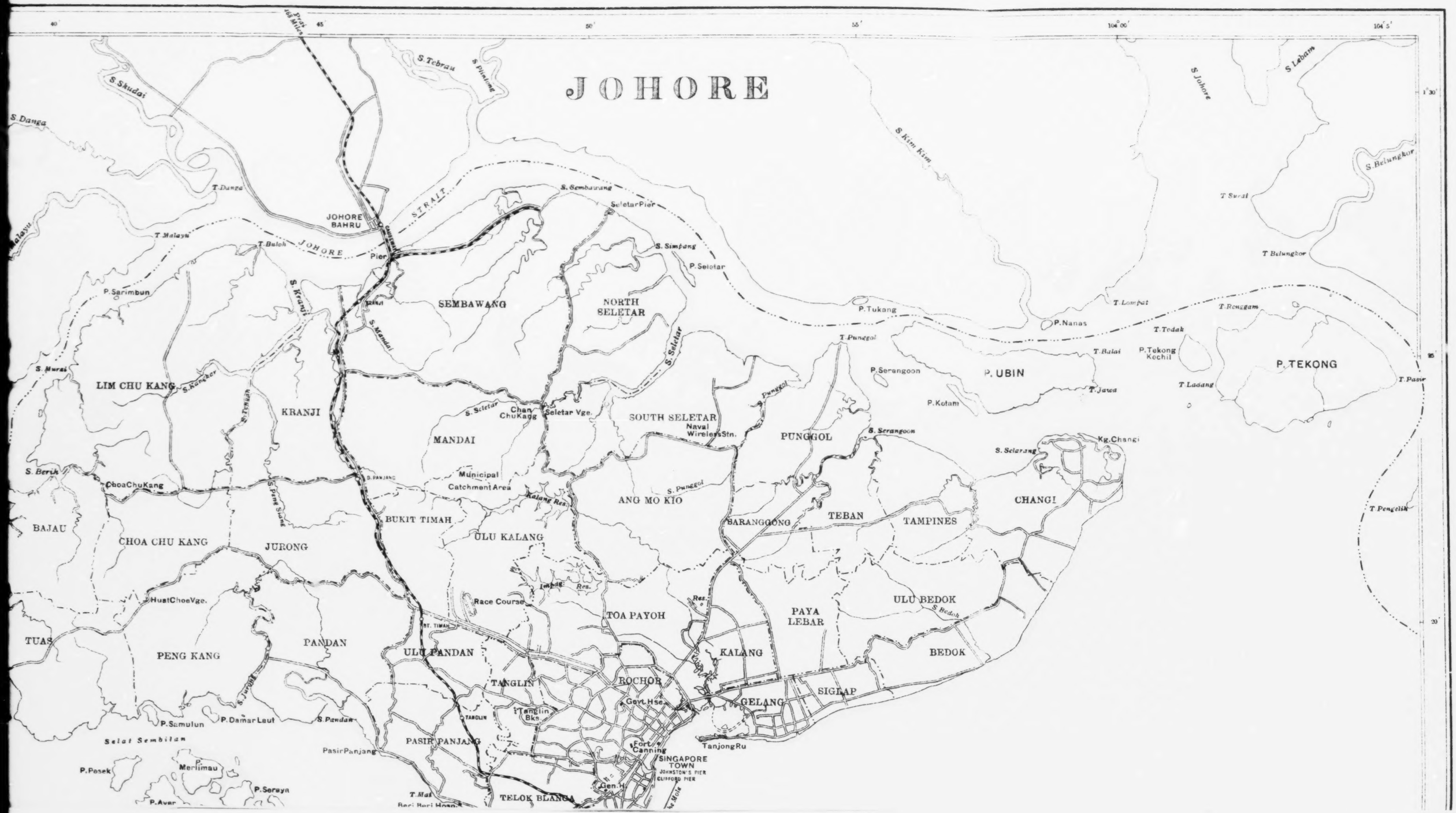
T. Teritip
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
Tanglin Bks.
PASIR PANJANG
Fort Canning
SINGAPORE TOWN
JOHNSTON'S PIER
CLIFFORD PIER
Tanjong Ru
Selat Sembilan
Pasir Panjang
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
P. Seraya
P. Aver
T. Mat
Beri Beri Hoang
TELOK BLANGA
Gen. H.
S. Moh


JOHORE
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Seletar Pier
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S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
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S. Kencher
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Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
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BARANGGONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
T. Pengelih
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
Imbak Res.
Race Course
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
Res.
Hua Choe Vge.
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
Govt. Hse.
GELANG
SIGLAP
S. Jurong
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
Tanglin Bks.
Selat Sembilan
PASIR PANJANG
Fort Canning
Tanjong Ru
Pasir Panjang
SINGAPORE TOWN
JOHNSTON'S PIER
CLIFFORD PIER
P. Merlimau
P. Pesek
P. Seraya
P. Ayer
T. Mas
Beri Beri Hoan
TELOK BLANGA
Gen. H.
Mole

SINGAPORE
1932
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards, 3500
0
2
4
6
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
Municipal Boundary
Mukim "
State "
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
SOUTH SELETAR
PUNGGOL
P. UBIN
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
ANG MO KIO
SARANGOONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHANGI
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
BEDOK
KALANG
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
GELANG
SIGLAP
PASIR PANJANG
TELOK BLANGA
SINGAPORE TOWN
Fort Canning
Govt. Hse.
Tanglin Bks.
Race Course
Municipal Catchment Area
Kalang Res.
Lakeside Res.
Seletar Vge.
Chan Chu Kang
Naval Wireless Stn.
Beri Beri Hosp.
Keppel Harbour
Quarantine Station
P. Merambong
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
Selat Sembilan
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
P. Seraya
P. Ayer Chawan
P. Ayer Merbau
P. Sakra
Selat Pandan
P. Busing
P. Bukum
P. Sudong
P. Semakau
P. Sebarok
P. Sakijang Bendera or St. John's Island
P. Sakijang Pelepah
P. Brani
P. Blakang Mati
P. Pawai
P. Senang
P. Satumu & Raffles Lighthouse
P. Serangoon
P. Kotam
P. Nanas
P. Tekong Kechil
Kg. Changi
103° 37' E. of Greenwich
40'
45'
50'
55'
104° 00'
25'
30'
15'
1° 10'

SINGAPORE
1932
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards, 3500
0
2
4
6
8 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
Municipal Boundary
Mukim
State
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
SOUTH SELETAR
PUNGGOL
UBIN
P. TEKONG
CHANGI
TAMPINES
TEBAN
SARANGGONG
ANG MO KIO
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BAJAU
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TANGLIN
TOA PAYOH
ROCHOR
KALANG
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
BEDOK
SIGLAP
GELANG
TANJONG RU
PASIR PANJANG
TELOK BLANGA
SINGAPORE TOWN
Municipal Catchment Area
Kalang Res.
Race Course
Govt. Hse.
Fort Canning
Tanglin Bks.
Beri Beri Hosp.
Keppel Harbour
Quarantine Station
Raffles Lighthouse
Selat Sembilan
Selat Pandan
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
P. Seraya
P. Ayer Chawan
P. Ayer Merbau
P. Sakra
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
P. Brani
P. Blakang Mati
P. Busing
P. Bukum
P. Sakijang Bendera or St. John's Island
P. Sakijang Pelupah
P. Sudong
P. Semakau
P. Sebarok
P. Pawai
P. Senang
P. Satumu
P. Nanas
P. Serangoon
P. Kotam
P. Tekong Kechil
T. Pungol
T. Tedak
T. Balai
T. Jawa
T. Ladang
T. Panjang
T. Pengelim
S. Murai
S. Berih
S. Kangkar
S. Tengah
S. Seletar
S. Mandai
S. Pang Sabi
S. Punggol
S. Serangoon
S. Selarang
S. Jurong
S. Pandan
S. Bedok
Kg. Changi
Pasir Panjang
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
Choa Chu Kang
Hua Choe Vge.
Gen. H.
The Mole
1°10'
104°00'
104°5'

LABUAN

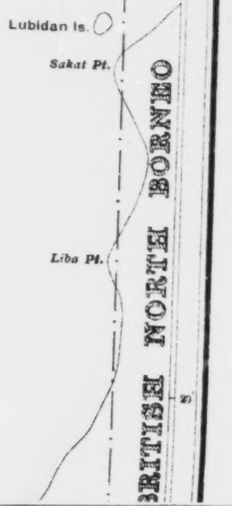
1932

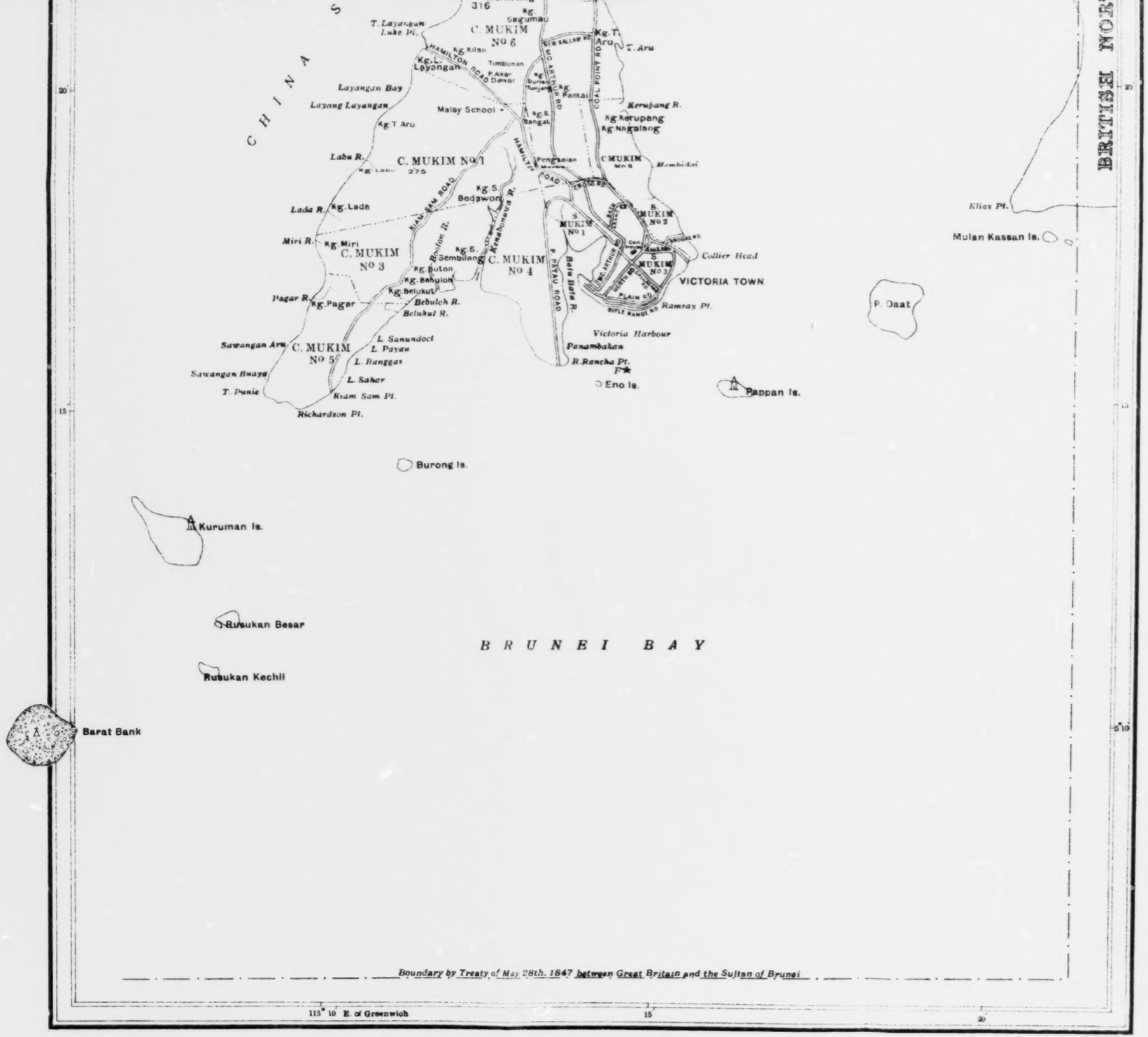
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles

Reference

Earth Road & Bridle Path			
Roads Metalled			
Point, Tanjong, River	Pt.	T.	R.
Pulau, Light House		P.	
Kampong, Lobok		Kg.	L
Flashing Light or Buoy			
Fixed Light, Sungei		F★	S
Mukim Boundary, Height			336
Country, Suburban		C.	S.
Districts: (1) Town (2) Suburban		(1)	(2)





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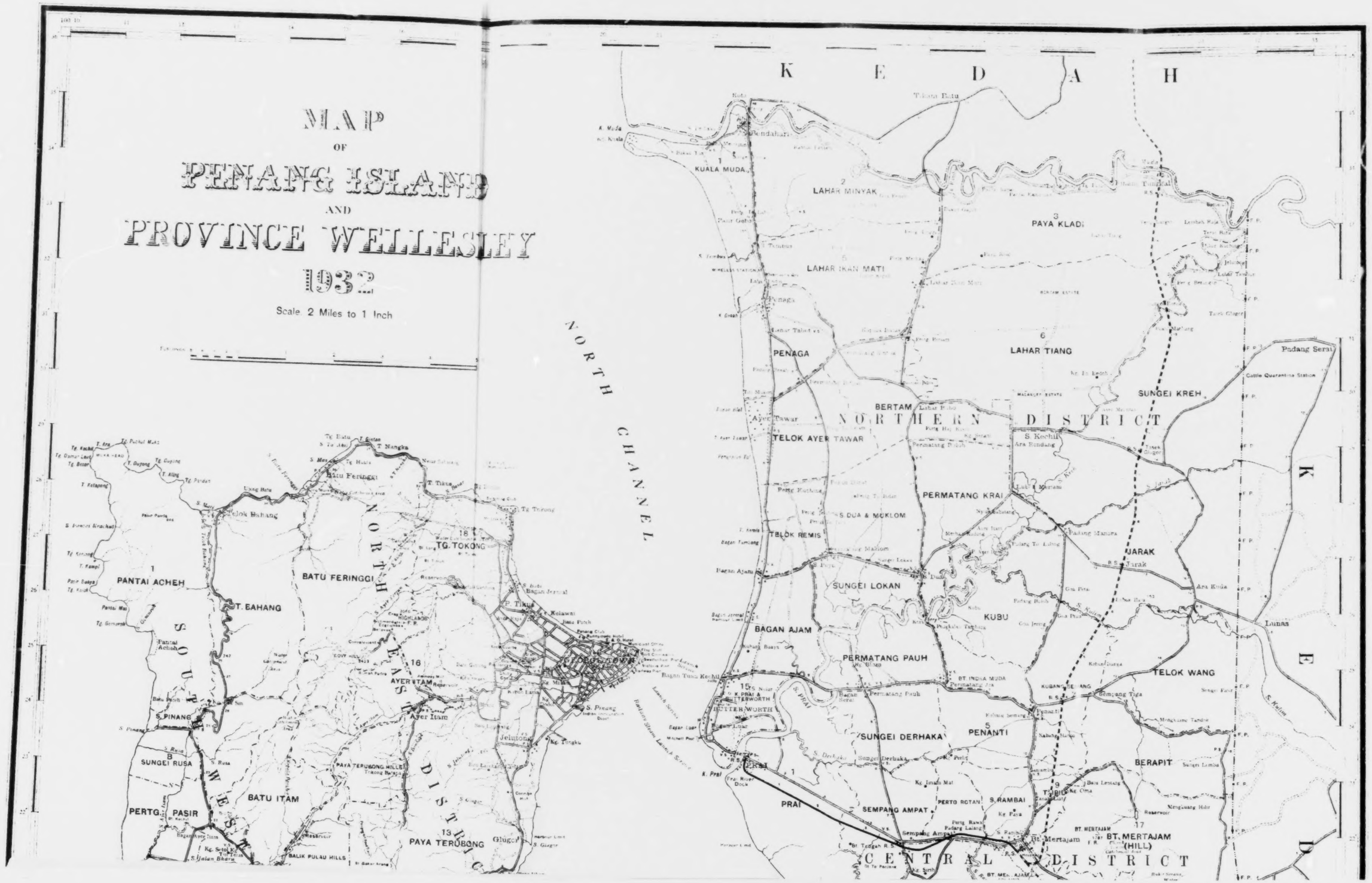
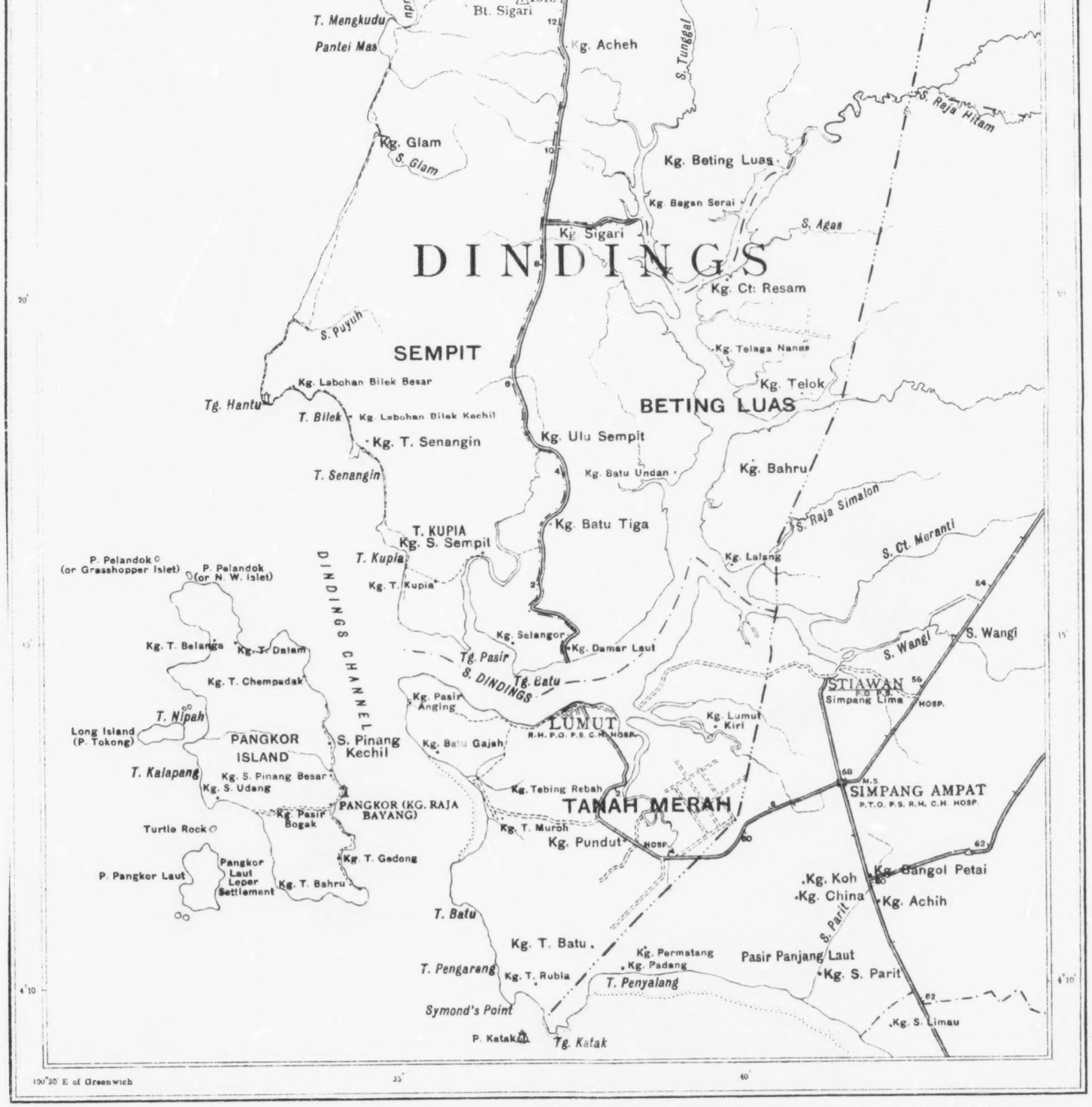
MAP OF PENANG ISLAND AND PROVINCE WELLESLEY 1932

Scale 2 Miles to 1 Inch



WESTERN DISTRICT
CENTRAL DISTRICT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
SOUTH CHANNEL
PERAK
PERTG. PASIR
BATU ITAM
BALIK PULAU HILLS
BAGAN AYER ITAM
TITI TRAS
S. BURONG
PONDOK UPIH
RELAU HILLS
P. BETONG
Pulau Betong
GENTING HILLS
ST. GEMURUH
Gertak Sanggul
T. KUMBAR
BAYAN LEPAS
PAYA TERUBONG
S. NIBONG
Relau
P. JEREJAK
P. KRA
P. Rimau
P. Kendi
PRAI
SEMPANG AMPAT
PERTO BOTAN
S. RAMBAI
BT. MERTAJAM (HILL)
BUKIT TENGAH
CHEROK TO' KUN
BUKIT MINYAK
JUNJONG
JURU
TASEK
TASEK JUNJONG
Sempang Ampat
BT. TAMBUN
SEMPANG AMPAT
LIMA KONGSI
BATU KAWAN
SUNGEI BAKAP
BADAK MATI
SUNGEI DURI
SUNGEI DAHUN (PENANG RUBBER EST.)
SIMPA
KRIAN
SUNGEI KECHIL
SUNGEI ACHEH
TELOK IPIL
TRANS - KRIAN
Parit Buntar
REFERENCE
Railway with Station
Single Line
Double Line
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
District ..
Mukim ..
Municipal ..
Village ..
100° 10' East

DINDINGS
1932
Scale. 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3000
0
2
4 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
Mukim Boundary
S. Tiong
S. Lada
S. Panchor
Kg. Panchor
Kg. Permateng Serai
Kg. Batu Hampar
G. 1336
Matang Achih
S. Bruas
Kg Che Puteh
S. ROTAN
Kg. S. Tontong
S. Tg. Burong
PENG. BAHRU
R.H. P.S. C.H.
Kg. Pantai Remis
Tg. Burong
PANTAI REMIS
Tg. Batu
(or Datoh Kramat)
S. Batu
T. Nipah
P. Talang
Kg. T. Sera
S. Mengkudu
T. Akuan
△1616
Bt. Sigari
T. Mengkudu
Pantai Mas
Kg. Acheh
S. Tunggal
S. Raja Hitam
Kg. Glam
S. Glam
Kg. Beting Luas
Kg. Bagan Serai
Kg. Sigari
S. Agas
DINDINGS
Kg. Ct. Resam
S. Puyuh
SEMPIT
Kg. Telaga Nanas
Kg. Labohan Bilek Besar
Kg. Telok
Tg. Hantu
BETING LUAS



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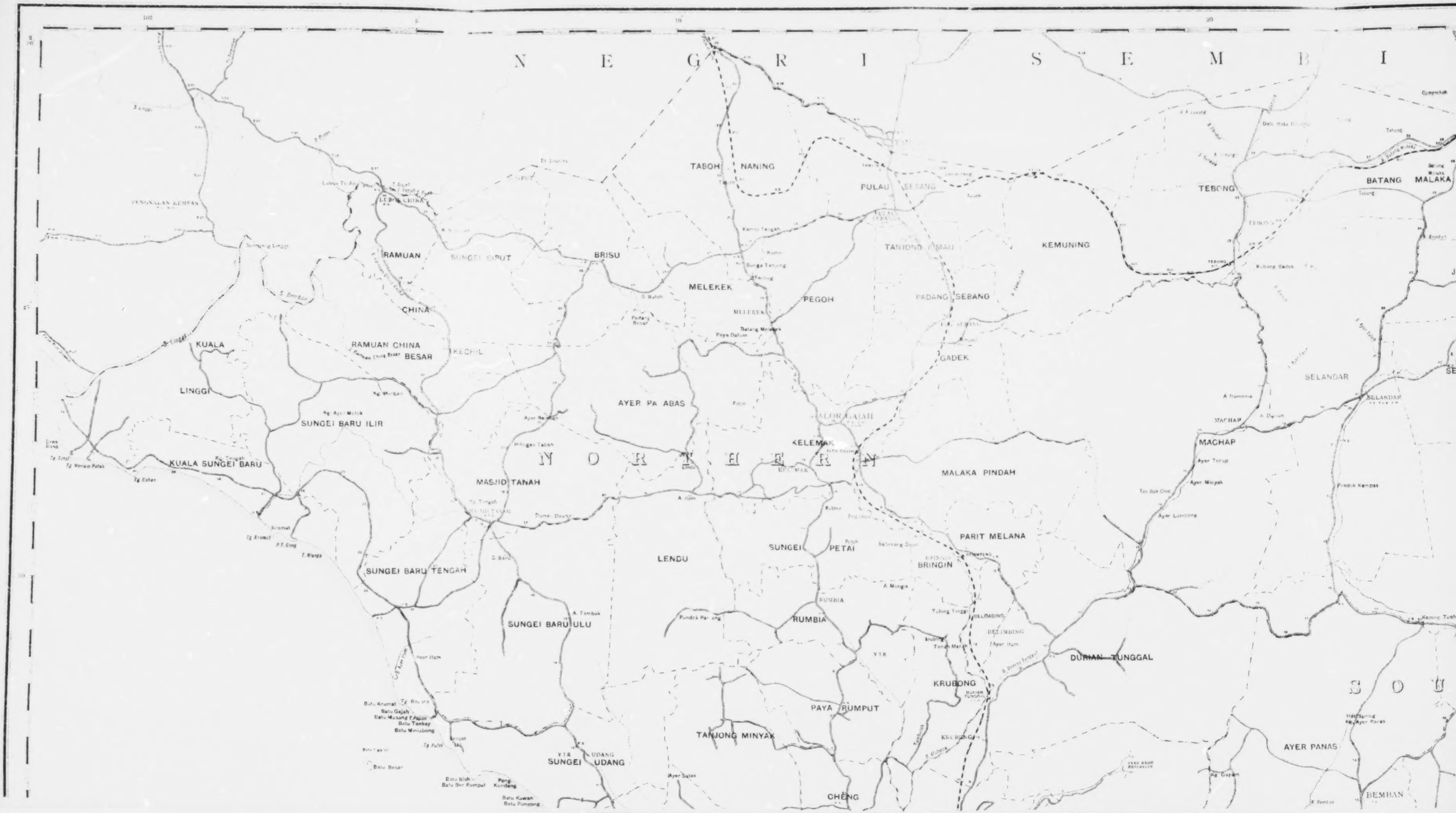
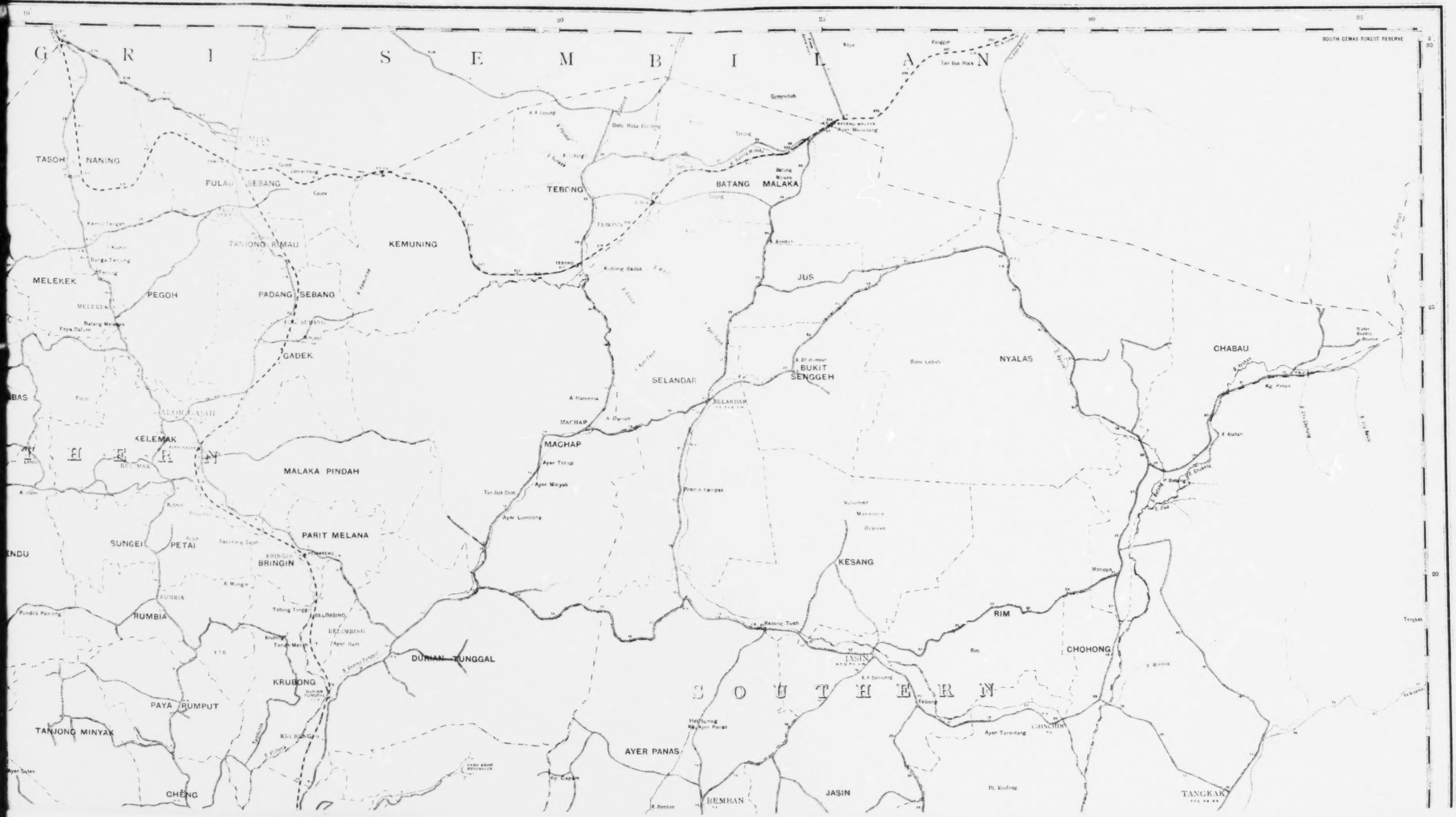

N E G R I S E M B I
N O R T H E R N
S O U
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
KEMUNING
TANJONG PUMAU
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
SELANDAR
MACHAP
MALAKA PINDAH
PARIT MELANA
BRINGIN
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN
KELEMAK
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
CHENG
RUMBIA
SUNGEI PETAI
LENDU
MASJID TANAH
SUNGEI BARU ULU
SUNGEI BARU TENGAH
SUNGEI BARU ILIR
KUALA SUNGEI BARU
LINGGI
KUALA
RAMUAN CHINA BESAR
RAMUAN
CHINA
SUNGEI SIPUT
BRISU
MELEKEK
PEGOH
AYER PA ABAS
PENGKALAN KEMPAS


G R I S E M B I L A N
S O U T H E R N
T E R N
TABOH NANING
FULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
JUS
SELANDAR
BUKIT SENGGEH
NYALAS
CHABAU
KELEMAK
MALAKA PINDAH
MACHAP
PARIT MELANA
SUNGEI PETAI
BRINGIN
RUMBIA
KESANG
RIM
CHOHONG
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
CHENG
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN
JASIN
TANGKAK

MALACCA TERRITORY 1932

Scale 2 Miles to 1 Inch

REFERENCE

- *Railway with Station*
- *Metalled Roads*
- *State Boundary*
- *District "*
- *Mukim "*
- *Municipal "*
- *Vernacular School, Customs Station*
- *Post & Telegraph Office, Rest House*
- *Police Station, Forest Checking Station*
- *Court House, Hospital*
- *Meteorological Station*

100 East of Greenwich

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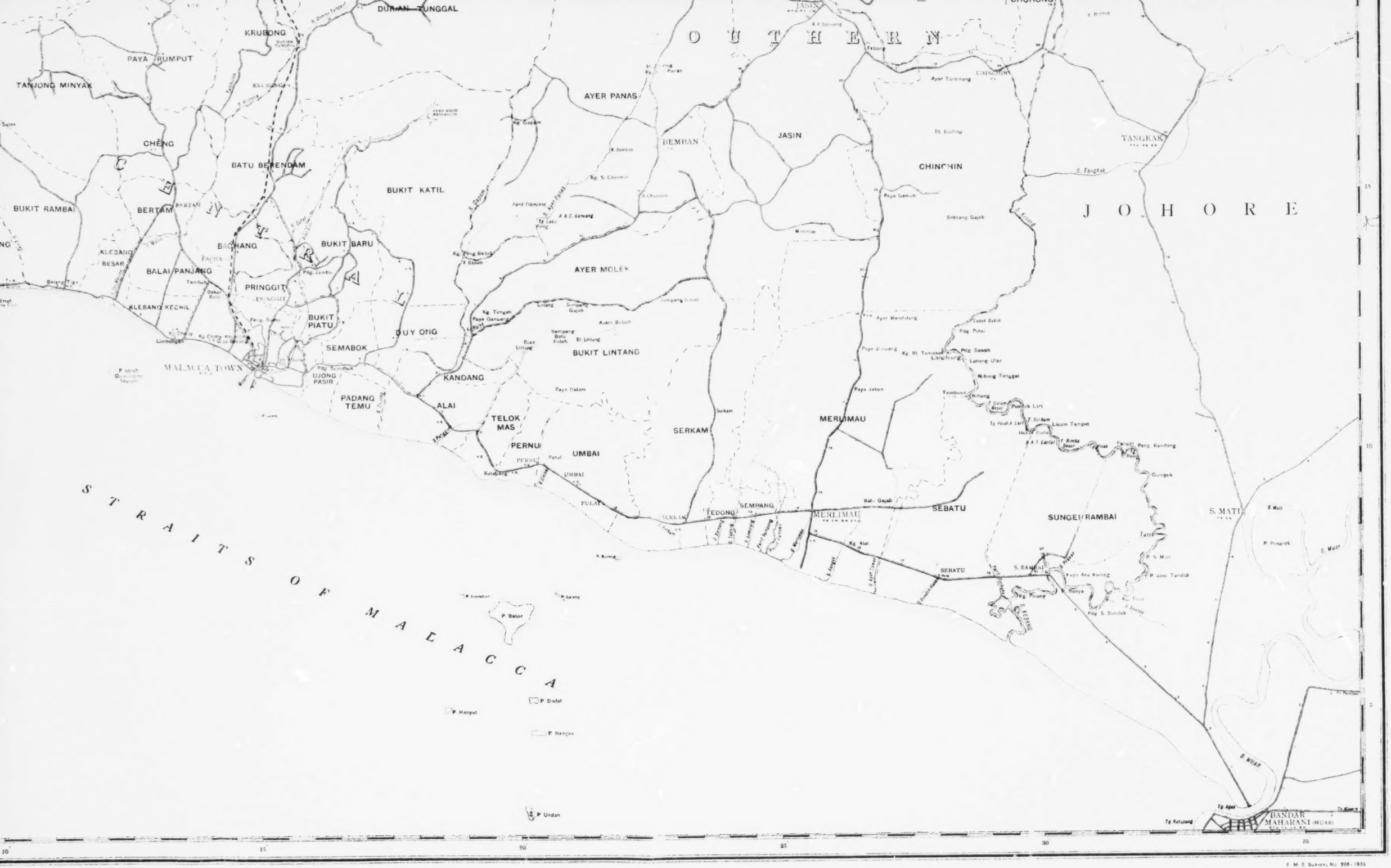

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ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
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Maps :—

Singapore.
Labuan.
Penang Island and Province Wellesley.
Dindings
Malacca Territory

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1933.

CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley and the Dindings), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands lie about 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by ¼ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town.

On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is *Province Wellesley*, a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. Headquarters are at Butterworth.

The *Dindings*, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth. A recent revisionary survey shows that the total area is about 637 square miles.

Labuan is an island, some 40 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365, and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade dwindled. While it has never recovered its commercial pre-eminence, its agricultural resources have been adequately developed.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing partly to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, partly to the development of trade with neighbouring countries, but mainly to its key position on the main ocean highway to the Far East.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a Settlement on it in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands were declared a British possession in 1857. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1900 it was made part of the Settlement of Singapore.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The characteristic features of the climate of the Straits Settlements are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures found in continental tropical areas are never experienced.

The Mean Temperature during 1933 was:—

Singapore (Mount Faber)	80°.4F.
Penang (District Hospital)	82°.0F.
Province Wellesley (Bagan Dalam) ..	80°.6F.
Malacca (Bukit China)	79°.5F.

The Mean Monthly Maximum and Minimum Temperature varied as follows:—

	Mean Monthly Maximum		*Mean Monthly Minimum*	
	Highest °F.	*Lowest °F.*	*Lowest °F.*	*Highest °F.*
Singapore ..	89.0 June	84.7 Dec:	71.0 Feb:	75.6 June.
Penang ..	91.9 Feb:	87.2 Nov:	72.7 Dec:	75.5 March, April, May.

The extremes of temperature (Highest Maximum and Lowest Minimum) recorded were:—

	Highest °F.	*Lowest °F.*
Singapore ..	93 on several days	68 on March 12th.
Penang ..	95 on May 26th	70 on several days.

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.

Records for 64 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September the dry months with between 6½ and 7 inches. Rain falls, on the average, on half the days in the year.

The wettest year recorded was 1913 with 135.92 inches and the driest 1888 with 63.21 inches.

Records of 50 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107½ inches, October being the wettest month with nearly 17 inches and February the driest with three inches. Rain falling on the average on about 165 days in the year.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz.*:—

S. W. from May to October,
N. E. from November to April,

but at the coastal stations, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The Rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1931	*1932*	*1933*	*No. of Rainfall days in 1933*
Singapore ..	100.67	77.49	82.52	200
Penang ..	103.97	109.11	97.37	174
Malacca ..	107.19	71.60	95.91	180
Province Wellesley	79.87	108.77	88.33	179
Dindings ..	92.31	68.52	59.02	171
Labuan ..	138.73	155.58	121.93	169

Although the days are hot, and, on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The effect of the heat and humidity, without seasonal change, is, however, cumulative; and after a few years a change to a bracing climate becomes imperative for Europeans if health is to be maintained.

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Resident Councillor, Malacca, two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The Legislative Council is constituted by Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by the Standing Orders made by the Council. Under Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, its constitution was enlarged and for the first time contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The system of Government is similar to that obtaining in all Crown Colonies. Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for the Royal pleasure. The King has the right of veto on the Ordinances of the Colony.

For practical purposes the administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident. The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the Rural areas within the three Settlements.

The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

There has been no change in the system of Government of the Colony since its severance from India in 1867.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

In estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements for the years 1932 and 1933 the method of calculating by geometrical progression has been discarded in favour of a calculation based on the figures obtained in the census of 1931, which takes account of the excess of births over deaths and the excess of emigration over immigration figures since the census.

This change has been rendered necessary because since the date of the last census, there has been a general exodus of immigrant labourers, cheifly Chinese, Tamils and Javanese, and since these immigrants under normal conditions form such a large proportion of the total population, the excess of the figures for emigration since 1931 over those for immigration has become the dominant factor.

The distribution of the population by race amongst the various Settlements as on 30th June, 1933, is estimated, as follows:—

		Singapore	*Penang*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*	*Total*
Europeans	..	7,611	1,486	306	21	9,424
Eurasians	..	7,051	2,393	2,070	36	11,550
Malaysians	..	67,050	121,436	99,070	5,048	292,604
Chinese	..	383,617	161,606	60,059	2,094	607,376
Indians	..	40,991	46,615	18,757	139	106,502
Others	..	8,180	2,494	630	67	11,371
		514,500	336,030	180,892	7,405	1,038,827

Births.—The number of births registered during the year amounted to 42,538 as compared with 41,106 in the previous year.

The birth-rate for the year was equal to 40.95 per thousand of the estimated population as against 38.18 in the preceding year.

The highest birth rate was that of the Chinese which was 43.21 per thousand.

The percentage of males born was 52.26.

Deaths.—The crude death rate was 24.26 per thousand, that for 1932 was 22.80 (corrected), and the average for the ten years 1924–1933 was 27.23 as recorded in the annual reports of the registration of births and deaths.

Infant Mortality.—The corrected infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 168.04 per thousand as against 162.43 in 1932 and an average of 188.17 over the ten years 1924 to 1933.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

Measurements of migration are dealt with on a Malayan basis in the absence of inter-Settlement or inter-State control, or of control between the Straits Settlements and the Malay States. Migration is a subject of interest owing to the attraction of the country to foreign capital and to labour from India, China and the neighbouring countries of the Archipelago, and also to the situation of Singapore and Penang at the junction of ocean trade-routes. Until 1930 immigration was practically free, and one of the lucrative trades of Singapore was the importation of labourers from China. In that year a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China with the objects of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 the Aliens Ordinance which is administered by the Immigration Department extended this control, subject to certain temporary exceptions, to all adult male immigrants of other than British or British protected nationality.

Statistics of migration between Malaya and foreign countries by land, sea and air are collected by the Statistics Department and published monthly in the *Government Gazette*. These include particulars as to race, sex, proportion of minors, country of original departure or ultimate destination, and the Malayan port of entry. Tables are also published to show arrivals and departures of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers, as indicating movements of labour. Copies of the summaries for the year are included

in the Appendices. Consideration has also been given, in consultation with the Immigration Department, to the collection of information to distinguish temporary from permanent or semi-permanent visitors.

Migration statistics are also, as already indicated, of importance as an aid to an estimation of the population in inter-censual years.

The following are points of interest. The population of Malaya by the Census Report on the 1st April, 1931, was 4,385,346, of which that of the Straits Settlements was 1,114,015 or approximately one quarter. The population on the 30th June, 1933, was estimated at 4,151,142 and 1,038,827 respectively. The Malayan emigrational surplus for the year was 38,449 persons, as compared with 162,978 in 1932 and 187,529 in 1931, a loss to the population in three years of 388,956 persons, due largely to the slump in the prices of rubber and tin. The reduced deficit for the year showed reviving confidence, and in the month of October, 1933, there was for the first time since July, 1930 a surplus which has since been maintained. A further reference to movements of Indian and Chinese labour is made in the following sections of this chapter.

Races of which there was a migrational surplus during the year were Europeans (including Americans), Northern Indians and Malays (including natives of the Malayan Archipelago). The following table shows the racial composition of the migrational surplus during the last three years:—

MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

Race	*1931*	*1932*	*1933*
Europeans and Americans	– 495	– 569	+ 301
Eurasians	– 24	– 61	– 72
Japanese	+ 384	– 798	– 130
Chinese	– 112,965	– 97,518	– 31,178
Malays	– 3,110	– 3,996	+ 304
Northern Indians ..	+ 1,256	+ 1,680	+ 3,757
Southern Indians ..	– 71,811	– 61,320	– 11,175
Others	– 764	– 396	– 256
Total ..	– 187,529	– 162,978	– 38,449

The total number of arrivals (to the nearest thousand) was 250,000, a decrease of 6 per cent, and of departures 289,000, a decrease of 32 per cent. There was an excess of departures to all countries with the exception of Netherlands India and Other Countries representing chiefly North Borneo and Sarawak from which, as in 1931 and 1932, there was an excess of arrivals due principally to Chinese. This feature may disappear with the inclusion of these countries in the area from which immigration is controlled, with effect from 1934.

The means of transport continued to be principally by sea, though the number of recorded passengers by land considerably increased and those by air doubled. The increase in land movements was due partly to the fact that migration between Perak and Siam by the Kroh-Betong route was not recorded prior to 1933 and partly to the development of trade between Northern Malaya and Southern Siam. The increase of migration by air was due to the development of civil aviation, the Royal Dutch Indian Airways having included

Singapore in the direct route from Batavia to Amsterdam with effect from May, 1933. Imperial Airways, Limited, inaugurated an air mail service from Singapore to London on the last day of the year.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—Indian Immigration

The total number of immigrants from Southern India that arrived at Penang by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1933 was 20,242. This is an increase of 2,508 over the figure for 1932, which was 17,734.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (labourers assisted to emigrate at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund to rejoin their families in Malaya)	20
Non-assisted immigrants (labourers, traders, and others who paid their own passages) ..	20,222
Total ..	20,242

Of the non-assisted immigrants 9,222 or rather more than 45% were of the labouring classes, the remaining 11,000 being traders and others. It is estimated that about one-third of the non-assisted immigrants remained in the Colony, the remainder proceeding to the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States. There were no assisted immigrants for the Colony.

The following table shows the number of assisted passages taken during the last five years for labourers and their families emigrating from Southern India to Malaya and paid for from the Indian Immigration Fund:—

1929	76,248
1930	36,957
1931	91
1932	12
1933	13

In addition to the immigrants who arrived by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 969 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes line.

(ii).—Indian Emigration

The number of deck passengers that left Penang for Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1933 was 32,738 (28,064 adults, 2,726 minors and 1,948 infants) as against 84,501 (66,988 adults, 11,338 minors and 6,175 infants) in 1932.

Of the total number 21,017 adults accompanied by 1,229 minors and 1,154 infants paid their own passages, while 7,047 adults, 1,497 minors and 794 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department; of the latter 1,650 adults, 195 minors and 94 infants were from the Colony.

Of those repatriated through the Labour Department 3,266 adults, accompanied by 614 minors and 353 infants were fit unemployed labourers for whom work could not be found in Malaya, and

2,890 adults, accompanied by 685 minors and 332 infants, were unfit for further work. The remaining 891 adults, 198 minors and 109 infants were repatriated at the expense of private employers or Government Departments or granted free passages by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
1. Sent at the expense of the Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund	1,528	150	78
2. Sent at the expense of estates and Government Departments	75	26	9
3. Carried free of charge by the British India Steam Navigation Company ..	47	19	7
	1,650	195	94

In addition to the above, 553 deck passengers left for South India by the Messageries Maritimes steamers.

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese labourers arriving in the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong) was restricted by proclamation under the Immigration Restriction Ordinance from January 1st to March 31st. From April 1st to the end of the year, restriction was imposed under the Aliens Ordinance. The quota was fixed at 1,000 throughout the year. Under the Aliens Ordinance, however, it applied to all adult male alien Chinese and not to labourers only. At the same time alien Chinese in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence issued under the Aliens Ordinance in the Colony or a corresponding Aliens Enactment in a Malay State were exempted from the provisions of Part I of the Aliens Ordinance and were therefore not counted against the quota.

The total number of adult male Chinese entering the Colony under the quota was 11,286, and with certificates of admission or certificates of residence 2,249 making a total of 13,535 compared with 50,120 in 1931 and 18,741 in 1932.

No restriction was placed on the immigration of women and children. Eight thousand one hundred and ninety-one women and 6,062 children entered the Colony from China ports. The corresponding figures for the previous two years were.—

	Women	*Children*
1931	17,042	11,923
1932	8,652	6,141

The number of women per thousand men arriving in the Colony from China ports during the years 1931, 1932 and 1933 was 340, 462 and 605 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 86,555 as against 161,809 in 1932.

Fares for deck passengers from Singapore to China ports during the year were from $12 to $15 (to Hong Kong) and from $15 to $17 (to Swatow and Amoy). For passengers counted against the quota, fares from China ports to Singapore remained high, and were in the neighbourhood of $75 (Hong Kong currency) $95 (China currency) and $100 (China currency) from Hong Kong, Swatow and Amoy respectively. For passengers in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence fares from China ports to Singapore were from 30% to 50% lower than those quoted above.

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM, PRINCIPAL DISEASES

(i).—General

(*a*) *Malaria.*—One thousand seven hundred and eighteen deaths were registered as due to malaria fever and 2,944 deaths as due to fever unspecified, as compared with 2,601 and 2,051 deaths respectively for the year 1932.

(*b*) *Tuberculosis.*—Deaths to the number of 2,167 were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,071 in the year 1932.

Whilst pulmonary tuberculosis still continues to present one of the chief problems for preventive and curative measures in this country, the available statistics during recent years tend to show that this disease is not markedly on the increase.

Steps have been taken to provide better housing and living conditions and some instruction has been given in the maintenance of a proper nutritional regimen. Propaganda is carried out in schools, infant welfare clinics, dispensaries and elsewhere, with a view to teaching the public how the disease may be avoided.

(*c*) *Pneumonia.*—Pneumonia accounted for 1,992 deaths as compared with 1,860 in 1932.

(*d*) *Beri-Beri.*—This disease is definitely on the decrease. Only 721 deaths were registered as being due to this disease.

(*e*) *Dysentery.*—Dysentery caused 475 deaths. The disease was less evident than in former years.

(ii).—Dangerous Infectious Diseases

(*a*) *Plague.*—One fatal case of plague occurred in the Straits Settlements during the year.

(*b*) *Cholera.*—One case of cholera occurred.

(*c*) *Small-pox.*—There were two cases of small-pox with one death.

(*d*) *Cerebro-spinal Fever.*—There were four cases of which 3 died. One of the three deaths was an imported fatal case.

(iii).—Venereal Diseases

The treatment of these diseases in undertaken by a special branch of the Medical Department known as the "Social Hygiene Branch", under the control of the Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene.

There are 26 treatment centres in the Straits Settlements as follows:—

Singapore 8, Penang (including Province Wellesley) 12 and Malacca District 6.

The number of new cases treated continues to show a progressive decrease for Singapore as follows:—

(1931) 17,378; (1932) 14,926; (1933) 11,961.

Penang.—The figures here show a small rise of 834 in 1932, followed by a fall in 1933 of 787 cases as follows:—

(1931) 7,612; (1932) 8,546; (1933) 7,759.

Malacca.—The figures show a slight rise yearly as follows:—

(1931) 3,069; (1932) 3,228; (1933) 3,636

Number of Seamen Treated.—There were 670 new admissions to the clinics from sailors, visiting the port of Singapore, of whom 157 were British and 75 were other Europeans. Of the remainder 363 cases were drawn from Chinese plying on local craft, 12 Malays, 42 Indians and 21 other races.

Serological Reactions.—There were ten thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight specimens of blood examined by the Kahn Test, of which 4,497 were positive.

Propaganda.—Pamphlets and leaflets were freely distributed to the public, while posters calling attention to the dangers of venereal disease and the facilities for free treatment were posted daily throughout the town of Singapore.

(iv).—Yaws

The treatment of Yaws more, perhaps, than that of any other disease has fostered the faith which Asiatics, particularly the Malays, now have in intravenous and hypodermic medications. The rapidity with which visible signs of the disease disappear has impressed the inhabitants so much that patients now freely and voluntarily seek treatment. Epidemic foci of the disease still exist in the rural areas and these accounted for most of the 8,060 cases treated during 1933.

B.—HOSPITALS, ETC.

(i).—Hospitals

Fifty-five thousand one hundred and ninety-seven patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony as compared with 54,442 in the previous year. The malaria admissions were 5,333 as compared with 5,845 in 1932. Admissions for venereal disease were 3,298 with 166 deaths, as against 3,745 with 189 deaths in the previous year.

The new General Hospital in Malacca has been completed and will be ready for occupation early in 1934.

(ii).—Dispensaries

Out-patients attendances at Government Dispensaries showed a decrease over last year, the figures being 223,552 patients with 451,018 attendances compared with 260,882 out-patients and 525,081 attendances in 1932.

The number of people seeking advice at the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, increased from 36,000 to 38,507.

At a similar dispensary in Penang the attendances for 1933 were 19,756 compared with 19,942 in 1932.

(iii).—MOTOR TRAVELLING DISPENSARIES

Motor Travelling Dispensaries are provided in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley. They visit outlying districts of each Settlement and dispense treatment for minor ailments. Attendances for the whole of the Settlements totalled 120,270 compared with 164,000 in 1932.

(iv).—LEPER SETTLEMENTS

Pulau Jerejak Settlement.—Modern treatment for leprosy has been given during the past three years to all curable cases at Pulau Jerejak with encouraging results. The success so far achieved has been reflected in the number of cases discharged as cured or free from infection which increased from 5 in 1932 to 45 in 1933. The patients have been encouraged to take an active part in the work of the Settlement and 123 able-bodied patients are now employed as artisans, wood-cutters, dhobies, etc. A few educated inmates serve as teachers, dressers and overseers. The dramatic troupes formed in the previous year gave several successful performances. Nineteen boys now attend the Chinese School and 9 attend the English School. The Boy Scouts muster 39 and they have drilled regularly throughout the year. Outdoor sports have been extended and have proved popular. The brass band has maintained a high standard and has given much pleasure to the inmates.

Singapore Settlement.—The Settlement at Singapore has accommodation for both males and females, but male patients are transferred to Pulau Jerejak, Penang, as early as possible.

(v).—MENTAL HOSPITAL

The hospital for the treatment of mental patients is suitably situated in pleasant surroundings in the Rural Area of Singapore. There were 1,332 patients at the beginning of the year, admissions numbered 386 and 1,359 patients remained at the end of the year. Compared with 1932 the admissions showed a reduction of 48. Patients whose mental and physical condition permit are employed in light manual labour in the hospital and its environment.

Industries.—Seven thousand six hundred and eighty yards of cotton cloth were woven for use in the institution. Eighty-two thousand nine hundred and sixty pounds of vegetables were grown for the use of the patients and a small quantity of fruit was also available. One thousand nine hundred and ten cocoanuts were harvested.

C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i).—QUARANTINE

Nine hundred and sixty-five visits in Singapore, and 359 visits in Penang (as against 1,183 and 378 respectively in 1932) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers. 254,297 persons were examined during the year. The figure shows an increase of 13,020 immigrants as compared with that of 1932.

Thirty-five thousand seven hundred and twenty-two persons were detained under observation in the Quarantine Stations at Singapore and Penang.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases at Singapore Quarantine Station was one for small-pox, twelve for chicken-pox and one for measles, and at Penang Quarantine Station one for small-pox, seven for chicken-pox and four for measles.

(ii).—Rural Conservancy

Singapore.—The more populous sections of the rural area in Singapore, have been gazetted as "Compulsory Nightsoil Removal Areas". In these areas, the conservancy removal was carried out by Chinese labour under the supervision of the Health Officer. The nightsoil of approximately one-quarter of the houses in the rural area of Singapore was removed by this method. Disposal is either by trenching or septic tank treatment.

During the year eight hundred and seventy latrines were constructed or reconstructed, and three hundred and forty of an insanitary type were demolished.

Household refuse was collected by the Health Department and incinerated. Six new incinerators were erected in 1933. The number of serviceable incinerators is twenty-four.

Penang.—Considerable extension of conservancy measures in Penang and Province Wellesley has been undertaken during the year and an organised system of night-soil removal and disposal exists in all gazetted village areas.

Pit and "bore hole" latrines are the rule in the rural areas outside village limits. In the Northern Settlement this work has resulted in the construction of 4,291 latrines of various types during the year.

Malacca.—Nine hundred and fifty-one new latrines were constructed or reconstructed during the year, and 166 insanitary latrines were abolished. There are 30 village incinerators.

(iii).—Anti-Malarial Work

The continued need for economy resulted in a reduction in expenditure on permanent anti-malarial works, such expenditure being limited to the completion of existing works. The annual cost of oiling certain breeding places for the control of dangerous mosquitoes was reduced by continuing the extension where possible of the oiling interval from a seven to a ten day period. It is understood that these economies have not resulted in an appreciable danger to health. A total expenditure of $132,820.68 was incurred on all anti-malarial measures undertaken during the year.

CHAPTER V

Housing

The character of the housing of the wage earning population of the Straits Settlements varies in urban and rural areas. In municipal areas the houses may be classified as:—

(a) Compound houses occupied by the well-to-do residents.

(b) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by moderately well-paid employees.

(c) Terrace houses for the clerical class.

(d) Shop-houses.

(e) Common lodging houses which are frequently overcrowded.

(f) Tenements in closely built areas, and

(g) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses in the outskirts of the city.

Old shop-houses in most cases are built in rows, of solid construction and two or more stories. They are, in a large number of cases, insufficiently ventilated and, in many streets, are not provided with back lanes. The former defect conduces to the spread of tuberculosis and the latter interferes with the proper collection of night soil. The upper stories of many of these houses are divided into small cubicles by the erection of temporary partitions, without regard to the entry of light and air. The worst type of overcrowding is found in these cubicles, and it is not unknown to find in a street of these houses an average of 46 people per house. The majority of the labouring and artisan class find a home in such cubicles or in common lodging houses. With so many of the wage earners living in such ill-ventilated and insanitary dwellings, it is not surprising that tuberculosis in urban areas is so prevalent and that the infantile death rate is high. The common lodging houses are found in the densely populated areas and frequently consist of an overcrowded dormitory over a shop or store.

The landlords of this type of house property are almost exclusively Asiatic, and in the large towns Chinese property owners predominate.

In rural areas, houses of the wage earners are generally of the Malay and Chinese types, built of planks and attaps. Brick and tile shop-houses are found in some of the larger villages. The former type of house is usually owned by the occupier. These houses are, as a general rule, clean, well-ventilated and not overcrowded; moreover, this type of house, being built of planks and palm-leaves, is admirably suited to the climate and is cool and comfortable to live in. The brick and tile shop-houses in the villages lend themselves to overcrowding like those in the towns, but the evils are less pronounced as the houses are not built so closely together. A large number of labourers on rubber estates are housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. These buildings in most cases conform to the standard design prescribed by the health authorities, and are therefore satisfactory when not overcrowded. Most of the houses, occupied by Malay small holders and peasants, in rural areas, are detached and built of planks or bamboo with attap roofs. They are raised about four to six feet above the ground level. These houses are well-ventilated, cool and commodious. Practically all are owned by the occupier.

It will be noted that action to relieve defects is required chiefly in the case of shop-houses and common lodging houses in towns, many of which contain cubicles and are dangerously overcrowded. Steps to ameliorate these conditions are being taken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore. On rebuilding by the owners, proper air space must be provided and back lanes must be made of a width of 15 to 20 feet. The Improvement Trust has entered on a fixed

programme of driving back lanes through existing congested areas, and it is anticipated that action will be completed in all the worst areas in five years. When this involves reconstruction, the Trust recovers the cost of the land. The Trust has also acquired several large blocks of slums and pulled them down or established open spaces in their centres. Roughly 50 acres of land bordering on the Chinese area, and formerly occupied by squatters, has been bought, filled in, provided with roads, and laid out in building lots for sale with a view to relieving the congestion. The Trust has built 118 better class cottages at Lavender Street for occupation by the clerical classes, and two large blocks of tenements comprising about 250 rooms at Kreta Ayer Road. It has also erected 224 artisans' dwellings in Balestier and Kim Kiat Roads.

In Penang, amelioration has been effected by the issue of nuisance notices under the Municipal Ordinance, resulting in the improvement of many buildings during the past 10 years. The Municipality has also demanded alterations in buildings to comply with by-laws under the Municipal Ordinance with a view to improving light and ventilation and avoiding overcrowding. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings. Steps have also been taken to maintain the common lodging houses in a sanitary and uncrowded condition.

In Malacca, amelioration is effected by constant inspection and action under the Municipal Ordinance and by-laws. In rural areas, gazetted village-planning schemes have been evolved so as to ensure a suitable layout of buildings. Nuisance notices are served on the owners of insanitary property requiring them to abate nuisances and the provisions of the notices are enforced by prosecution. Where the property is so insanitary that abatement of the nuisance in reality amounts to total demolition of the insanitary property, similar nuisance notices are served, closing orders are obtained and these are followed by demolition orders. The work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. It can be stated with confidence that almost all buildings now being erected in rural areas are of moderately good and sanitary type without being too expensive.

There are no building societies in the Straits Settlements.

CHAPTER VI

Production

A.—AGRICULTURE

(a) Crops Grown by European and Asiatics

Rubber.—Prices for rubber showed improvement after the first quarter of the year. The average price per pound for standard smoked sheet in Singapore was 10.21 cents, or 3.24 cents higher than the figure for 1932 which was the lowest recorded during the existence of the industry. The lowest price for the year was $5\frac{7}{8}$ cents per lb. in March. After March a steady rise occurred to 14 $\frac{15}{16}$ cents per lb. in July, followed by a slight decline to 11 $\frac{13}{16}$ cents in September and a recovery to 14 cents in December.

The rise in price in the middle of the year was ascribed to speculative buying combined with a more optimistic tone in the world's markets for most products; it was further stimulated by the new financial policy in the United States of America and by the anticipation that international restriction of output would in the near future become an accomplished fact.

This average price enabled the owners of large properties, with the aid of the strictest economy, to avoid losses or to obtain a small profit. It also provided the owners of small holdings with the necessities of life.

The total area under rubber at the end of 1933 was 336,404 acres. Of the total area 62 per cent consisted of estates of 100 acres or more and 38 per cent of small properties of less than 100 acres each. Production as declared was 56,562 tons as compared with 49,862 tons in 1932; with the exception of a small quantity absorbed by a Singapore manufacturer it is all exported. Newly planted areas which were confined to land already alienated amounted to 374 acres.

There was a considerable increase in the tappable area on large estates, this being estimated at 202,771 acres at the close of 1933 as compared with 190,661 acres in 1932.

There has been little change in measures for maintenance and disease control on estates, only such work being undertaken as was consistent with the strictest economy.

In response to the higher prices during the second half of the year, the number of small holdings in tapping increased rapidly and there was some improvement in their maintenance.

There was a vigorous recrudescence of mouldy rot disease of the renewing bark during the wet weather in the last quarter of the year. Control measures were, however, carried out satisfactorily and steps were taken to render supplies of cheap approved disinfectants readily available to owners of small holdings at cost price. Leaf mildew was again prevalent in Malacca in the early part of the year, but dusting with flowers of sulphur for its control was only undertaken in one or two instances since the economic value of this treatment is still doubtful.

Coconuts and Coconut Products.—The area planted with coconuts is estimated to have increased by about 200 acres to approximately 83,276 acres, the whole of the extension having taken place in Malacca. It continues to be almost impossible to take even a rough estimate of the total production, since no means exist for estimating local consumption either of fresh nuts or of oil.

The steady increase during recent years in the local production and export of coconut oil became more marked in 1933, apparently under the stimulus of the prevailing low price for copra.

Market prices for coconut oil and copra went steadily from bad to worse in the second half of the year. The price of "Sundried" copra in Singapore opened at $5.45 per picul, fell to $3.65 early in March and then remained steady round $4 until the end of July. Thereafter it declined each month to the lowest figure for the year, namely $3 at the end of December. The average Singapore price for "Sundried" copra was $3.89 and for "Mixed" copra $3.44 per picul, a fall of $1.85 and $1.78 respectively from the corresponding figures for 1932.

The average price of coconut oil was $7.67 and of copra cake $1.65 per picul, as compared with $10.04* and $2.10 respectively in 1932.

The efforts of the Department of Agriculture to improve the quality of copra produced by small holders met with further success in Province Wellesley and Penang where 9 kilns of approved pattern were in operation or in course of erection by Malays. On these kilns, copra of good quality was prepared and sold direct to exporters at prices considerably above those given by the local middlemen. In Malacca, however, little progress in copra improvement has yet been made, the chief difficulties experienced being lack of capital among Malay small holders and the fact that nut supplies are sold forward to Chinese kiln owners. At the Coconut Experiment Station in Selangor the Department of Agriculture gave several training courses in the preparation of good quality copra to its Malay Officers and to Malay Headmen from various parts of the country.

Caterpillars of *Artona catoxantha* did damage over a considerable area in Province Wellesley during the first half of the year, but were eventually controlled by natural agencies.

Coffee.—Singapore prices of coffee, after showing improvement towards the end of 1932 and in the earlier part of 1933, declined steadily during the remainder of the year. Palembang coffee averaged $15.60 and Sourabaya coffee $21.20 per picul, the corresponding prices in the previous year being $17.74 and $24.12. Imports increased by about 1,100 tons to some 6,100 tons and exports by about 600 tons to approximately 5,600 tons. In spite of this evidence of the existence of a both a local and an export market, there was no appreciable change in the planted area or its production in the Colony, the prevailing price being too low to encourage any development.

(b) Crops Grown Exclusively by Asiatics

Padi.—The steady increase in the area under padi cultivation, manifested during the past few seasons, was maintained in the season 1932–33. The total area planted with rice was 70,530 acres, being some 2,500 acres greater than that of the previous season. With the exception of some four thousand acres in Penang Island and a few hundred acres in the Dindings, the rice land is about equally divided between Malacca and Province Wellesley.

The total crop harvested was estimated at 24,010,000 gantangs or 35,000 tons of milled rice. This represents a decrease in crop of approximately 2,400,000 gantangs of padi or 4,000 tons of rice as compared with the season 1931–32, in spite of the increase in the planted area.

While estimates of the padi crop are admittedly open to error, it is recognised that the yields obtained in the 1932 harvest were exceptionally good, and that drought at the beginning of the planting season reduced the crop reaped in 1933 in the northern portion of Province Wellesley and part of the coastal area of Malacca. Moreover in the Dindings, adverse weather conditions, combined with the depredations of rats and birds during a wet harvest, resulted in very low yields.

* Owing to a typographical error, the figure given in the 1932 report is $13.

Although the price of padi at 5 to 8 cents per gantang has remained exceptionally low throughout the year, padi growers have realised the benefit of possessing their own supply of this staple food in difficult times, while the money derived from the sale of even a small surplus is a welcome addition to the family resources.

Work for the season 1933–34 commenced as usual about the beginning of July. The weather throughout the second half of the year was normal and favourable on the whole, though planting was delayed somewhat by drought in the south of Province Wellesley and also in the Dindings where the seasonal difficulties of the last few years were again experienced. Reaping commenced in the north of Province Wellesley at the end of December.

The systematic measures for the control of rats in padi fields, carried out under the supervision of the special staff employed by the Department of Agriculture in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca were successful in preventing any serious damage to the standing crop. A species of crab, known in Kedah as a pest in padi fields, appeared for the first time in Province Wellesley during October and did some damage before it was successfully brought under control.

Investigations on padi carried out during the year comprised the further selection and testing of pure strains, cultivation and manurial experiments and further work on padi soils. While some recent promising selections are still under trial, others have already proved their worth and are becoming popular, as is shown by the fact that stocks of seed from the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca were exhausted early in the season, some 4,000 gantangs, sufficient to plant about 1,000 acres, being readily sold to padi growers. Manurial experiments confirmed the results of previous work which disclosed the existence of a "bar" of unknown origin beyond which it has not yet been found possible to increase yields in Malaya by manuring. Preliminary experiments conducted on the Station in Malacca in the cultivation of padi by mechanical means gave promising results.

The Department of Drainage and Irrigation completed work on a scheme which will add some 3,000 acres to the available padi land in Malacca. A scheme has been approved for irrigating an extensive area of padi land in the south of Province Wellesley from the Krian Irrigation Reservoir in Perak, whereby an extension of some 4,500 acres will be added to the padi land in Province Wellesley in addition to the provision of water to the existing padi area. Several other minor works have also been completed.

Legislation to enforce the annual cultivation of padi land in Province Wellesley and to fix dates for cultivation operations was under consideration.

Pineapples.—While considerable areas of pineapples are grown for local consumption as fresh fruit in the other Settlements, by far the largest area planted with this crop is in Singapore Island where the fruits are grown mainly for canning. The area planted in 1933 comprised 9,500 acres of which 3,700 acres contain pineapples as a sole crop, the remainder being interplanted with rubber or fruit trees. The main area in which pineapples are cultivated in Malaya is, however, the State of Johore from whence 26,430,800 fresh fruits

were exported to the canning factories in Singapore, as compared with 35,767,339 fruits in 1932. There were five canning factories operating in the Island during the year.

The average prices of canned pineapples for 1933 showed a further decline as compared with those of 1932. For a case of 48 tins (72 lbs. of fruit) these were: Cubes $3.11; Sliced Flat $3; Sliced Tall $3.19.

Exports from Malaya were 59,582 tons as compared with 66,291 tons in 1932. Lack of internal organisation in the industry is believed to be one of the factors responsible for this decline in exports. Great Britain took about 77 per cent of the total exports as compared with 84 per cent in 1932, so that the Malayan canned fruit has successfully retained its strong position in the British market, in securing which the Malayan Information Agency has by its propaganda work played so important a part during recent years. A further 15 per cent of the exports were sent to British Possessions and Protectorates.

At the Pineapple Experiment Station maintained by the Department of Agriculture in Singapore Island, investigations into the cultivation and manuring of pineapples were continued. Marked increases in yield of fruit were obtained by the use of chemical fertilisers, while the value of some form of soil mulch in pineapple cultivation was also clearly demonstrated. Work on the selection and improvement of varieties was commenced, together with a botanical survey of varietal characters. Efforts to establish the cultivation of pineapples as a main crop have met with some success as an outcome of the work in progress at this Station.

An experimental consignment of graded canned pineapples was sent to the Canadian Exhibition at Toronto and received favourable comment. Further trial consignments of graded fruit are being prepared for despatch to England.

Legislation designed to give effect to the recommendations of the Pineapple Conference, appointed by His Excellency the Governor at the end of 1930, was very fully discussed with representatives of the industry. A Bill embodying the results of these discussions was introduced in the October Meeting of the Legislative Council.

Fruit.—There has been a gradual extension of the area planted with local fruit trees and bananas in Singapore Island and an increase in the production of fruit, with a corresponding reduction in imports from other parts of the Peninsula. In the middle of the year there was a normal, but not excessive, crop of fruits in Penang Settlement; reasonable prices were obtained on the local markets and a considerable portion of the rambutan crop was exported.

There is still a large import of tropical fruit into Malaya from the Netherlands India, and of temperate or sub-tropical fruit, such as oranges, apples, pears and plums from California, Australia and China.

There has been an increasing demand for planting material of good quality, to meet which stocks of budded, grafted or marcotted fruit trees are gradually being built up at the three Agricultural Stations, where experiments are also in progress to adapt the etiolation method of vegetative propagation as practised at East Malling in England to the reproduction of various local fruit trees.

A number of budded citrus fruit trees imported from South Africa were successfully established on all three Stations.

Vegetables.—The cultivation of vegetables as a market garden crop for sale in the town markets continues to be an important activity of Chinese small holders in all three Settlements. In Singapore Island, the area so occupied has shown considerable extension in recent years and was estimated to be some 3,000 acres at the end of 1933. As a result, local production supplies a much larger share of Malayan vegetables for the Singapore markets than it formerly did and has caused a corresponding reduction in imports from other parts of the Peninsula.

Efforts to effect improvement of the conditions under which the vegetables are grown have been handicapped by the low average prices obtained, since these militate against the use of chemical fertilisers, a practice which the Department of Agriculture is endeavouring to encourage. The services of the Chinese Sub-Inspector of Agriculture attached to the Department of Agriculture in Singapore Island appear to be appreciated by Chinese market gardeners and owners of larger holdings. Two Chinese Students are at present undergoing training at the School of Agriculture, Malaya, to qualify them for service as Agricultural Assistants in Malacca and Penang.

Malays, if they grow vegetables at all, only do so in sufficient quantity to supply the needs of their own families. It is, therefore, encouraging to note that on an area of 10 acres in Province Wellesley vegetables have been planted in rotation with padi, as a catch crop between seasons, for two years in succession.

Tobacco.—This crop is grown almost entirely by Chinese either in rotation with vegetables or as a sole crop. In Penang Settlement, there was an increase in the planted area which was 45 acres in October, 1933 as compared with 41 acres at the end of 1932. In Singapore Island, where better prices were realised, extension of the planted area has been rapid and the crop has become of considerable local importance and value. While in Penang Settlement production is confined to leaf suitable for the preparation of cheroots, in Singapore attention has also been paid to the possibility of producing yellow leaf for the preparation of cigarettes.

It must, however, be realised that with a short-term crop such as tobacco there are large fluctuations in the planted area even in one year and that the area cultivated is closely dependent on local prices. Considerable improvement in local methods of curing is necessary if the industry is to become firmly established.

Experiments in kiln drying for the preparation of yellow leaf at the Pineapple Experiment Station, Singapore, met with some success during the dry season, but gave disappointing results in the wet weather at the end of the year. It is becoming evident that careful attention will have to be given to the planting season if the object is to produce cigarette tobacco. The use of suitable fertilisers is also a factor of importance. Seed of both types of tobacco were distributed from this Station.

Several well known pests and diseases of this crop have made their appearance. For a few of these, such as the leaf-eating caterpillars, control measures have been devised; others are still under investigation.

Derris Root.—A species of this plant having a high toxic content is grown by Chinese in Singapore Island. During 1933 the planted area amounted to 550 acres of which 200 acres were planted in rotation with vegetables. The grower at present sells on the total weight of root, but the possibility of using the toxic content as a basis of valuation is under investigation by the Department of Agriculture.

Numerous enquiries regarding planting methods and planting material have been received during the year and some sixty thousand cuttings have been purchased in Singapore Island and despatched to Sumatra.

These enquiries, combined with a rise in price during the second half of the year, indicate the possibility that, if the existing difficulties connected with valuation and purchase can be overcome, this crop may prove to be of considerable economic importance.

Investigation of the toxic principles and their method of action on insects is in progress, while studies of the relative toxic content of the roots of different species and varieties of Derris are being continued.

Cloves.—An average crop, which ripened somewhat early, was reaped by Chinese growers in Penang Island in the last quarter of the year. Direct shipment to England by one of the principal growers has not been without effect in maintaining a satisfactory local price for this spice.

Mushrooms.—At the Bukit Merah Padi Test Station in Province Wellesley, mushrooms have been successfully cultivated on specially prepared heaps of padi straw. There are indications that this form of mushroom cultivation may prove a useful minor source of income to padi growers.

Other Crops.—Tapioca and arecanuts, though both crops of minor importance, continue to hold a place in the agricultural economics of the Colony. The former is now mainly grown in small plots along with vegetables, sugar cane and tobacco for local consumption. Chinese gardeners have recently planted a number of such plots in Penang Island. Arecanut palms are found mainly in mixed cultivation with fruit trees and coconuts, though there are a few small properties where the palms are a sole crop. The produce is mostly consumed locally. Small areas are also planted with pepper and nutmegs, the latter almost entirely in Penang Island whence there is still a limited export trade.

(c) Livestock

A privately owned herd of over 100 head of cattle has been successfully maintained in Singapore throughout the year on modern scientific lines and has supplied milk of a high degree of purity.

A privately owned pig farm in Singapore was closed at the end of the year and the stock sold. Pig rearing continues, however, to be a flourishing business among Chinese small holders throughout the Colony. A pure and a cross bred Middle White Boar from the Central Experiment Station, Serdang, were sold in 1932 to breeders in Penang and Singapore respectively. These have been bred with the common Chinese sows and their off-spring have become numerous and more widely distributed.

Pigs, whether of the first or second cross, are of a satisfactory type, they are superior to the pure bred local Chinese animal in that they are of better shape, grow more rapidly, attain greater final weight and command good prices on the local markets.

A small stock of pure bred poultry is kept at the Pineapple Station in Singapore. A few birds of each of three pure breeds were imported from England for the Agricultural Station in Malacca during the year. These birds are intended for grading up the local fowls by crossing. The Department of Agriculture is devoting considerable attention to the better housing, feeding and general care of village poultry in an endeavour to reduce the heavy losses at present widely experienced as a result of the ravages of epidemic diseases among badly-fed fowls kept under insanitary conditions.

(d) Agricultural Instruction

The Field Branch of the Department of Agriculture maintains the Pineapple Experiment Station in Singapore which contains an area devoted to fruit trees, tobacco and other general crops; two Agricultural Stations, one at Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley and one at Sungei Udang in Malacca; the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca, another Padi Test Station at Bukit Merah in Province Wellesley and Padi Test Plots in Penang and the Dindings. On all these, demonstrations were given and from them planting material of good quality was supplied.

A scheme drawn up by the Director of Agriculture for joint agricultural services in Labuan and the Protected State of Brunei was adopted. Progress was made in the establishment of a main Agricultural and Padi Station at Kelanas and in the laying out of four additional Padi Test Plots in Brunei and measures for starting a similar plot in Labuan were discussed. A commencement was also made in recruiting and training a subordinate staff; the work in Labuan and Brunei is at present supervised by the Agricultural Field Officer, Singapore, who pays periodical visits.

School Gardens, of which there are 126 in the Colony, are also used for instruction and propaganda. These were regularly visited by officers of the Department of Agriculture. The annual competitions in the Settlements of Penang and Malacca showed that in the majority of the gardens a high standard of maintenance was attained.

A successful Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition in which both Singapore and Johore participated was held in Singapore during April.

The Rural Lecture Caravan, jointly maintained by the Departments of Agricultural and Co-operation and the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, made tours in Penang, Province Wellesley, the Dindings and Malacca during the year. The lectures and film displays were well attended and have unquestionably produced useful results.

The School of Agriculture, Malaya, began definitely to prove its value, the number of students present at the close of the preceeding school year, which was 30, was increased to 53 at the opening of the new school year in May.

In the Federated Malay States, 12 Government Scholarships have been established as an alternative to definite recruiting for Government Service. A similar scheme for the establishment of 6 Agricultural Scholarships in the Straits Settlements was awaiting final confirmation at the close of the year. Avenues of employment, other than Government Service, have begun to present themselves and it is anticipated that appointments can easily be found for the 24 students who will complete their training in April, 1934.

There has been an increasing demand in the Colony recently for vocational training and the Government has under consideration the possibility of establishing Farm Schools in Malacca and Singapore in connection with the Agricultural Stations.

The Department of Agriculture continued to publish monthly the Malayan Agricultural Journal in English and also quarterly agricultural journals in the Malay and Chinese languages. In addition, 10 Speical Bulletins on general or scientific subjects were issued and leaflets in English and Malay were prepared as required.

(e) Retrenchment

The proposals for Departmental retrenchment, necessitating an appreciable reduction of staff, were put into effect during the year.

(f) Methods and Conditions of Recruiting South Indian Labour

Owing to economic conditions no use was made during the year of the arrangements described in the following paragraphs for the recruitment of labour from the Madras Presidency. A minimum establishment was maintained which was used to repatriate and assist unemployed Indians.

Elaborate machinery exists for the recruitment, in normal times, of South Indian labour, chiefly for work on rubber, coconut and oil palm estates. The same procedure applies in regard to recruitment of South Indian labour for the Railways, the Municipalities and the Public Works Departments.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, and the Rules made thereunder, and a special General Order of the Government of India defines the conditions under which emigration, for the purpose of performing unskilled work, is permitted to the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States.

There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labour for skilled work, but the recruiting of skilled labour in British India for work in Malaya is practically non-existent.

The foundation of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labour is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is maintained by contributions from all employers (including the Governments of Malaya) of South Indian labour. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may only be used for the importation of and in the interests of South Indian labour. Included in these interests are the maintenance of homes for decrepit and unemployed Indian labourers and the repatriation of and assistance to Indian labourers in need of relief; during the past three years the resources of the Fund have been extensively used for these purposes.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being the cost of the train fares of emigrants from their homes to the ports of Negapatam and Madras and their feeding in the Emigration Camps at these places while awaiting shipment, of passages from Madras or Negapatam to the Straits, of the expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang, Port Swettenham or Singapore, of transport thence to their places of employment in Malaya and of the payment of recruiting allowances to the employers by whose agents they had been recruited.

These agents, known as Kanganies, are sent over by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. The recruiting allowance paid to the employer is intended to recoup him for this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

(i) he must be an Indian of the labouring classes;

(ii) he must have beeen employed as a labourer on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit for a period of not less than three months.

Licences are issued by the Deputy Controller of Labour in Penang and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty and the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 per head for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the office of the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments, with the approval of the Government of India, to supervise emigration to Malaya, or in Negapatam to the office of the Assistant Emigration Commissioner. Only on endorsement by one or other of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually six months and is limited, in any case, to one year.

After having his licence registered the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents where he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) before leaving for his own village where he informs his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate.

When the kangany finds people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Munsiff or Headman whose duty it is to see that there is no valid objection to the person emigrating. If so satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman he takes them to the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Madras or Negapatam, either himself prepaying the

train fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents employed at the charge of the Fund.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government—the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped, unless he is himself returning to the Colony in which case he is paid the balance due to him on arrival at the estate, the kangany receives his commission less the amount of his advance from the financial agents.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charges and is kept purposely low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from $3 to $20 and is at present fixed at $10. The latter figure is designed to cover all legitimate out of pocket expenses leaving a margin just sufficient to induce employers to recruit up to their own requirements.

Besides the emigrants recruited by kanganies for individual employers any *bonâ fide* agricultural labourer who is physically fit can, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant, obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing. They are for the most part returning emigrants who are proceeding to their old places of employment and, as they are not recruited, neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable, though each receives a gift of $2 on being released from the immigration depôts. This is paid partly as an inducement and partly to ensure that they will not suffer from lack of food while seeking employment.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as *ex-officio* Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee, which consists partly of unofficials, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited, are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no 'contract' or indentured labour in the Colony.

There are 84 estates in the Colony owned by Europeans and 181 owned by Asiatics. The number of South Indian labourers (excluding their dependants) on the European owned estates on the 31st December, 1933, was 13,198 and on the Asiatic-owned estates 2,155.

B.—FORESTRY

Except for Singapore Island, where the forests have been depleted owing to pressure of population, the Straits Settlements are fairly well provided with forests, in respect of which a conservative policy is followed. The decision taken in 1931 to abandon the attempt to

continue the protection of the Singapore forests, except a small area retained on the ground of amenity, was called in question towards the close of the year under report, and the possibility of reviving the forest organization is still under consideration. While it is not likely that any large area of the forest land of the island will be found suitable for growing timber on a commercial scale, there appear to be considerable possibilities of development in the local sawmill industry provided that expert advice and supervision can be made available.

The industry referred to has hitherto drawn a large part of its supplies of raw material from the islands in Dutch territory adjacent to Johore, but imports from that source fell heavily in 1933 and there are indications of an increasing disposition to turn for supplies to the East Coast of the Peninsula, which yields timber of a generally superior quality though at somewhat higher cost owing to the factor of transport. The better part of the out-turn of the mills has for many years past been exported to a wide range of Eastern markets, small quantities having been shipped as far afield as South Africa, and the low-grade output goes largely to supply the packing-cases required by the pine-apple industry. Until 1933 there had been no attempt to cut select material for high-grade markets such as the United Kingdom, but during the year under report a number of experimental consignments have been shipped to London and Liverpool, with the assistance of the Forest Department, and have achieved a very encouraging measure of success. The total exports from Malayan mills to the United Kingdom since these experiments were begun about the middle of 1932 have amounted to 13,839 c. ft. valued c.i.f. at about £2,075, and of this quantity 7,500 c. ft. were cut in Singapore.

Success in this business is entirely dependent on careful cutting and seasoning of the timber shipped, and under the tuition of the Forest Engineer certain mills have already attained a high standard of production, which is reflected in the improved quality of the rest of their output and is not restricted to the material actually cut for export to the United Kingdom.

There is still, however, much more educational work to be done before high-grade production can be organised on a large scale, and this cannot be accomplished in the course of occasional visits by the technical experts in the absence of a forest officer permanently stationed in Singapore.

Apart from the mill-sawn output two experimental shipments to Liverpool of *keruing* and one of *sepetir* in the form of hand-sawn flitches were made from Malacca. The former timber is plentiful throughout Malaya though not very popular in the local market. The demand for it in the United Kingdom in the form mentioned is still on a limited scale but is being maintained and further developments are hoped for. The results of the experiment with *sepetir* are not yet known, and it is not available in large quantities, but its qualities as a furniture wood are such as to justify the hope that it may be acceptable to overseas markets.

The Settlement of Malacca is well provided with forests, chiefly of the plains type, which promise to constitute a valuable asset when they have been brought under regular management. The forests of

Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings are mainly hilly, but contain fair quantities of superior hardwoods and constitute a useful source of local supply.

The forest reserves of the Straits Settlements at present occupy 181 square miles or 12 per cent of the total area of the Colony. In the event of its being decided to revoke the Singapore reserves the area would be reduced by 25 square miles and the percentage to 10.

The effects of the continuing depression were evidenced by a further fall in the revenue of the Settlements, excluding Singapore, from $23,050 to $21,250, but an improvement was noticeable during the latter part of the year. Expenditure was reduced from $68,103 to $65,883.

The out-turn of timber, firewood and charcoal in cubic feet amounted to 202,960, 346,790 and 66,816 as against 278,325, 380,806 and 53,675 in 1932.

A revision of the Malacca working scheme to provide for the curtailment of operations owing to decreased demand was brought into effect during the year. The provisions of the working plans for Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings were generally followed.

The staff arrangements remained as before, only one full time officer being employed as Assistant Conservator in charge of Malacca and the remaining forests being controlled by joint arrangements with the Federated Malay States. A scheme of revision of these arrangements was under consideration at the close of the year and will, it is hoped, be brought into operation in 1935. Supervisory charge of Singapore continued to be held by the Commissioner of Lands. The subordinate staff employed at the close of the year consisted of 2 forest rangers, 5 foresters and 27 forest guards, the number of the latter having been reduced by 3.

The Federated Malay States organizations for forest research and education, forest engineering and marketing also serve the needs of the Colony. The main research organization deals with forest botany, œcology, silviculture, wood technology, timber testing and investigation of forest products generally, and a school for training forest subordinates is attached to it. The Forest Engineer is concerned with the improvement of methods of extraction, conversion and transport of timber and other forest produce. The Timber Purchase Section serves as an agency for direct purchase of timber on behalf of Government departments and others from forest contractors, and assists the latter in marketing their output. The work done by the Timber Purchase Section for the Colony increased largely during the year.

C.—FISHERIES

The total amount of fish, estimated as fresh fish, landed in the Colony during 1933 amounted to 24,700 tons. This is an increase of 4,700 tons on the 1932 figures, and is accounted for by the inclusion of 5,486 tons of 'bilis' (Stolephorus) which for the first time has been included in the landings of Singapore.

If this new source had not been included in the figures for 1933, they would have shown a decrease in landings of 786 tons.

The following table shows the distribution of the landings in the various centres of the Colony:—

				Tons
Singapore	..	..	..	15,650
Penang and Province Wellesley			..	4,700
Dindings	..	..	..	2,500
Malacca	..	..	..	1,850
			Total ..	24,700

This, valued at a conservatively low figure of $5 per pikul or approximately $84 per ton on landing, would amount to $1,914,800.

There were 12,612 fishermen employed in the Colony, of whom 6,652 were Malays, 4,497 Chinese, 903 Japanese, 501 Indians, 76 Eurasians and 1 Siamese. This is an increase of 180 on the total number registered in 1932. This is not a significant figure, and is due simply to more people taking up hand lining and other kinds of "one man" methods.

There is a decrease of 149 in the number of fishing boats employed in the Colony from 1932. With the exception of the Japanese powered vessels and some Chinese owned fish carriers, there are nothing but sailing and rowing boats employed in the industry. All the Japanese powered craft are based on Singapore, and are used to fish in the waters of the Rhio Archipelago, Gulf of Siam, South Burma, the East and West Coast of Malaya, and Sumatra.

They have increased by five during the year and now total 72. Their non-powered craft amount to 88 as against 90 in 1932. They landed 4,500 tons of fresh fish for the Singapore market during the year, which is approximately 60% of the fresh fish landed in Singapore. (This estimate is based on the fresh fish landed, and neglects the 5,486 tons of 'bilis' (Stolephorus) which is all dried, and never appears as a fresh fish).

The total revenue derived from the licence fees paid for nets, traps and boats and miscellaneous sources amounts to $12,678 which is a decrease of $1,122. This is directly due to the depressed conditions in the Colony.

The fishery has been normal throughout the year as far as can be ascertained, although prices remained low in spite of the rise in the price of rubber.

The industry is financed by dealers who live in the various fishing centres, and find money for the fishermen to enable them to provide boats and gear necessary for fishing. The fishermen, however, must sell their catches to these financiers who fix the price from day to day as the fish are landed. The objections to this method of conducting an industry are many, but the remedy lies with the fishermen themselves, and nothing but years of education and elimination of old established customs will effect any change.

D.—MINERALS

Tin.—Mining operations in the Colony were confined to the Settlement of Malacca where there were five places at which tin was worked during the year, and to Christmas Island where deposits of

phosphate of lime were worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. There are coal deposits in Labuan but these are not at present being worked. The production of tin-in-ore in Malacca at 72 per cent amounted to 54 tons, on which royalty of $9,128 was paid, as compared with 35 tons and $3,834 in 1932. The whole of the production went, as previously, to Singapore for smelting. The labourers were Chinese. No new prospecting licence was issued during the year.

The smelting of tin at Singapore and Penang is one of the principal industries of the Straits Settlements. Tin smelter production based on smelters' declarations amounted to 46,942 tons as compared with 49,945 tons in 1932. The decrease was due principally to the fact that ore from Netherlands India which used to come to Singapore for smelting was no longer imported.

Imports of tin-in-ore, at 72 per cent, into Singapore and Penang amounted, from countries outside Malaya, to 16,662 tons as compared with 20,488 tons in 1932 and from the Malay States and Malacca to 23,760 tons, as compared with 28,408 tons in 1932, a total for smelting purposes of 40,422 tons, as compared with 48,896 tons in the previous year. Exports of smelted tin amounted to 53,931 tons. The price of tin was £146 a ton at the beginning and £227 a ton at the end of the year, an increase of price of 35 per cent. The international control of tin continued during the year.

The production of phosphates of lime as shown by exports from Christmas Island was 91,280 tons of which the final value as declared for royalty purposes was $1,305,054 or $15.50 per ton. This output was exported, with the exception of 200 tons, to Japan. The labour force consisted of Chinese recruited in Singapore for work on the Island.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The Colony of the Straits Settlements is part of the Malayan Registration Area. Statistics of Malayan trade have been published since 1922, separate figures for the Straits Settlements being discontinued in 1928. The trade of the Colony, of which more than three-fourths is with foreign countries and the balance with the Malay States, consists principally of the entrepôt trade of the free ports of Singapore and Penang which serve as collecting and distributing centres for the countries of the Malayan Archipelago: Malaya, Netherlands India, North Borneo, Sarawak, Indo-China, Siam and Southern Burma.

The commodities known in the world's markets as Straits Produce, including such articles as rubber, tin, copra, arecanuts, palm-oil, pineapples, gums and unground spices, are collected from these countries, while manufactured goods consisting chiefly of household stores, machinery, piecegoods, building material and electrical equipment, are distributed in exchange. Singapore is also an important distributing centre for mineral oils—lubricating oil, liquid fuel, kerosene and motor spirit—and there is a trade at both ports in bunker coal, oil fuel and ships' stores. The historical function of Malacca as an entrepôt market between East and West has been

assumed largely by Singapore, but Malacca still remains the principal collecting and distributing station on the mainland for the centre of the Peninsula, though its importance has diminished with the development of long-haulage railway traffic from Singapore, Penang and Port Swettenham.

The ports of the Colony are free from port or light dues (with the exception of port dues at Labuan) and from import duties except on liquor, tobacco and petroleum. Preferences on liquor and tobacco and a 20 per cent *ad valorem* tax on the first registration of non-British motor vehicles were introduced as a result of the Ottawa Agreements in 1932.

A Trade Commission was appointed by the Government of the Straits Settlements in February, 1933 to enquire into "the trade of the Colony, the directions in which it has gained or lost, and the reasons for these gains or losses, and its future potentialities". The Commission continued its sessions throughout the year and its report is awaited.

The foreign trade of Malaya, representing the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the Federated and the Unfederated Malay States, in merchandise, bullion and specie, amounted in value to $760 (£89) millions, as compared with $747 (£87) millions in 1932, an increase of 1.7 per cent. This is the first time since 1930 that the result of the year has shown an upward tendency. It is not possible to indicate the trade in terms of quantity, though from the figures of the principal exports it is probable that this also increased, nor to distinguish between exports and re-exports owing to the nature of the Straits Settlements trade. There is also a considerable transhipment trade at the ports of Singapore and Penang, but of this also no figures are available.

The increase in the value of trade was due entirely to exports and principally to the higher values of rubber and tin. Imports declined in value owing partly to the continued downward trend of general prices and partly to the reduced purchasing power of the country. The $760 millions consisted of imports $358 ($380) millions and exports $402 ($366) millions, the figures for 1932 being shown in brackets. The value of bunker coal, oil fuel and stores taken on board ships on foreign trade routes for their own consumption amounted to $11 ($13) millions and if this is added to the excess of exports there was a favourable trade balance of $55 millions, as compared with an unfavourable balance of one million dollars in 1932.

With regard to the use of statistics for the measurement of Malayan trade, a word of warning is necessary. A considerable portion of the declared trade values of Malaya and of the Colony relates to the import and export of mineral oils. These are included in the trade figures but are not merchandise in the usual sense. Singapore by virtue of its geographical postion and proximity to the oil fields is a storage and distributing centre for mineral oils in the hands of two principal companies, and allowance should be made for this feature in an examination of Malayan trade. Imports from Japan, for example, in 1933 amounted to $26,592,862 and exports to Japan amounted to $36,683,753. The latter, however, included $14,975,986 representing motor spirit, and if this is deducted there is a balance of trade of $5 millions in favour of Japan. In other

words the position is reversed. The following figures show the distribution of trade in mineral oils in 1933 and their relationship in value to the gross trade of Malaya:—

TRADE: MINERAL OILS, 1933

VALUES IN $000

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
Lubricating oil ..	1,891	730	2,621
Kerosene ..	11,500	7,759	19,259
Liquid Fuel ..	10,196	2,884	13,080
Motor Spirit ..	39,726	32,457	72,183
A. Total ..	63,313	43,830	107,143
B. Malaya ..	358,000	402,000	760,000
C. Percentage A and B	18	11	14

Of the $760 millions, representing the trade of Malaya, $671 ($676) millions or 88 (90) per cent represented the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements. The value of imports was $327 ($349) millions, and of exports $344 ($327) millions. The figures indicate a slight decline not only in gross Colony trade but in the proportion of Malayan trade carried by Colony merchants. Both results may be attributed to the natural development of direct routing which seeks to eliminate the middleman, and the second also to the development of the Federated Malay States through their own ocean-port, Port Swettenham, under the stimulus of the Ottawa Agreements and an active railway policy. This trade, however, it is likely, is still flowing through Colony ports in the form of transit cargo, involving handling, finance and insurance, but unfortunately no figures are available to measure it.

Of Malayan trade (and generally speaking the same proportions apply to the Colony) 14 (15) per cent was with the United Kingdom, 15 (17) per cent with other British countries and 71 (68) per cent with non-British countries. The following are the countries with which the principal trade was done, with values in millions of dollars:—

TABLE I

	1932 $	*1933* $
1. Netherlands India	190	152
2. United States of America ..	79	131
3. United Kingdom	114	106
4. Siam	61	67
5. Japan	57	63
6. India and Burma	48	44
7. China (excluding Hong Kong) ..	26	26
8. Australia	30	25
9. Hong Kong	9	10

The following tables show the corresponding figures for the import and export trades:—

TABLE II

IMPORTS OF

Total merchandise including Bullion and Specie
(in millions of dollars)

		1932	*1933*
		$	$
1.	Netherlands India	133	111
2.	Siam	48	53
3.	United Kingdom	56	51
4.	India and Burma	34	31
5.	Japan	17	27
6.	China (excluding Hong Kong)	22	20
7.	Australia	8	8
8.	United States of America	7	5
9.	Netherlands	5	3
10.	Hong Kong	3	6

TABLE III

EXPORTS OF

Total merchandise including Bullion and Specie
(in millions of dollars)

		1932	*1933*
		$	$
1.	United States of America	72	126
2.	United Kingdom	58	55
3.	Netherlands India	57	41
4.	Japan	40	36
5.	Australia	22	17
6.	Netherlands	14	17
7.	Siam	13	14
8.	India and Burma	14	13
9.	China (excluding Hong Kong)	4	6
10.	Hong Kong	6	4

The above tables indicate how the trade of Malaya is dominated by imports of produce from Netherlands India, exports of rubber and tin to America, and imports of manufactured goods from the United Kingdom and Japan, while there is a large miscellaneous trade with India and China not unconnected with the immigrant population of those countries in Malaya.

The principal imports in order of gross values declared were motor spirit, rice, tin-ore, rubber, cotton piecegoods, kerosene, cigarettes, liquid fuel, dried and salted fish, sugar, milk and copra; the principal exports being rubber, tin, motor spirit, copra, rice, kerosene, dried and salted fish and tinned pineapples.

The following notes are added on certain features of the principal commodities:—

(i) *Rubber.*—Practically the entire output of native rubber in the surrounding countries, Netherlands India, Sarawak, North Borneo, Siam, Indo-China and Burma comes to Singapore and Penang for milling and re-export as crepe rubber. Of these imports, 83 per cent as compared with 81 per cent of the previous year came from Netherlands India. Imports increased, under the influence of a rise

in price, from 92,874 tons valued at $9,787,000 to 168,115 tons valued at $21,053,000, an increase of 81 per cent in quantity and 115 per cent in value. Exports increased from 478,836 tons to 573,412 tons (or 68 per cent of world output) and in value from $77,803,169 to $122,439,683 an increase of 20 per cent in quantity and 57 per cent in value. Of these, 55 (57) per cent went to the United States of America, 20 (15) per cent to the Continent of Europe, 13 (14) per cent to the United Kingdom, 9 (9) per cent to Japan and 3 (5) per cent to Other Countries. Malayan domestic exports increased from 405,209 tons to 448,690 tons or by 11 per cent. The price of rubber was 2 13/32*d.* a lb. at the beginning and 4 5/16*d.* at the end of the year. The rise was due partly to the continuance of negotiations regarding restriction and partly to increased consumption in the United States where the majority of the world's rubber is absorbed. An interesting local development was the installation by one of the principal producing companies of a bulk latex plant in the Singapore Harbour Board premises, from which latex is conveyed direct in a pipe line to ships at the wharves, and the increase in bulk shipments to Europe and America.

(ii) *Tin.*—Imports of ore decreased from 28 to 23 thousand tons or by 18 per cent, the gross value, however, increasing from $23 to $26 millions, of which 61 (44) per cent came from Siam, 9 (35) per cent from Netherlands India and 30 (21) per cent from other countries including Australia, Japan, Indo-China, Burma, Tanganyika, Uganda and the Union of South Africa. This with practically the entire output of the Malay States was smelted in Singapore and Penang. Exports of tin increased from 47,908 to 53,931 tons or by 12 per cent, and in value from $55,687,036 to $88,716,233. Of these, 57 (42) per cent went to the United States of America, 28 (34) per cent to the Continent of Europe, 5 (12) per cent to the United Kingdom and 10 (12) per cent to other countries. The decrease in imports of ore was due to the change in policy of the principal Netherlands Indian mines which commenced sending their ores to Holland for smelting. There was also, as already mentioned, a decrease of imports into Singapore and Penang from the Malay States and Malacca. The increase of exports would appear to be due principally to withdrawals from smelters' stocks.

(iii) *Cotton piecegoods.*—Imports decreased from 150 to 146 millions yards, and in gross value from $18 to $16 millions, of which yardage 68 (57) per cent came from Japan, 18 (26) per cent from the United Kingdom and 14 (17) per cent from other countries including increased amounts from Russia. The entrepôt trade in this article is important as shown from the fact that re-exports (principally to Sumatra) amounted to 19,151,703 yards, as compared with 19,775,143 yards in 1932.

(iv) *Preserved Pineapples.*—This is a Malayan industry. Exports decreased from 66,292 tons or 2,034,257 cases, to 59,581 tons or 1,875,287 cases, and in total values from $7,914,000 to $6,285,000, of which 77 (84) per cent went to the United Kingdom, 10 (5) per cent to Canada, 5 (4) per cent to the Continent of Europe and 8 (7) per cent to other countries. The decline in production was due partly to slump conditions in the rubber industry, pineapples being originally a catchcrop planted between young rubber to give a return while the rubber is maturing, and partly to the exhaustion of old pineapple lands. The industry is now being reorganised, under the guidance

of the Department of Agriculture on a permanent basis, and a bill for the improvement of the Pineapple Industry (since enacted), was introduced in October. The increase of imports to Canada is a hopeful sign, due largely to the preferential import duty obtained under the Ottawa Agreements.

(v) *Copra.*—Imports, which came principally from Netherlands India (Sumatra and Borneo) and the State of North Borneo, increased from 100,143 tons to 100,290 tons, gross values declining from $8 to $6 millions. Exports increased in quantity from 197,000 to 211,000 tons, gross values declining from $19 to $15 millions. Of shipments 66 (69) per cent went to the Continent of Europe (principally Germany, Holland and Norway), 23 (24) per cent to the United Kingdom, 8 (5) per cent to the United States of America and 3 (2) per cent to other countries. The steady decline in the price of the commodity during the year caused great concern to producers, the causes being said to be partly the competition of other vegetable oils and of whale oil, the strength of buying combines, the incidence of freights amounting at the end of the year to 36 per cent of the value of the commodity, and the tendency of an unregulated industry to over-produce.

(vi) *Rice.*—Imports increased in quantity from 592,209 tons to 592,912 tons (or say 50,000 tons a month), gross values decreasing from $40 to $34 millions. Of imports, 59 (60) per cent came from Siam, 37 (37) per cent from Burma, 2.6 (1.5) per cent from Saigon and .4 (1.5) per cent from other countries. Domestic exports increased from 1,917 to 2,950 tons, re-exports declining from 183 to 160 thousand tons. Values of gross exports declined from $12.6 to $9.5 millions. Of these 79 (83) per cent were to Netherlands India, 10 (7) per cent to Sarawak, 5 (3) per cent to North Borneo and 6 (7) per cent to other countries. The decline in exports to Netherlands India was partly due to the policy of the Netherlands Indian Government in promoting the cultivation of rice in Java for the supply of their East Indian territories. Similar policies, of economic nationalism in China, the Federated Malay States, where an import duty of 15 cents a pikul was imposed in October, and elsewhere are likely to have a detrimental effect on the entrepôt trade of the Straits Settlements ports. The wholesale price of rice declined from $3.97 to $3.52 a pikul during the year. The cheapness of this staple article of diet was of inestimable value in enabling the country to weather the storm of the general depression, and Malaya was fortunate in having the three great rice granaries of the world, Burma, Siam and Indo-China, at its door.

(vii) *Palm oil.*—Imports increased from 14 to 281 tons, coming principally from Sumatra and Sarawak. Exports increased from 7,906 tons to 12,381 tons or by 57 per cent. Of these 28 (45) per cent went to the United Kingdom, 24 (12) per cent to the United States of America, 23 (0) to Canada, 13 (15) per cent to Sumatra presumably for re-export, and 12 (11) per cent to other countries. Production is principally in the States of Johore and Selangor. The bulking plant in the Singapore Harbour Board premises from which oil is conveyed direct in a pipe line to ships at the wharves was extended during the year.

Detailed information regarding the trade of Malaya will be found in the publications issued by the Statistics Department.

CHAPTER VIII

Wages and the Cost of Living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for Southern Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts in Malaya and these rates tend in practice to regulate the rate of wages earned in other districts and by labourers of other races. There was no change in standard rates during the year.

In the Colony the only key district in which standard wages were in force was Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates were 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer, 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female, and 16 cents for children of 10 years and over. No Indian child of under 10 years of age may be allowed to work.

The average price per gantang (8 lbs.) of No. 2 Siam rice in Singapore, Penang and Malacca declined from 25, 29 and 27 cents in January respectively, to 23, 26 and 24 cents, in December, 1933, or approximately by 10 per cent.

In the island of Penang and in the Dindings daily rates varying from 28 to 40 cents for a male labourer, from 24 to 32 cents for a female labourer, and for children 16 to 20 cents were paid. The labour forces on Province Wellesley estates are very settled. On the older estates which have employed Tamil labour for a long time many of the labourers have been born on the estates and are frequently not entirely dependent on their check-roll wages.

In Singapore the daily rates of wages on estates ranged from 28 to 55 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian male labourer, from 24 to 30 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian female labourer, and for children from 15 to 20 cents. Many employers paid their tappers by results. The rates of wages paid to Chinese and Javanese labourers were about the same as those paid to Indians. Government Departments paid from 40 to 96 cents and miscellaneous employers from 50 to 80 cents.

In Malacca, able-bodied Indian adult male labourers on estates earned 28 to 40 cents and able-bodied adult female labourers 24 to 32 cents a day. Store and factory labourers received 40 to 50 cents. In the Government Departments the rates of wages were from 40 cents to $1.35 (Health Department) for males and 25 to 40 cents for females. Chinese were mostly employed on contract at rates varying from 35 to 45 cents a day. Javanese and Malays earned as much as Southern Indians.

The law requires every employer to provide at least 24 days' work in each month to every labourer employed.

Workmen employed in skilled trades naturally commanded higher rates of wages.

There is no indentured labour in the Colony.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 9 of 1932) came into force on the 1st of October, 1933. Health and Labour Departments are invested with powers under Ordinance 197 (Labour) to

regulate and enforce proper conditions of health and labour. Protection from machinery is secured under Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery).

For further particulars, reference is invited to the Blue Book, section 23.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living, reference is invited to the separate report on this subject (No. S. 4) published annually by the Statistics Department. The average weighted index of commodity prices in Singapore, represented by 17 principal commodities (15 wholesale and 2 retail) increased by 21 per cent as compared with 1932, due principally to increases in the prices of rubber and tin. There were increases also in the prices of damar, rattans and tapioca flake. The price of tin was £143.5.0 per ton at the beginning and £227.10.0 at the end of the year, the highest and lowest prices being £229 and £142, respectively, and the average for the year £200. The price of rubber was 2.13/32 pence per lb. at the beginning and 4.5/16 pence at the end of the year, the highest and lowest being 4.17/32 pence and 2 pence, and the average for the year 3.7/32 pence. The following index numbers show changes in commodity values during the last five years:—

1929	*1930*	*1931*	*1932*	*1933*
100	64	41	37	45

There was, however, a continued decline in retail values, as shown by a fall of 11 per cent in the index of food prices, representing the difference of the average of the two years for Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and of 8.6 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 4.8 per cent in the general cost of living for Asiatics, Eurasians and Europeans, respectively. The fact that the wholesale index increased while the retail index continued to decline may be explained by the usual time-lag between the two. The decline in market prices as reported by the Municipal Authorities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca, was noticeable principally in the prices of meat, eggs, fish and curry-stuffs, due possibly to an abundance of supplies available and more intensive competition in markets and in their neighbourhood. House rents as represented by municipal assessments also declined, the figures for the principal towns being 24 per cent in Kuala Lumpur, 12 per cent in Singapore, 16 per cent in Penang, 10 per cent in Malacca and 4 per cent in Johore Bahru as compared with those of 1932.

The general cost of living index numbers for the Asiatic, Eurasian and European standards were as follows:—

Standard	1914	1932	1933	Percentage increase + or decrease − as Compared with 1932
Asiatic	100	108.6	99.3	—8.6
Eurasian ..	100	113.1	105.7	—6.5
European ..	100	129.2	123.0	—4.8

CHAPTER IX

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in the Colony in English and in various vernacular languages—Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools, *i.e.*, places where fifteen or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, except where the teaching is of a purely religious character, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance, 1926. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher of an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is insanitary or that is likely to be used for the purpose of propaganda detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director of Education may also, in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government Schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board, in addition to school fees, receives the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent on property in municipalities and 1 per cent on property in rural areas to be devoted to the purposes of education within the Colony.

B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The English schools are schools in which English is the medium of instruction. Few of the pupils are English speaking when they join. Of those admitted in 1933 approximately 13% of the boys and 26% of the girls were English speaking. The lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and they are given an education which ends as a rule with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though one or two stay on and prepare for the London Matriculation Examination.

The fees are $30 (£3 10*s.*) a year for the first six years (*i.e.* for the years spent in the Primary Division of the school) and $48 (£5 12*s.*) a year for the remaining period. These rates will remain in force for pupils enrolled prior to 1st January, 1934, but the rates for those enrolled on or after that date will be $36 (£4 4*s.*) a year for the first eight years (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and thereafter $72 (£8 8*s.*) or $108 (£12 12*s.*) a year depending on the results of an examination, the successful pupils up to 50 per cent of the available places paying the lower fee and the remainder paying the higher one.

Attendance is not compulsory.

In 1933 there were 24 Government and 31 Aided Schools in the Colony—27 situated in Singapore, 19 in Penang, 8 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 25,161 (9,434 in Government and 15,727 in Aided Schools).

Of the 25,161 pupils in English Schools, 4,186 or 16.64 per cent of the pupils were enjoying free education. The details of the nationalities so benefited were 914 Europeans and Eurasians, 1,296 Malays, 1,701 Chinese, 237 Indians and 38 others.

The Aided English Schools are managed by various missionary bodies—the Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, the Portugese Catholic Church, and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of Missionary teachers at the rate of £420 a year for a man and £280 a year for a lady missionary. These rates have since been revised as set out below. Capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government under certain conditions.

The recommendations of the 1932 Grants-in-Aid Committee were approved by Government with slight modifications and are to take effect from 1st January, 1934. The more important changes are as follows:—

(i) Salary allowances for European Missionary teachers have been reduced to $3,000 (£350) a year for a man and $1,800 (£210) a year for a lady missionary. Allowances at these rates, however, are to be payable only to a limited number of such teachers. All other Missionary teachers will be paid at the rate of $1,440 (£168) a year for men and $1,200 (£140) a year for women.

For the missionary staffs of the Christian Brothers' Schools and the Convent Schools, it was decided to allow a flat rate of $2,400 (£280) a year for men and $1,500 (£175) a year for women.

(ii) An age limit for Missionary teachers of 55 in the case of men and 50 in the case of women has been introduced, provision being made for exceptional cases.

(iii) Lay teachers will be subject to the same rules as regards age of retirement as teachers in Government Schools.

(iv) No leave (including sick leave) will ordinarily be allowed to a teacher who has reached the age limit.

Asiatic missionary teachers will not be eligible for pay while on leave other than sick leave.

(v) The annual capitation rate to cover all contingent expenditure has been reduced from $3 (7*s.*) a year per pupil to $2.40 (5*s.* 7*d.*) a year per pupil.

The Government Afternoon Schools in Singapore, which were designed in 1930 to accommodate the many surplus pupils who were not qualified to enter the Government and Aided morning schools have reached a most satisfactory standard. Except in the cases of three primary classes for which no suitable unemployed teachers were available, all schools were staffed by trained teachers who had been retrenched from Government and Aided Schools in the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. They give a sound elementary English education to boys in classes from Primary to Junior Cambridge on the same lines as that given in the ordinary schools. The enrolment increased from 724 in 1932 to 767 in 1933. The total expenditure was $27,172 and the total revenue $26,759. As will be seen, these schools are now practically self supporting.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—

(*a*) those controlled by religious bodies and accommodated in proper school buildings;

(*b*) those carried on by individuals for profit and accommodated in any sort of building from shop-house or private house to office or godown. In schools of the latter class overcrowding is common, and the staffs are usually cheap and meagre. The pupils are very often over the usual age or dull or both. In Singapore in 1933 there were 56 private schools with an enrolment of 5,547.

There is no central college for the training of teachers for English Schools. Such training is supplied at Normal Classes held at one centre in each of the three Settlements. The students who attend these Normal Classes, men and women alike, are required to hold Cambridge School Certificates with credits in at least two of the subjects English, Elementary Mathematics, History, Geography and Drawing, or Certificates accepted by the Director of Education in lieu thereof, and they must be at least 16 years of age; they must also have satisfied the Education Department in an Oral English Examination. Those selected are appointed Student Teachers and they then spend three years in an English school studying and watching the teaching. In the mornings they are present for at least two hours in the class rooms studying teaching methods or themselves teaching prepared lessons. In the afternoons and on Saturday mornings they attend the Normal Classes. The Normal Class

Instructors are European Masters and Mistresses, the majority being Government officers. The subjects of instruction are English (Language and Literature), the Theory and Practice of Teaching, Hygiene, Physical Training and, in some centres, Art. An examination has to be passed each year, those for the first and third years being conducted by a central authority and that for the second year by the local Inspector of Schools and the Instructors. Student Teachers who pass the third year examination become "Trained Teachers".

At the beginning of 1933 there were second and third year Normal Class students in all Settlements, but in no Settlement were there any first year students owing to the depression and lack of demand for teachers. At the Annual examinations held in March 1933, 99 students passed (45 men and 54 women); of these, 24 men and 22 women completed the three-year course and became "trained teachers". In the 1933-1934 session which started in April only third year classes were formed.

Certain selected students, student teachers or teachers are given three-year scholarships to Raffles College there to undergo a course of practically university standard to fit them for the teaching of subjects in the secondary classes of the English schools. They are allowed to specialise in certain branches.

In 1933 only one student scholarship to Raffles College was awarded; it was given to a girl from Malacca. All others were withheld in view of the uncertainty of the staffing position three years ahead, an effect of the slump. At the end of the year 28 Colony students were in training for work in classes in the secondary divisions of schools, of whom 19 were in the third year of their course, 8 in the second year and one in the first year. Fifteen students completed their courses and obtained their diplomas in May.

C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School, Kuala Lumpur, which provides courses of training for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, and which gives accommodation also to a class conducted by the Survey Department for its own untrained subordinates.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils may proceed to the School of Agriculture, Malaya, at Serdang, Federated Malay States, where one-year and two-year courses of study are followed. Government is providing a number of scholarships to this school in 1934.

Commercial Education.—Courses of study covering two years are provided by the Commercial Department of Raffles Institution, Singapore, and the Government Commercial School, Penang.

In addition, Evening Classes are conducted at Singapore in Typewriting, Shorthand, Book-keeping, Plumbing and Sanitary Engineering, Structural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Surveying, Chemistry and Navigation.

The Nautical Classes had an enrolment of 134 at the end of the year, one third of the students coming from places other than Singapore. An increase in the enrolment would seem to show that the classes are meeting a need. They not only help local men to obtain employment, but they also assist them to get promotion. They were attended by a large number of men employed on local vessels, and although few of these could be present often most of them attended when circumstances permitted. The total number of passes up to 15th December was:—

Master, Local Trade, 1; Second Class Gunner, 1; Third Class Gunner, 9; and Helmsmen, 26.

There was also an evening class at Malacca, but Typewriting was the only subject taught. Ten students sat for the London Chamber of Commerce Examination.

Industrial Education.—The Singapore Trade School continued to do very good work. There were 114 students undergoing training in the three classes—39 in the first, 31 in the second and 44 in the third year course. It was possible to accept a larger amount of repair work from the general public during the year, and there was no difficulty in combining instruction with useful work for Government Departments and private individuals, particularly in the motor repair shop. One hundred and thirteen different jobs were carried out, which varied in nature from minor repairs to complete overhauls of cars. In addition, work for the school included drawing-board stands, a mild steel motor-car lift, and stands for a developing cabinet and a sun-frame. Labour charges paid into revenue amounted to $829.88.

Expert engineers have expressed the opinion that the standard of work of a student at the school is comparable with that of the apprentice in England with the same length of training, while the scope of the instruction is wider than that obtaining in most workshops. In addition to training in the use of tools and machinery a student gets a thorough knowledge of up-to-date store-keeping and is put through a sound elementary course in machine, design and plan drawing. The Association of Engineers, Singapore Branch, visited the school and were favourably impressed with the methods of training used and with the comprehensiveness of the curriculum. Eight students were placed with Government departments, with the Royal Air Force and with local firms, and since the end of the year several others have found suitable employment.

A Careers' Committee, including among its members several prominent local engineers, has been formed, and with its co-operation it is hoped that qualified students of the school will find more avenues of employment.

The staff of the school was increased by one motor mechanic.

The Trade School, Penang, is now fully equipped and is in a position to take on repair work for Government departments and, to a limited extent, for the general public. Thirty-eight new students were admitted during 1933, of whom 16 had Junior or School Certificates. The total enrolment was 71. Ten per cent of the boys enjoyed free places.

It has been decided to open a Trade School in Malacca in 1934. The opening of the new hospital at Malacca will make the old hospital buildings at Durian Daun available, and part of these buildings can be converted for use as a Trade School at very little cost. The subjects which it is hoped to teach include Motor Engineering, Electrical Wiring, Plumbing, Carpentry, Tailoring and Shoe-making. A start will be made with only one or two of these subjects, however.

D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, and Raffles College, Singapore. The course of the College of Medicine covers six years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial List of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

Raffles College, Singapore, was opened in 1928 in order to place education of a University standard within the reach of all the youths of British Malaya who were capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three-year courses in Arts and Science. Diplomas are awarded to successful students.

Two scholarships, known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 for the first year and £400 for any subsequent year up to six years, may be awarded in each year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential College at Oxford or Cambridge.

The annual examination for these scholarships, the tenth since they were restored by Government in 1923, was held in October. The successful candidates were Mr. KEONG SIEW TONG of St. Xavier's Institution, Penang, and Mr. BERNARD H. Y. MEGGS of Raffles Institution, Singapore. The former is taking Medicine and the latter Engineering, both at Cambridge University. Twelve candidates competed for this examination.

E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay vernacular education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by the Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give a general and practical education to those boys who have no desire for an education in English, and who will find employment either in agriculture or in appointments in which a knowledge of the vernacular is all that is required, and (ii) to provide a sound foundation in the vernacular on which an education in English can be superimposed in the case of boys who desire to proceed eventually to an English School.

The school course normally lasts five years, during which period the pupils pass through five standards. The subjects of the curriculum are Reading and Writing (in the Arabic and Romanised script), Composition, Arithmetic, Geography, Malay History, Hygiene, Drawing and Physical Training. Boys do Basketry and Gardening in addition, and girls do Needlework and Domestic Science.

In 1933 there were 217 Malay vernacular schools with an average enrolment of 23,542 pupils. In addition there was an aided school at Pulau Bukom, Singapore, with 51 pupils.

Those who are to become teachers in the Malay Vernacular Boys' Schools are in the first instance selected from the pupils who have shown promise. As pupil-teachers they both teach and study till they attain their sixteenth birthdays about which time they sit for an examination qualifying for admission to the Sultan Idris Training College, Tanjong Malim. If they do sufficiently well they are accepted into the College and put through a three year course. Graduates of the College are designated "Trained Teachers".

The post of Assistant Supervisor of Malay Girls' Schools, Singapore, was abolished on 1st April. In order to continue the excellent work started by this officer three trained lady teachers volunteered to visit the schools to encourage the development of craft work and domestic science. The teachers' training class continued to do very good work. Arrangements have been made in Singapore to give a one year intensive course in domestic science to pupils who have passed the highest class in the Malay Girls' school. A few girls' schools in Penang send their children to the boys' schools to be taught geography, arithmetic and composition. This method of using better trained male teachers in mixed classes has shown good results. Handwork, laundry and cookery are taught in many schools. A satisfactory standard of needlework and embroidery was maintained.

Government has realised that the education of Malay girls has reached a stage at which further progress can be achieved only by the institution of a Training Centre for Malay Women Teachers. It is proposed therefore to open such a centre in Malacca in 1934. Malacca has been decided on as the best place for the training centre because of its central position and because of the predominance of Malays in its population. It will be convenient also to open the centre in Malacca because owing to the opening in 1934 of the new Malacca hospital part of the old buildings at Durian Daun will be available for accommodating it and the expense of providing a special building will in consequence be avoided.

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese Schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1933 was 10 in Singapore, 23 in Penang and 3 in Malacca.

The recommendations of the Grants-in-Aid Committee, 1932, have been approved and from 1st January, 1934, the grants-in-aid to Chinese vernacular schools will be in two grades:—

I. $10 per year per pupil

II. $ 5 per year per pupil,

in average attendance. In order to qualify for Grade I schools must teach English for a minimum number of hours each day with

reasonable efficiency and must employ for that purpose a teacher who holds the minimum qualification of a Junior Cambridge Certificate or a certificate recognised by the Director of Education as of equal value.

There are three types of schools:—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.*, schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members".

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on school fees, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1*s.* 2*d.*) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s.* 8*d.*) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of a Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The Primary course in Chinese schools normally occupies six years. The Government has little if any control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance or the length of hoildays in any except the Aided Schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curricula.

The Chinese High School, Singapore—the only purely secondary school in the Colony—was closed throughout the year but remained on the register. In Penang there were two schools for males which provided a secondary education together with a primary course; in Malacca there was one, but the course of study was not complete. Four Girls' schools in Singapore and two in Penang provided a Normal Class. One girls' school in Singapore provided a physical training course.

At the close of 1933 there were 373 registered schools with 1,134 registered teachers and 24,853 pupils (of whom 6,477 were girls).

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There were no Government Tamil schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil schools in Penang and Province Wellesley and all those in Malacca were estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder were private schools run by mission bodies or committees.

Owing to lack of facilities and of trained teachers, Tamil schools fall behind Malay Schools in such important subjects as drill, gardening and handwork. There is no provision in Malaya for the training of Tamil teachers. Though there is no policy of co-education, a number of girls attend boys' schools. There is only one Tamil vernacular school for girls in the Colony, the Convent Tamil School, Penang, and even it has a few boys in its lower classes.

The number of Tamil schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1932 was 21 in Penang and 11 in Malacca with an average enrolment of 1,364 and 507 respectively. No Singapore schools were in receipt of grants-in-aid.

The recommendations of the Grants-in-Aid Committee, 1932, that grants-in-aid should be paid at the rate of $6 per pupil per year, have been approved by Government with effect from 1st January, 1934.

F.—MUSIC, ART, DRAMA AND RECREATION

Music.—Singing continued as a class subject in the lower classes of most schools and Folk Songs, Rounds and Nursery Rhymes were used as aids to the teaching of English. In some schools singing was introduced successfully into the higher standards. Lessons in musical appreciation illustrated by gramophone records continued to be given in senior schools. Part-singing and sight-singing of a high standard was continued at the American Mission schools. Several schools had orchestras.

Successful children's concerts, organised by Mr. E. A. BROWN, O.B.E., were held in Singapore, and a school children's orchestra was formed by him in October.

Art.—This subject has been given a great deal of attention in all English schools in Singapore and Penang and the standard of work is high. It is encouraged through handicrafts. In the lower standards potato printing with designs invented and cut by pupils leads to the decoration of books in a book binding class, and to the making of block printed table cloths, etc. Needlework, batik-work, poker-work and stencilling in the girls' schools, and carpentry, sketching, clay modelling, batik-work and book-binding in the boys' schools all make use of inventive art.

In Malay schools similar handicrafts were employed in the encouragement of art development. This development was most evident in the needle-work in girls' schools and in the cotton-printing class in one of the boys' schools.

Drama.—Dramatisation forms a part of the English curriculum of all English schools. The lower standards act simple plays and dramatic stories. The senior boys and girls act scenes from Shakespeare.

In certain Penang Malay Schools sketches were presented for the first time in 1933. They were produced with the object of helping the Earl Haig Fund.

Parts of well known Tamil dramas are frequently acted in Tamil schools.

Recreation.—Schools are required, where they can, to provide facilities for outdoor recreation, and the majority of the institutions have a certain, though not always adequate, amount of playing-field accommodation. Municipal playing-fields, however, are often made use of. The games played were Association Football, Cricket, Hockey, Volley-Ball, Basket-Ball, Badminton, Tennis, etc. Rugby Football practice was started at the Raffles Institution, Singapore, and the Penang Free School. Inter-class, inter-house and inter-school matches and competitions were common. Association football was easily the most popular game in both English and Malay boys' schools. Sepak Raga is still played in the Malay schools. Boxing is taking

hold in certain schools. Practically every boys' school held an Athletic Sports Meeting, at which team events were common. Facilities for indoor games such as Ping-Pong and Badminton were often to be found. A number of schools had see-saw, swings, slides, etc., for the younger children.

Organised games were conducted in most of the girls' schools at the time allotted for Physical Training. In Malay girls' schools folk games were included in the Physical Training as part of the curriculum.

Systematic instruction in Swimming was given in Singapore at the Y.M.C.A. and Mount Emily Pools.

G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas Home (a Church of England institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children, without restriction as to race or religion, from all over Malaya. There was an average of 13 boys and girls in the Home during 1933. This Home is at Penang. It gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor.

There are fifteen orphanages in the Colony (four in Singapore, six in Penang and five in Malacca), with 1,384 orphans in 1933, maintained by various religious bodies. Most of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and, in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught housekeeping and needlework. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as mui tsai who complain of ill-treatment, are detained in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300.

CHAPTER X

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

Communication by sea between the various Settlements which comprise the Colony is frequent and regular.

There is a weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan, which is carried out by ships belonging to the Straits Shipping Company. Malacca is in constant and regular touch with Singapore and Penang through the vessels of the Straits Steamship Company. In addition to the local services between Singapore and Penang, a large majority of the mail and passenger ships which call at

Singapore, either eastward bound or westward bound, call at Penang also. Christmas Island is served by the *s.s.* "Islander" belonging to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which maintains a five-weekly service.

In regard to its external sea communications the Colony is extremely favourably situated, Singapore being a nodal point for traffic between Europe, Netherlands India and the Far East.

The slump in world trade continued throughout 1933, though it revived towards the end of the year, and shipping was proportionately affected—the tonnage showing a further decrease as compared with the year 1932. (*See* Tables at Appendix "*C*").

The tonnage of all vessels, *i.e.* merchant vessels, native craft, men-o'-war, etc., entered and cleared at the six ports of the Colony during the year 1933 was 45,316,600 tons, being a decrease of 464,688 tons as compared with the year 1932.

Of this decrease Singapore is responsible for 441,824 tons; Penang for 35,273 tons; Dindings for 21,272 tons; while Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island show a total increase of 33,681 tons.

Comparing the tonnage of merchant-vessels only (*i.e.* all vessels above 75 tons net register) the decrease is 368,167 tons.

In the last six years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1928	..	..	..	42,987,154 tons
1929	..	..	..	45,435,395 ,,
1930	..	..	..	46,588,856 ,,
1931	..	..	..	*43,632,445 ,,
1932	..	..	..	43,424,295 ,,
1933	..	..	..	43,056,128 ,,

B.—ROADS

The total mileage of metalled roads in the Colony at the end of 1933 was 978 of which 241 miles of roads and streets were maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and 737 miles in the rural areas were maintained by the Public Works Department for Government. In addition to the metalled roads, there are 131 miles of gravel roads, natural roads and hill paths maintained by Government.

The mileage in the various Settlements is as follows:—

Settlement	Municipal	Government Roads			Total Roads Mileage
	Roads & Streets	Metalled Roads	Unmetalled & natural Roads	Total	
Singapore	156	142	3	145	301
Penang	68	71	40	111	179
P. Wellesley ..	..	182	26	208	208
Dindings	..	34	19	53	53
Malacca	17	288	22	310	327
Labuan	..	20	21	41	41
Total ..	241	737	131	868	1,109

* The decrease in the tonnage is partly due to the change in classification from "under 50 tons" in 1930 to "under 75 tons" in 1931.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure by the Public Works Department on the 868 miles of Government roads in 1933 was $712,882 of which $439,319 was in respect of annual road maintenance work and $273,563 was on special expenditure on reconstruction or remetalling of roads.

The average cost of maintenance per mile was $507 compared with an average cost per mile of $847 for the past 5 years.

The Singapore Municipality spent $152,141 on road maintenance and $42,431 on road reconstruction—a total of $194,572 compared with $1,022,203 in 1932.

The Penang Municipality spent a total of $106,970 and the Malacca Municipality a total of $43,423 on road maintenance and reconstruction.

The principal road reconstruction work carried out during the year was on the main road from Singapore to Johore. One length of one mile was widened from 18′–30′ and another length of 2 miles was widened from 18′–26′ and the metalling and kerbing completed. This road is being surfaced with asphaltic concrete and during the year 5,300 tons of this mixture were transported and laid, at a cost of $1.35 per square yard.

Traffic, Omnibuses and Tramways, etc.—Most of the roads in the Colony are subject to very heavy motor-lorry traffic, and loads of 14 tons on two axles have been found using the roads.

The principal form of transport in rural areas of the colony is by the hired car or 7 seater motor-bus, known locally as the "mosquito bus". Goods are transported principally by lorries but large numbers of the old fashioned bullock-carts still exist.

In all towns the rickshaw is popular for short journeys and 8,500 of these vehicles are licensed in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

Six thousand four hundred and ten motor-cars and 1,505 motor-lorries were licensed in Singapore and 1,800 cars and 260 lorries in Penang.

In Singapore, the Singapore Traction Company own and operate a service of electric trolley-buses and motor-buses. The trolley-bus routes cover 27 miles.

In Penang the Municipality owns and operates a small service of electric trams covering 5.9 route miles and an electric trolley-bus service covering 8.15 route miles. The Penang tramway services carry approximately 8,000,000 passengers per annum.

The Penang Municipality also operates the Penang Hill Railway which serves the Hotel and residences and bungalows on Penang Hill. The railway is worked by cable and carries passengers to the Hill Station, 2,250 feet above sea level. The number of passengers carried annually is now about 35,000.

C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Singapore and Penang (Prai) are the termini of the main West Coast Line. Singapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, but communication between Prai and the island of Penang is by ferry. Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Penang another line runs North to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles.

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant or buffet parlour cars and sleeping saloons. The journey of 488 miles takes approximately 22 hours.

D.—AIRWAYS

The Royal Netherlands Airmail from Holland to Java continued to serve the Colony throughout the year, using Singapore as one of the principal stops. Towards the end of 1933 the Imperial Airways Indian Service was extended to Singapore and the regular service was commenced in December. Both air lines now maintain a weekly service between Singapore and Europe. Regular services are also maintained between Singapore and Netherlands India by the (Koninklijke, Nederlandsch Indische Luchtvaart Maatschappij).

Pending the completion of the Civil Aerodrome all commercial aircraft continue to use the R.A.F. base at Seletar.

Singapore Civil Aerodrome.—The construction of the Civil Aerodrome was commenced in 1931 and work is being hurried forward. By the end of 1933 $2,109,258 had been expended and approximately 1/3rd of the work was completed. It is hoped that the aerodrome may be ready for use in 1936.

The work involves the reclamation of approximately 264 acres of the Kallang Basin, a tidal basin, situated only two miles from the centre of Singapore and between the business and residential areas, which form the Eastern portion of the city. The amount of filling necessary for the reclamation work is estimated to be 7,000,000 cubic yards. When it is completed Singapore will possess a landing ground of 1,000 yards diameter and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes practically in the heart of the city and fully equipped with hangars, workshops and offices for both land and seaplanes.

Penang Aerodrome.—The Penang Aerodrome is situated in the South East of the Island at Bagan Lepas, eleven miles from the town.

Work on the construction of the aerodrome was commenced in March 1932 and during 1933 considerable progress was made in bringing into condition for use what was formally padi land. During dry weather the surface is good and in June three light aeroplanes from the Kuala Lumpur Flying Club landed and spent a day making passenger flights. Other light aeroplanes were also given permission to land at their own risk and no mishaps occurred. The heavy continuous rains from October to December however made the surface too soft for commercial aircraft and the Aerodrome was not passed for all weather use. Work on improving the surface is being continued and two landing strips of 800 yards × 100 yards are to be constructed in the direction of the prevailing winds, and it is hoped to have the landing ground ready for all weather use during 1934.

Emergency Landing Grounds.—At an Estate Golf course at Nebong Tebal, Province Wellesley, and at the Golf Course at Malacca, areas were marked out and levelled for use as emergency landing grounds. These two landing grounds are unsuitable for general use

by aircraft and are only prepared for cases of extreme emergency. (The emergency landing ground at Nebong Tebal has since been abandoned).

Flying Clubs.—The Royal Singapore Flying Club has completed its fifth successful year. It owns 3 Moth seaplanes, one flying boat and one Moth land plane.

Arrangements were made during the year for the commencement of a flying club in Penang.

Particulars of Air Mails and Public Transport Services are given in the postal section below.

E.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(*a*) Posts

All the towns and larger villages in the Straits Settlements are provided with postal facilities. In addition to the Head Post Offices at Singapore, Penang and Malacca and the Post Office at Labuan there were 39 Post Offices in the Colony offering full postal facilities and 18 offices at which limited postal duties are carried out by postal agents. The number of posting boxes, exclusive of those at Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies, was 196 on the 31st December. Eighty-four licences for the sale of stamps were issued during the year.

In general, the postage rates in 1933 remained unchanged, but with effect from the 1st November the rate of postage on each letter enclosed in a clubbed packet for China was raised from 8 cents to 12 cents per ounce.

The trade depression continued throughout the year but its effect on the volume of business conducted by the Post Office was not so marked as in 1932. The number of postal articles dealt with during 1933 is estimated at 39,767,277, a decrease of 2.44 per cent as compared with the figures for 1932 which however showed a decrease of 11 per cent as compared with 1931. These figures include official, ordinary, registered and insured letters, postcards, printed papers, commercial papers, sample packets and parcels. Closed mails in transit to the number of 142,730 were handled at Singapore, Penang and Malacca during the year.

Regular weekly mails for Europe were forwarded alternately by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and by the British India contract service *via* India. The average time taken in transit was 22 days both to and from London. Vessels of other lines were also utilised for the transport to Europe of correspondence specially superscribed for conveyance by those vessels.

During the year there were further developments in connection with air mails and the volume of air mail correspondence continued to increase. In May, the route of the Netherlands Air Service which hitherto had been *via* Alor Star and Medan was changed so that on both the homeward and outward flights a call at Singapore was made. This change proved of great value to the commercial community of Singapore and Southern Malaya generally. The most important development during the year was the extension in December of the Imperial Airways London–Karachi service to Alor Star and

Singapore. The Imperial Airways and the Netherlands services now provide between them a twice-weekly rapid, regular and reliable air mail; the usual time in transit between Singapore and London being between 9 and 10 days.

The operations of the Money Order Branch of the Post Office in 1933 amounted to $4,496,744. The principal business was with India, which absorbed about 60% of the total value of money orders issued in the Colony, and with the Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands India, Ceylon, China and Siam.

(*b*) Telegraphs

Eleven submarine cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang 5, thence to Madras	2
to Colombo	2
to Deli	1
To Batavia 2, thence to Cocos	1
To Banjoewangi 1, thence to Port Darwin ..	1
To Hong Kong 1, thence to Manila ..	1
thence to North China ..	1
thence to Macao ..	1
To Cochin China 1, thence to Hong Kong ..	1
To Labuan 1, thence to Hong Kong ..	1

There is a system of Government Telegraph Lines in the Straits Settlements which, in conjunction with similar systems in the Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu and Perlis provides telegraphic communication by land between Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Province Wellesley and the Dindings and all parts of the Malay Peninsula. There is also a line from Penang to Bangkok in Siam.

Various changes are in progress in the method of operating the Government Telegraph System with a view to increase of efficiency and reduction of costs of operation. These consist of the replacement of Morse working by the use of Teleprinter instruments on main lines and the telephoning of telegrams to and from minor offices. Some Morse operated circuits still remain in use but it is anticipated that these will be entirely eliminated in due course.

The total length of wire in use for Telegraph lines in the Straits Settlements at the 31st December, 1933, was 388 miles consisting of 330 miles of overhead wire, 24 miles of wire in underground cables and 34 miles of wire in submarine cables.

There were at the end of the year 44 Telegraph Offices in the Straits Settlements. During the year 604,697 telegrams were dealt with; a decrease of 8.1% compared with 1932.

(*c*) Telephones

The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is operated by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited; the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca, by the Post Office.

The number of direct exchange lines connected to the Telephone Exchanges in the Straits Settlements (excluding Singapore) on the 31st December, 1933, was 1,525, a decrease of 27 compared with 1932. In addition there were 844 extension lines, extension bells and private

lines, a decrease of 10 compared with 1932. The nett revenue derived from telephones was $304,283, a decrease of $27,761 compared with the previous year.

The total length of wire in use for Telephone Lines in the Straits Settlements at the 31st December, 1933, was 6,324 miles consisting of 2,688 miles of overhead wire, 3,516 miles of wire in underground cables and 120 miles of wire in submarine cables.

One additional telephone exchange, at Sungei Bakap in Province Wellesley, was opened during 1933. The exchange at Durian Tunggal, Malacca, was converted to Semi Automatic working on the 27th February, 1933.

The use of the long distance trunk facilities increased steadily during the year. The "Personal Call" service, referred to in last year's report, was restricted at the outset to calls between the larger exchanges. During 1933, however, a revision of the trunk control system permitted the extension of this service to calls between all Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Exchanges. This service is proving very popular.

(*d*) Wireless

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony situated respectively at Paya Lebar, Singapore and Penaga, Province Wellesley. The stations were maintained in good working order throughout the year. The Paya Lebar Station carries out point to point communication with Kuching, Sarawak and Christmas Island on short wavelengths, in addition to a ship to shore service on long, medium and short wavelengths. The Penaga Station communicates with ships on long, medium and short wavelengths and receives the British Official Wireless Press transmitted by Rugby and Oxford, England. Point to point communication is established between Penaga and Bangkok, and telegraph traffic between Malaya and Siam is cleared by this means whenever there is a failure of the land line telegraph between Penang and Bangkok.

On April 1st a temporary broadcasting service on a short wavelength was commenced by a commercial firm in Singapore, and broadcast programmes are transmitted by this station on four occasions weekly.

Reception in Malaya of the broadcast programmes from the British Broadcasting Corporation's Empire station at Daventry, England, which were commenced on December 19th, 1932 and continued throughout the year, was of variable strength and quality.

CHAPTER XI

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures

A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, ½

cent and ¼ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the last denomination. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5, and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.

During the War, and for some years after, notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remains in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony. When Great Britain abandoned the Gold Standard during the War and again in September, 1931, the dollar automatically followed suit. The present position is therefore that the dollar is linked to sterling at the value of 2*s.* 4*d.* in terms of that currency.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2*s.* 4 3/16*d.* to the dollar, and, *vice versa,* may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2*s.* 3¾*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits. Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $66,964,286 in currency notes and $3,370,834 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $136,045 as compared with $136,417 at the end of 1932.

At the beginning of the year 1933 the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $68,496,575. There was a slight demand by the public for Sterling during the months of March and April, and the consequent contraction in the Currency during those months amounted to $1,772,800. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for silver current coin during the year under review, the result over the whole year being that on 31st December, 1933, the note circulation stood at $66,964,286.

The liquid portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $44,888,641.96, consisting of $19,509,194.30 in silver and $2,504,005.34 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £2,668,801.12.1 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, $87,256,338.57; the cost price of those investments having been $79,800,158.85.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.* in current silver coin in the Colony and in Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year

was $44,888,641.96 and the investment portion amounted to $87,294,910. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $65,292,309.70 as compared with an excess of $58,991,066.59 at the end of 1932.

There was a nett issue by the Treasury of $201,559 in subsidiary silver coins during the year and a nett decrease of $1,120 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $9,383,113 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $724,075.95 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1931 was $727,657.25 and at the end of 1932 $725,228.

Fifteen million four hundred and fifty-four thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven notes to the value of $66,814,330.25 were destroyed during the year as against 16,242,301¾ to the value of $73,732,750 in 1932.

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year 1933:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
„ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
„ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited.
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschâppij).
„ Banque de L'Indo-Chine.
„ National City Bank of New York.
„ Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
„ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
„ Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
„ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
„ Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Limited.
„ China and Southern Bank Limited.
„ Kwong Lee Banking Company.
„ Eastern Bank, Limited.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 9/64 and 2/3 23/32. The higher rate was obtainable only over a very short period in November.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December was 33,055 as compared with 29,630 on the 31st December, 1932 an increase of 3,425. During the year 8,083 new accounts were opened while 4,626 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was $6,843,085 as compared with $5,725,444 on the 31st December, 1932. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $207 as compared with $193 at the end of 1932.

The Book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December was $7,455,874 and the market value of these investments according to the Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $7,567,508.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(a) Standard of Length, the Imperial yard.

(b) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(c) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese steelyards (called "daching") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal local measures used with their relation to English standards:—

Local Term		*Relation to English Standard*	
The chupak	equals	1	quart.
The gantang	"	1	gallon.
The tahil	"	$1\frac{1}{3}$	ozs.
The kati (16 tahils) ..	"	$1\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.
The pikul (100 katis) ..	"	$133\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls) ..	"	$5,333\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.

CHAPTER XII

Public Works

The Public Works Department is under the administrative control of the Director of Public Works, Straits Settlements, (whose title was altered from that of Colonial Engineer on the 1st of January, 1932). The Director is responsible for all public works in the Colony except those under the control of the Municipalities, the Federated Malay States Railways and the Drainage and Irrigation Department; he is also the Adviser, Public Works to the Malay States both Federated and Unfederated.

To assist the Director in Singapore is the Deputy Director and Head Office Staff and the Government Architect, Assistant Architects, and Drawing Office Staff. The work of the various settlements is controlled by the local Branch Heads. Penang and Province Wellesley are now administered by the local Head in Penang, the appointment of Senior Executive Engineer, Province Wellesley having been abolished. It was decided that as from 1st January, 1934, Malacca should be placed under the administrative control of the State

Engineer, Negri Sembilan, as Settlement Engineer, Malacca, in addition, the appointment of Senior Executive Engineer, Malacca, being abolished.

The Public Works Department of the Dindings has, since 1932, been under the administrative control of the State Engineer, Perak, instead of being under the Penang Senior Executive Engineer.

Labuan is in the charge of one Assistant Engineer who is directly under the control of the Director of Public Works.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department of the Straits Settlements for the year 1933 was $6,361,689 compared with $8,874,769 in 1932.

The details of expenditure are shown in the following table:—

Head of Estimates	Expenditure	Settlement	Total Expenditure	Expenditure Extraordinary
Personal Emoluments	627,439	Singapore ..	3,817,995	2,470,829
Other Charges ..	164,282	Penang ..	899,578	521,608
P. W. Annually Recurrent	1,676,828	Dindings ..	69,515	26,669
P. W. Extraordinary	3,846,292	Province Wellesley	524,168	208,061
Work done for other Departments ..	46,848	Malacca ..	1,014,372	608,555
		Labuan ..	36,061	10,570
Total ..	6,361,689	Total ..	6,361,689	3,846,292

The senior staff of the Department on 31st December, 1933, consisted of 26 Engineers and 4 Architects compared with 33 Engineers and 7 Architects in 1932.

The average value of work carried out per Engineer unit including Architects was $212,000 and the cost of the establishment was 9.8% of total expenditure.

The Roads and Government Buildings in the Colony were maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the year, the expenditure on maintenance work (Recurrent Expenditure) being as follows:—

	1933	*1932*
	$	$
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals ..	697,367	792,422
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works ..	979,471	910,371
	1,676,828	1,702,793

In addition to the road maintenance work a sum of $738,180 was spent out of Public Works Extraordinary on reconstruction and other special work under Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals.

The roadwork is described in Chapter X-*B*.

Buildings and Miscellaneous Works.—The expenditure on new buildings and miscellaneous works (Extraordinary Expenditure) amounted to $3,108,112.

The principal works of interest completed during the year were as follows:—

Singapore.—

The new pier which was built to replace Johnston's Pier and was declared open by His Excellency the Governor on June 3rd, 1933, and named Clifford Pier. The total cost of the pier was $480,000 and the roadwork and approaches $20,000.

	$
The water borne sewerage scheme for St. John's Island Quarantine Station ..	129,405
Central Police Station	157,000
New English School at Jalan Besar ..	135,677
V.D. Clinic Tanjong Pagar	66,477
New Post Office, Queen Street	59,000
Customs Examination Station on West Coast	15,000
Reclamation at Serangoon & Balestier Roads	81,500
Reclamation at Mount Pleasant	39,620

Penang.—

New Nurses Quarters, General Hospital ..	241,483
Malay Boys School, Sungei Glugor ..	11,580

Malacca.—

New Bridge at Durian Tunggal	45,392

The new General Hospital, built at a cost of $2,030,000 was completed, except for minor interior details, ready for the official opening by His Excellency the Governor in February, 1934.

The following important works were in hand during the year but were not completed.

Singapore.—

New Civil Aerodrome (*see* Chapter X-*D*).
Reclamation of foreshore in front of Beach Road.
Reclamation, dredging and new road construction at Sungei Berlayar.
Police Station Beach Road, completed except for internal finishing.
New Police Barracks at Hill Street designed to accommodate 200 police, completed except for internal finishing.
New Sikh Police Barracks, Pearls Hill (commenced June, 1933).
Kandang Kerbau Hospital—New Maternity Ward—Dispensary and Quarters.
Reconstruction of Chief Justice's House.
Bukit Panjang Drain.
Mental Hospital—erection of 4 additional wards and children's wards.

Penang.—

Aerodrome (*see* Chapter X-*D*).
New General Hospital—Class III Wards.
Making good flood damage.

Province Wellesley.—

Water supply to Bukit Mertajam, Prai and Butterworth.

Malacca.—
Extension of the Northern Groyne.
Police Station, Pulau Sebang.

Waterworks.—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are adequate and up-to-date. The various installations in the rest of the Straits Settlements are controlled by the Public Works Department and were maintained throughout the year.

Work was commenced on the Cherok To'Kun Impounding Dam, 40 ft. high, for the water supply extension to Bukit Mertajam, Prai and Butterworth.

Electric Light and Power.—Power Stations are owned and operated by the Municipalities of Singapore and Penang and also by the Singapore Harbour Board. Electric current for Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley is obtained on contract from the Penang Municipality. Malacca Electric Lighting Ltd., supplies Electricity in the Malacca Municipal area.

Small installations outside these areas and the installations to all Government Buildings are maintained by the Public Works Department, the total expenditure on maintenance in 1933 being $164,596.

Reclamation.—Apart from the Aerodrome reclamation, the principal reclamation work in progress in Singapore is on the foreshore in front of Beach Road where approx. 47 acres are being filled with dredgings and topped with red earth. The coral bund—enclosing the area being reclaimed—was completed except for a small access channel, and 292,800 cub. yards of mud and 10,500 cub. yards of red earth were dumped.

Work continued on the reclamation at "Labrador", Sungei Berlayar, and 80% of it was completed by the end of 1933. The other reclamation works at Ayer Jerneh (Serangoon Road), Target Hill, Mount Pleasant and Mount Zion, Havelock Road, were completed during the year.

The Dredgers "Mudlark", "Tembakul" and "Todak" and the two new small grab dredgers worked throughout the year, in the Singapore River, Telok Ayer Basin, the Inner Roads, Rochore River and Sungei Berlayar, and a total of 563,400 cubic yards of material was dredged.

The rivers and drainage channels in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Dindings, and the sea and river walls, lighthouses and beacons were maintained in good condition.

Sanitation.—The Singapore Municipal Sewage Department controls pumping plants disposal works and 62 miles of sewers, dealing with 4,000,000 gallons a day, but there is still a large part of Singapore not yet sewered. The schemes for extending the sewerage of Singapore are still under consideration.

Work on the Penang main sewerage scheme was continued during the year, and progress made with the laying of sewers by the Municipality.

Where possible Government buildings and quarters are connected to these Municipal sewage schemes, but elsewhere small septic tank installations are relied on in all districts for water-borne sewage.

The maintenance of all sanitary installations was carried out by departmental labour. The sewerage scheme to St. John's Island Quarantine Station was completed and put into service during the year. The system includes a complete salt water supply for its operation and cost $129,405.

General.—The Public Works Department had 62 contracts in hand on 1st January, 1933. During the 1933, 186 contracts were entered into and 223 contracts were completed, leaving 25 unfinished at the close of the year. The fall in the prices of labour and materials, noted in the reports of the past 3 years, ceased during the year and at the close of the year there were signs of an upward tendency.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

The operations of the Department during 1933 were mainly for the extension and improvement of padi areas in the Settlement of Malacca and in Province Wellesley.

Malacca.—In Malacca the principal works under construction were the Irrigation Scheme at Chohong, the Bachang Drainage Scheme and the Tanjong Minyak Drainage and Irrigation Scheme.

The Chohong Scheme, designed to irrigate 670 acres, was begun towards the end of 1932 and all the works were completed by July, 1933. The Scheme operated successfully during the 1933 padi season. The irrigation works comprise the construction of reinforced concrete headworks on the Kesang River near the 26½ Mile Chabau-Chin Chin Road, the construction of 180 chains of irrigation canals and two reinforced concrete culverts under the Jasin-Chin Chin Road.

The Bachang Scheme is for the protection from inundation by the Malacca River of about 1,500 acres of potential padi land. The works involved the construction of some 3 miles of earth bund along the Malacca and Paya Rumput Rivers, the digging of 70,000 feet of drains to take the internal drainage of the bunded area to the sea and the construction of two reinforced concrete culverts with one gate. The full lengths of the bund was completed during the year but it was not entirely finished to profile. The two reinforced concrete culverts were completed and 55,000 feet of drains constructed.

The Tanjong Minyak Scheme comprised the deepening and enlarging of two streams to discharge flood waters, the drainage of 1,500 acres and the construction of irrigation channels and headworks to irrigate this area. These works were completed by the end of the year and water was supplied during the irrigation season.

Other works carried out during the year were a small dam and off-take at Rim to replace a temporary brushwood dam formerly constructed annually; a small dam and a canal 50 chains long to irrigate 100 acres at Chabau, and a small dam with a radial gate at Sempang. New gates with lifting gear were erected on the old dam at Pulau Sebang which had been out of operation for some years. The sill was lowered and a new reinforced concrete floor laid.

A tide gauge at the mouth of the Malacca River was read every half hour throughout the year and a tidal curve plotted, also a gauge at Batu Berendam Bridge about 3 miles upstream was read continuously. A few current meter gaugings at the latter site were

taken and a discharge curve plotted. The maximum discharge observed was on 5th and 6th December when the gauge reading was 9′ 1″ corresponding to a discharge of 1,144 cubic feet per second equivalent to 3.3 cubic feet per second per square mile on the catchment of 216 square miles.

Four thousand acres in Duyong, 1,500 acres in Sebatu and 3,000 acres in Merlimau Forest Reserve were investigated for drainage and irrigation. Irrigation canals and bunds for the Sungei Putat Valley were located and the site of the irrigation headwork investigated.

Province Wellesley.—The new appointment of Drainage and Irrigation Engineer, Province Wellesley, was filled in January, and the Drainage and Irrigation Department first functioned in Penang and Province Wellesley in 1933. An office has been established at Bukit Mertajam. During the year most of its work was devoted to improvement of drainage. About twenty miles of drainage channels have been cleared of vegetation and partially regraded.

In the Northern District the main drains were for the most part badly graded and choked with weeds and silt. The three main streams which drain into the Prai estuary are the Kreh, the Jarak and the Kulim. Their channels are extremely tortuous, silted and blocked with dead and growing timber. They readily overflow after one day's rain, causing considerable areas of rice land to be abandoned. A by-pass channel of the Kulim river was partially cleared of snags and the bank cleared for a length of 200 chains and 1,000 tons of timber removed. Although this has served to re-establish the course of the stream through the forest belt across the padi land, more work is required in felling timber and cutting lead channels across bends.

The Central District comprising more hilly land than the North has a less clearly defined drainage system. The rice area North of Bukit Mertajam is served by a net-work of small drains which rise in the padi fields and run direct to the Prai estuary. These were without exception, at the beginning of the year, in very bad order. All were entirely overgrown with scrub and coarse grass and were badly silted. Many were only distinguishable from the adjoining fields by the extra luxuriance of vegetation and where banks did exist they were crumbled and broken so that the general form of the drain was a chain of irregular pools and runnels. A start was made during the year by clearing, de-silting and regrading 10 miles of these drains.

South of Bukit Mertajam the drainage of the Estates and small holdings is for the most part by the Sungei Junjong Mati and the Sungei To'Suboh, tributaries of the Sungei Junjong which forms the boundary between Central and South Districts. The Sungei To'Suboh has its origin in the Alma Drain which crosses the main road at the 10¼ Mile Post, whence its course to the mouth becomes tortuous. In August, construction of a diversion canal 75 chains in length was begun to by-pass the waters from East of the road into the Sungei Junjong Mati near its source in Bukit Tambun Estate. Tidal water has been excluded by the construction of a triple leaf gate. The road-side drain, tributary to the Alma Drain, has been graded for 80 chains, and it is anticipated that considerable improvement of the adjoining rubber and waste land will ensue.

It is in the South District that the most inconvenient flooding occurs. Several of the natural drainage channels of this area have been interfered with very seriously by diversions through and around estates, which seldom make any provision for storm water discharge through the canalised courses which have been constructed. The problem is complicated and any scheme of main drains will involve costly land acquisition.

In Trans-Krian the two most important streams are the Sungei Setar and the Sungei Acheh. These both have their origin in the rice fields and serve purely as drains, being controlled by tide gates at the road crossings. During the year they were both cleared of all vegetation and new banks built and the channels regraded.

Preparation of the plans for the extension of the Krian Irrigation Works to supply water to some 3,000 acres in Trans-Krian was undertaken by Head Quarters Office, Kuala Lumpur. A sum of $10,000 was entered in the Estimates as a token towards the Colony's share of the Krian Irrigation Extension Scheme. In October, work was begun on the construction of two 36-inch pipe gates to control the drainage in the Sungei Ayer Hitam and Sungei Bakau which flow through new padi land south of Sungei Acheh. Prior to the planting season 10 chains of bund in the same area had been completed by the Malay applicants for the new land which was formerly a Forest Reserve. Progress, however, was very slow, but this is inevitable where work is voluntary and spasmodic.

CHAPTER XIII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

The Courts for the administration of civil and criminal law in the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) The Supreme Court;

(*b*) District Courts;

(*c*) Police Courts;

(*d*) Coroners' Courts.

An Ordinance (No. 5 of 1931) providing for the creation of a Court of Criminal Appeal, to hear appeals from convictions had in trials before the Supreme Court, was passed in 1931, but had not yet been brought into force by the close of the year.

2. The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction, in each case both original and appellate. When exercising appellate civil jurisdiction, the Court is styled the Court of Appeal. An appeal may lie from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. Criminal trials are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

3. District Courts, presided over by a District Judge, are constituted in each of the four Settlements. They have both civil and criminal jurisdiction, for the exercise of which, in the case of

Singapore, separate Courts exist. In certain instances, the District Judge is assisted by an Assistant District Judge. The jurisdiction of the District Court is, normally, limited to suits involving not more than $500, when heard before a District Judge, and $100, when heard before an Assistant District Judge.

4. Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is, in the main, criminal, and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

5. Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

B.—POLICE

(i).—ORGANISATION

The organisation of the Straits Settlements Police is shewn in the subjoined diagram. Briefly the scheme is that each Settlement is in charge of a Chief Police Officer, whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended, in most cases, by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties, but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

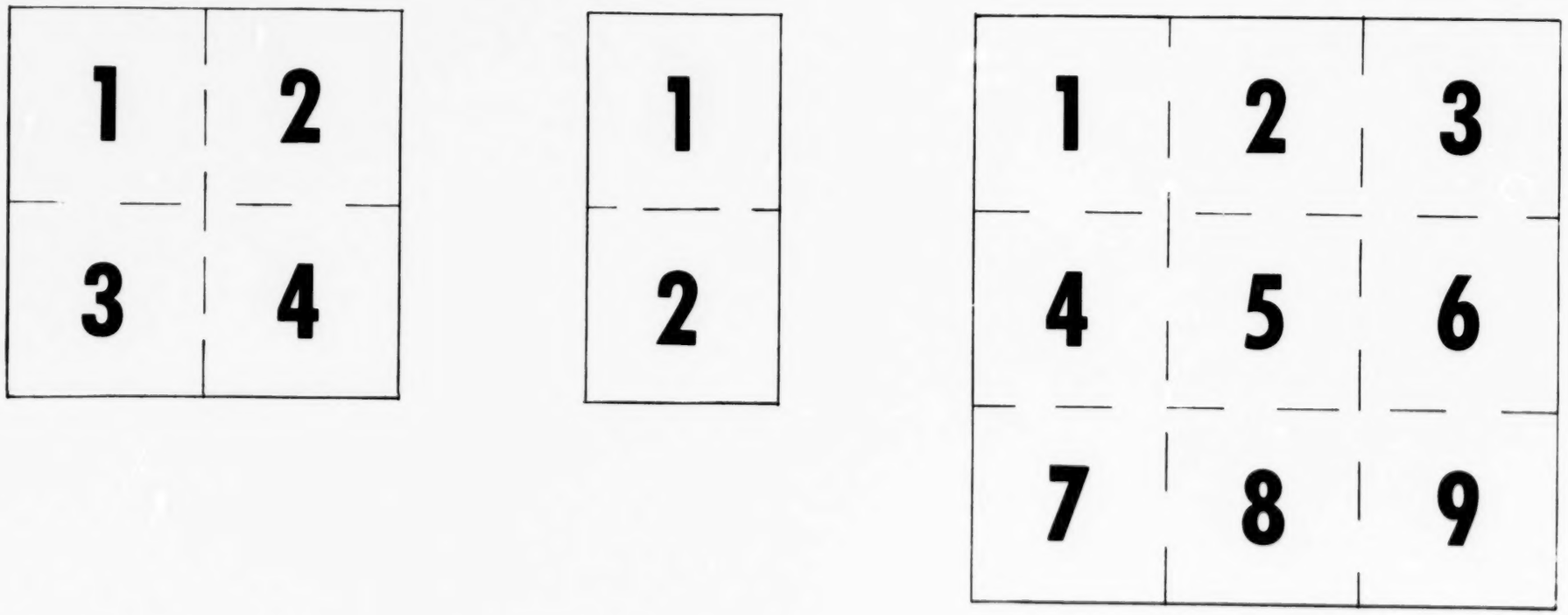
(*a*) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned in the investigation of any crime which is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(*b*) The Depôt, at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men of the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

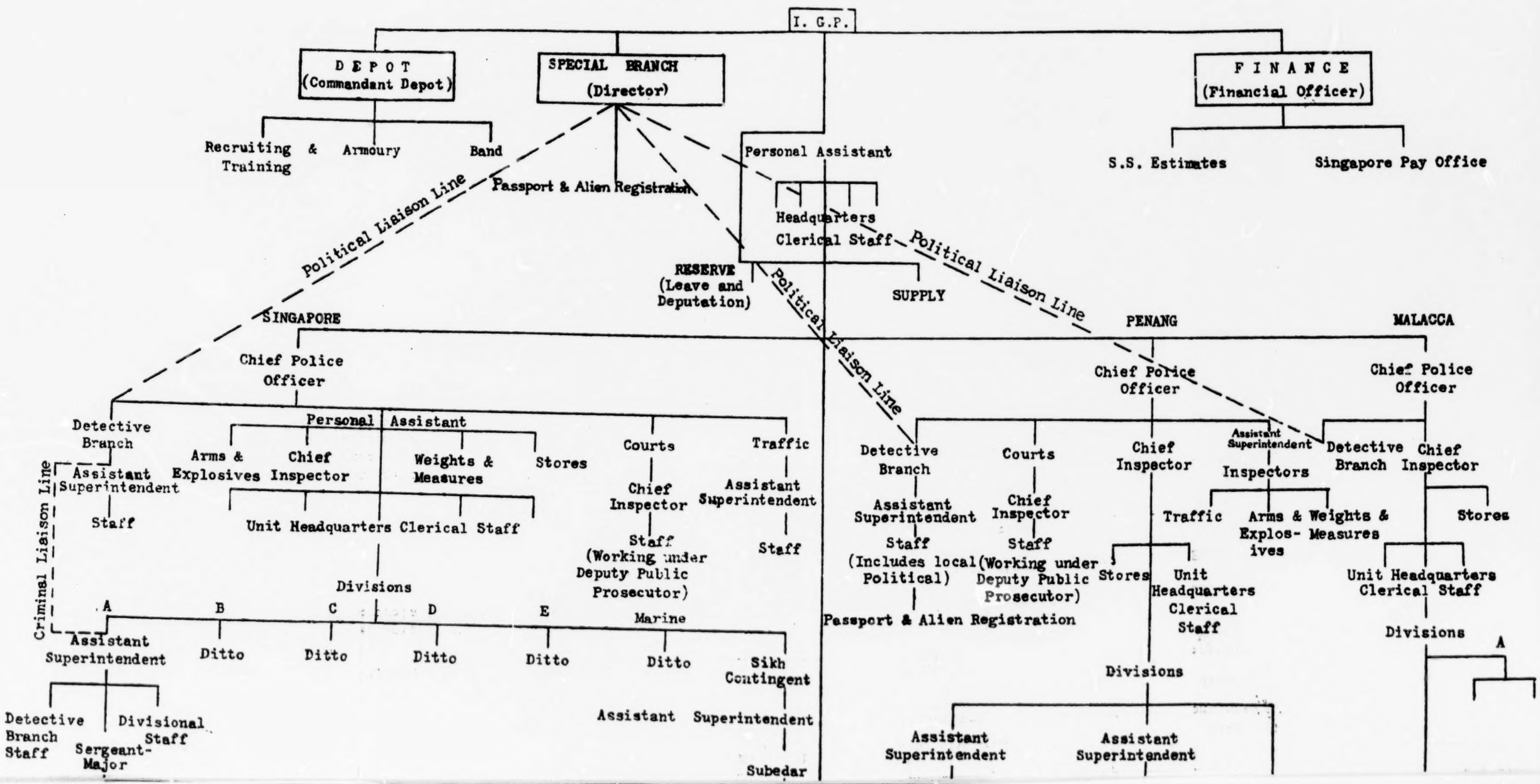
(*c*) The Financial Branch.

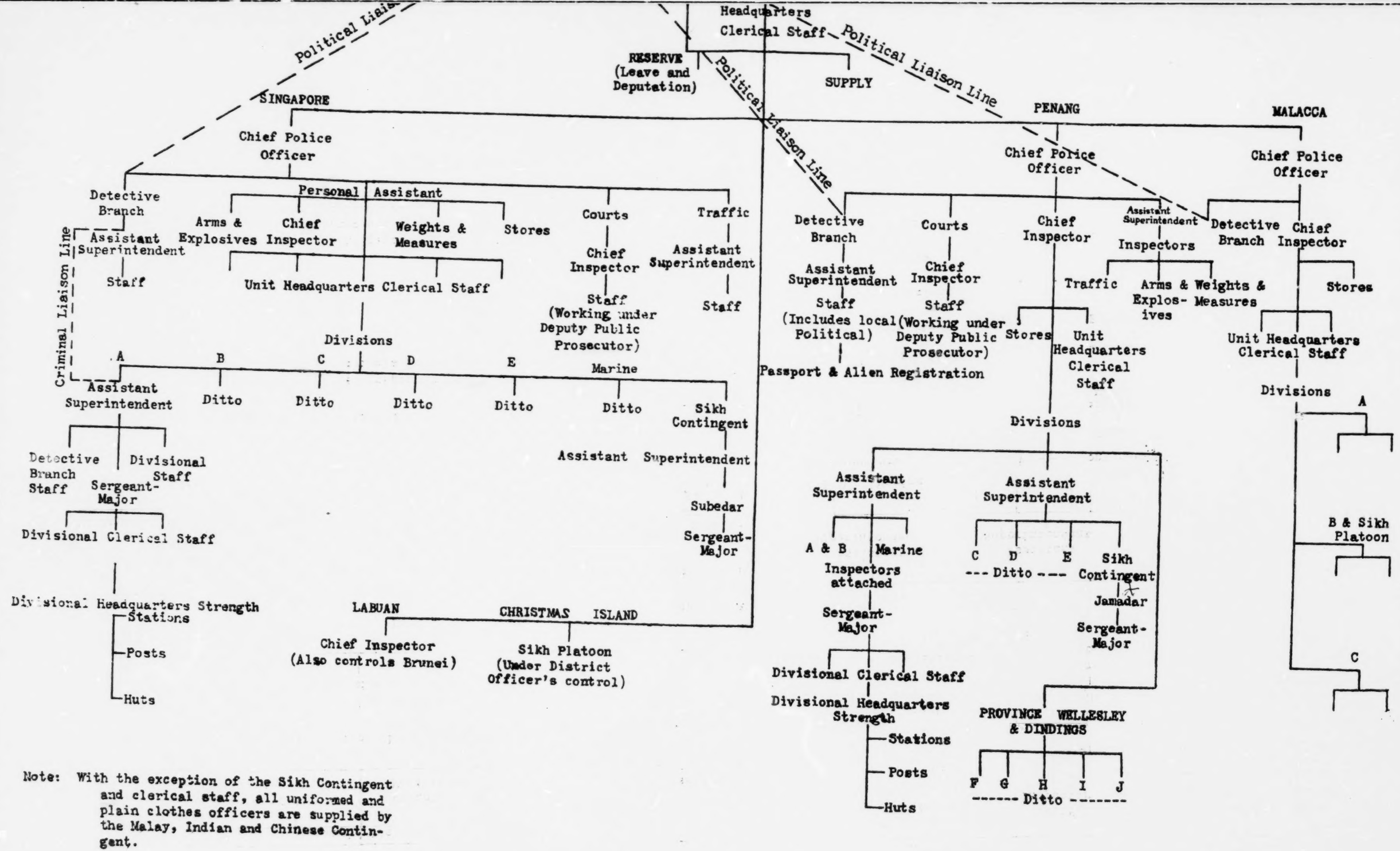
Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, the former being an Officer of the Attorney-General's staff, the latter an Officer of the Malayan Civil Service. They are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



ORGANISATION OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POLICE





Note: With the exception of the Sikh Contingent and clerical staff, all uniformed and plain clothes officers are supplied by the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent.

The Singapore office includes the Settlement of Malacca within its scope.

(ii).—Crime

Seizable offences reported during 1933 numbered 6,135, a decrease of 1,305 compared with the 1932 figure. Arrests were made in 2,764 of the cases and resulted in convictions in 2,026 cases. The considerable decrease in the number of seizable offences reported—the total being the lowest since 1925—is not, however, reflected in the number of crimes of violence against the person, which was practically the same as the 1932 figure.

The number of robberies of all kinds reported fell from 157 in 1932 to 104 in 1933.

Simple thefts and thefts in dwellings combined, totalling 3,294 as compared with 4,116, shew a general decrease in all districts other than Malacca, where there was a slight increase. The most outstanding variation was in the Singapore figures—2,675 compared with 1937.

Housebreakings and thefts at 779 compare favourably with the 1932 figure of 856. There were slight increases in the number of cases in Penang and Malacca: other districts shewed decreases.

Cases of extortion shewed a decreased, the total of 40 being 37 below that for 1932. It is remarkable that no such case has been reported in Province Wellesley during the past two years. In addition to the 40 actual cases of extortion, there were 90 recorded attempts, 73 of which occurred in Singapore.

Prosecutions under the Seditious Publications Ordinance again considerably decreased. Cases of drunkenness and disorderly behaviour were considerably below normal, falling in Singapore and Penang combined by approximately 30%. On the other hand, prosecutions under the Liquor Revenue Ordinance increased generally throughout the Colony.

Reports of non-seizable offences totalled 83,339 as compared with 91,274 in 1932. In 57,948 of these cases prosecutions were undertaken by the Police.

(iii).—Secret Societies, Criminal Gangs, etc.

General.—As in previous years, the remarks in this section of the report apply almost exclusively to Singapore. By comparison, society and faction troubles in Penang and Malacca were almost negligible.

Criminal activity by societies and gangs was kept well under control during 1933 and there has been another year of comparative freedom from lawless outbreaks. This quiescence is the result of constant police activity and it is apparent to those in touch with the situation that any relaxation of vigilance would soon result in a recrudescence of those misdoings which were so frequent and subversive of peace and good order a few years ago when for a while the secret society gunman came into prominence. It would therefore not be safe to say that with the passing of the year any further

noticeable step towards the final elimination of secret society gangsters has been achieved. Constant attrition is checking their activities and even slowly reducing the menace of their societies and gangs, but there must be considerable improvement in town discipline generally and in the attitude of the general public before any further really appreciable improvement is seen. Funds are still readily available to gangsters of all kinds, the hawker and the prostitute being, of course, the most common and prolific sources of society revenue. The Police Department regrets the fact that while much shop property lies vacant the itinerant hawker swarms all over the town and may be said to subsidise crime by affording the opportunity for petty extortion. On the other hand the prostitute, whose disappearance cannot be hoped for, continues steadily but very slowly to increase her opposition to "squeeze". Deprived of funds and with an actively hostile public, the professional gangster and gunman will eventually disappear.

There were a number of serious affrays and gunfights between gangsters, but, for the second year in succession, there was only one murder case directly connected with society or gang activity. In addition there was one homicide which, there is reason to suspect, was connected indirectly with gang activities. In the middle of 1933 an intense price-cutting war developed amongst barbers owing to slump conditions. In July a five-foot way barber was murdered but the alleged reasons for this murder are still based on rumour only.

The Chinese societies are mainly Cantonese and Hokkien. The Teo Chiu societies were inactive during 1933; and there was reason to believe that the membership had decreased.

The Boyanese societies call for little comment. Towards the end of the year the police persuaded a number of "pondoks" to amalgamate and register as one association.

C.—PRISONS

At the beginning of the year there were 1,883 prisoners in the five prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island). 15,378 were admitted during the year as compared with 21,673 during 1932 and 15,528 were discharged. 1,733 remained at the end of the year. There were 365 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,352 were admitted and 1,577 were discharged.

"Short-Sentence" and "Revenue-Grade" men are mainly employed at husk-beating and on fatigue duties.

"Low-Grade" prisoners are usually employed on husk-beating during the first six months of their sentence and thereafter, with "Middle-Grade" and "Upper-Grade" prisoners, on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

Cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc. are selected from "Upper-Grade" prisoners when possible.

Remission of sentence may be earned by prisoners sentenced to Penal Servitude or Rigorous Imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile offenders are kept separate from adult prisoners as far as accomodation will permit.

At present, there is no legal provision for the payment of fines to be deferred.

Under Section 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code Courts may at their discretion release on probation any offender convicted of offences of a trivial nature.

Plans have been completed and tenders called for the erection of a New Convict Prison.

One additional Association Ward has been added to the Female Prison, Singapore, during the year.

The Prisons Ordinance was amended and re-enacted by Ordinance No. 17 of 1933 (Prisons).

The health of the prisoners has been satisfactory throughout the year and the rations are reported to have been good and adequate.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory, Singapore, is the only institution in the Straits Settlements specially organised for the reception of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and it is not in any way connected with the Prisons Administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of 7 and 16 are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of 18.

At the end of 1932 the inmates numbered 120. Eighty were released and sixty-nine admitted during 1933. One absconded during the year. At the end of 1933 there were 108 inmates.

Of the 69 boys admitted during the year, 56 were from the Straits Settlements, 10 from the Federated Malay States and 3 from the Unfederated Malay States. There were 38 Chinese, 3 Malays, 25 Indians, 1 Eurasian and 2 others. Thirty-nine were committed for criminal offences including criminal breach of trust, fraudulent possession of property, housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 21 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 15 were committed for vagrancy, 10 as being uncontrollable, 1 for begging and 4 for hawking without a licence.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, grass-cutters, gardeners, washermen, cooks, orderlies and general coolies. They were all taught Romanised Malay for two hours daily with the exception of 10 who continued their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

Boys released who had no parents or relatives or friends were as far as possible either found work or adopted by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Thirty-seven Ordinances were passed during the year 1933. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and twenty-seven were purely Amending Ordinances.

Of the Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances the following are the more important:—

(1) The Registration of Dentists Ordinance (No. 16) requires registered dentists to re-register annually by taking out an annual practising certificate as is done in England. Provisions are also made for ensuring that the premises used are suitable for practising dentistry, and for the automatic registration in the Colony of persons already registered as dentists in the Federated Malay States and Johore.

(2) The Prisons Ordinance (No. 17) is designed to meet modern requirements for the management and control of prisons. It replaces Ordinance No. 18.

(3) The Traffic Regulation Ordinance (No. 19) makes provisions enabling traffic problems to be dealt with in a more comprehensive manner. The Ordinance is in the main adopted from the London Traffic Act, 1924.

(4) The Contribution to Imperial Defence Ordinance (No. 25) gives effect to an Agreement which was reached between His Majesty's Imperial Government and the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council as to the amount of the contribution to be made annually by the Colony for the purposes of Imperial Defence.

(5) The Registration of Pharmacists Ordinance (No. 30) provides for the establishment of a Pharmacy Board for the purpose of training pharmacists and for the registration of properly qualified pharmacists.

(6) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (No. 37) gives effect to certain of the provisions of the International Sanitary Convention which was signed at Paris in 1926, and to which the Government of the Straits Settlements has adhered.

The more important Amending Ordinances are as follows:—

(1) The Ports (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) imposes a limit on the liability of Harbour Boards in respect of accidents involving loss of or damage to vessels, or goods carried therein, or loss of life or personal injury. Opportunity is also taken to amend the law to empower the Boards to operate ferry services and to levy rates and charges and to make by-laws for the safety and convenience of persons using such ferries.

(2) The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) provides that the Collector may be informed, in advance, of all objections which are to be made against his award. Provisions are also made for an early termination of litigation and an early ascertainment of compensation to be paid. An unrestricted right of appeal is given where the amount of compensation awarded exceeds five thousand dollars. Lastly it lays down a simple procedure for the payment of compensation into Court in case of dispute as to the title to receive it.

(3) The Divorce (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7) is the result of the application of section 1 of the Indian and Colonial Divorce Jurisdiction Act, 1926, to the Colony of the Straits Settlements. It provides that, where the parties to a marriage are British subjects domiciled in England and Scotland, the wife may obtain dissolution of the marriage on the ground of her husband's adultery alone. Re-marriage is not permitted before the expiration of the period allowed for an appeal to His Majesty in Council.

(4) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8) contains provisions implementing the obligations undertaken by the Government on adhering to certain Labour Conventions relating to the fixing of the minimum age of children employed at sea and the compulsory medical examination of children and young persons.

(5) The Registration of United Kingdom Designs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) does away with the necessity to submit two certified representations of the design and removes doubts as to whether the Registrar has power to declare that exclusive privileges have not been acquired by any other person prior to the date of registration of the design in the United Kingdom.

(6) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12) is to control the nuisance caused by the letting off of fireworks and crackers.

(7) The Railway (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) is passed to enable the Railway to compete on equal terms with other carriers.

(8) The Chandu Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 24) is passed to implement the Agreement and Final Act signed at Bangkok on 27th November 1931 by prohibiting minors from being in possession of chandu.

(9) The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 33) is to give effect to the recommendations of the Labour Department, Malaya and the Labour Bureau, Netherlands India, by abolishing the system of indentured labour and prohibiting the employment of women and young persons in night work.

(10) The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 36) effects a number of amendments, the majority of which are based on similar provisions of the law of criminal procedure in force in England, India or the Federated Malay States.

Of the Subsidiary Legislation issued during the year the more mportant was as follows:—

(1) Ordinance No. 16 (Police Force). Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 56 the new regulations for the organisation of the Police Force were made, and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1954 of 13th October, 1933.

(2) Ordinance No. 55 (Telegraphs). Regulations relating to Wireless Telegraphy made by the Governor in Council under sections 39 and 40 were published as *Gazette* Notification No. 858 of 5th May, 1933.

(3) Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping). Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by sections 391 and 434 a new rule is made prohibiting the loading and unloading of explosives or the moving of any vessel carrying explosives within the limits of the harbour between sunset and sunrise.

(4) Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal). By-laws for the regulation of buildings in the proximity of aerodromes made under section 57 (1) (*j*) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 921 of 5th May, 1933, were confirmed by the Governor in Council on 25th May, 1933.

(5) The Aliens Ordinance 1932. Proclamations dated 20th February, 1933 and 25th August, 1933 and made by the Governor in Council under section 12 limit the number of aliens, which any shipping company or charterer or owner of any individual ship may bring into and land in the Colony during each month.

(6) The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1932. Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 34 the Workmen's Compensation Rules made to carry out the purposes of the Ordinance were published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1677 of 25th August, 1933 and approved by Legislative Council on 2nd October, 1933.

Commissioners for the various Settlements appointed by His Excellency the Governor under section 22 were published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1638 of 18th August, 1933.

(7) The Traffic Regulation Ordinance, 1933. Regulations for the safety of traffic made by the Governor in Council under section 3 were published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1970 of 13th October, 1933.

Factory Legislation

Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery) makes provisions for the inspection of boilers, engines and other machinery and for regulating their control and working. Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 4 for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the Ordinance and published as Notification No. 2142 in the *Gazette* of 30th October, 1931 were approved by the Legislative Council on 26th January, 1933, and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 215 of 5th February, 1933. Ordinance No. 197 (Labour) also contains numerous provisions aiming at the amelioration of the conditions under which labourers perform their work, and also contains provisions similar to those of the Truck Acts in England.

Compensation for Accidents

Section 8 of Ordinance No. 111 (Civil Law) makes provisions for compensation similar to those adopted in Lord Campbell's Act (The Fatal Accidents Act, 1846).

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, which was passed in 1932, came into force on 1st October, 1933. This Ordinance provides for the payment by certain classes of employers, to their workmen, of compensation for injury by accident arising out of and in the course of their employment.

No legislative provisions exist for sickness or old age.

CHAPTER XV

Public Finance and Taxation

The revenue for the year 1933 amounted to $31,585,190.21 which was $3,251,977.21 more than the original estimate of $28,333,213 and $2,152,117.52 in excess of the revised estimate of $29,433,072.69.

The expenditure was $30,476,290.73 being $3,485,068.27 less than the original estimate.

It will be seen therefore that in respect of the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Headings, the year's working resulted in a surplus of about $1,108,899.48.

(i).—REVENUE

The revenue was $12,977,104.71 less than that of 1932. Details are shewn in the following table:—

Heads of Revenue	1932	1933	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ..	2,436.32	2,428.20	..	8.12
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	18,811,399.98	20,094,241.83	1,282,841.85	..
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-aid ..	1,157,714.90	1,113,278.39	..	44,436.51
4. Posts and Telegraphs ..	2,161,061.29	1,980,867.50	..	180,193.79
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,670,954.20	1,509,281.34	..	161,672,86
6. Interest ..	6,147,899.07	5,488,244.23	..	659,654.84
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ..	14,473,933.58	1,255,862.73	..	13,218,070.85
Total exclusive of Land Sales and grants-in-aid	44,425,399.34	31,444,204.22	1,282,841.85	14,264,036,97
8. Land Sales ..	130,981.29	140,985.99	10,004.70	..
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	5,914.29	..	..	5,914.29
TOTAL REVENUE ..	44,562,294.92	31,585,190.21	1,292,846.55	14,269,951.26

The increase under the head Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified is chiefly attributable to an increase under the following subheads:—

	$
Opium	109,884
Stamp Duties (Estate Duties) ..	1,141,789

The increase under Opium Revenue is mainly due to reduced payments in 1933 on account of purchases of Opium.

The large increase in Stamp Duties (Estate Duties) is mainly due to the successful appeal to Privy Council in the Oei Tiong Ham Estate Case.

There are decreases under the following subheads:—

	$
Liquors	115,638
Petroleum Revenue	186,064
Stamp Duties Various Revenue Services	33,150
District and Police Courts ..	9,061

The decrease under Posts and Telegraphs is mainly due to the fact that an amount of $171,443 was transferred from the Money Order Account in 1932 to Miscellaneous, Posts and Telegraphs. This receipt was in the nature of a windfall. There is an increase in the sale of Stamps to the extent of $43,281.

The decrease in Rents on Government Property is due mainly to a reduction in rents received from the Telok Ayer Reclamation and Government Buildings let for profit.

The decrease under Interest is partly due to the repayment of loans by the different Municipalities and other bodies and to the lower rates of interest derived from Fixed Deposits.

The decrease under Miscellaneous Receipts is due to the transfer of $10 millions in 1932 from the Currency Guarantee Fund and also to the revaluation of the Colony's Investments on 31st December, 1932, which were thereby increased to the extent of $3,030,853.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of expenditure are set out below:—

Heads of Expenditure	1932	1933	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ..	37,083.40	37,083.40	..	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc.	2,039,673.46	2,438,947.83	399,274.37	..
3. Charitable Allowances ..	33,820.79	36,688.48	2,867.69	..
4. The Governor ..	125,059.92	116,862.07	..	8,197.85
5. Civil Service ..	732,224.83	700,349.37	..	31,875.46
6. General Clerical Service	1,119,367.63	1,126,044.87	6,677.24	..
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident ..	124,251.09	118,184.43	..	6,066.66
8. Secretary to High Commissioner ..	10,352.02	9,763,71	..	588.31
9. Agricultural Department	90,993.27	77,816.43	..	13,176.84
10. Analyst ..	14,195.43	3,529.10	..	10,666.33
11. Audit	37,405.33	49,420.56	12,015.23	..
12. Audit, External ..	..	..	..	..
13. Chinese Secretariat ..	225,439.75	81,073.62	..	144,366.13
14. Co-operative Societies ..	42,701.70	45,570.76	2,869.06	..
15. Drainage and Irrigation	19,657.18	135,520.65	115,863.47	..
16. Education	2,234,075.39	2,118,580.07	..	115,495.32
17. Fisheries	30,203.49	28,834.25	..	1,369.24
18. Forests	48,672.97	46,003.27	..	2,669.70
19. Gardens Botanical ..	112,463.47	119,543.71	7,080.24	..
20. Labour Department ..	140,010.98	24,080.91	..	115,930.07
21. Land and District Offices	285,044.04	247,962.64	..	37,081.40
22. Legal	398,164.08	397,275.38	..	888.70
23. Marine	599,074.39	528,654.83	..	70,419.56
24. Marine Surveys ..	92,447.03	81,488.23	..	10,958.80
25. Medical	480,826.31	457,989.77	..	22,836.54
26. Medical, Health Branch	569,700.89	528,725.41	..	40,975.48
27. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	110,293.06	94,119.87	..	16,173.19
28. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ..	2,156,868.46	2,023,176.69	..	133,691.77
29. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,947,142.84	3,960,000.00	12,857.16	..
II. Local Forces ..	369,635.89	362,452.88	..	7,183.01
30. Miscellaneous Services ..	2,499,611.81	1,687,001.48	..	812,610.33
31. Monopolies	1,231,610.56	1,146,620.31	..	84,990.25
32. Museum and Library, Raffles	49,080.26	45,437.19	..	3,643.07
33. Police	3,176,278.77	3,031,859.32	..	144,419.45
34. Post Office	1,713,250.01	1,597,778.38	..	115,471.63
35. Printing Office ..	212,591.16	223,914.65	11,323.49	..
36. Prisons	506,068.61	489,017.68	..	17,050.93
37. Public Works Department	794,178.22	737,188.89	..	56,989.33
38. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ..	1,034,621.87	1.041,243.90	6,622.03	..
39. Public Works, Extraordinary	5,762,213.03	3,486,078.90	..	2,276,134.13
40. Statistics	36,156.55	40,991.96	4,835.41	..
41. Survey Department ..	422,725.37	387,175.63	..	35,549.74
42. Transport	351,988.68	388,879.74	36,891.06	..
43. Treasury	91,529.92	87,257.01	..	4,272.91
44. Veterinary	72,098.05	79,688.27	7,590.22	..
45. Grants-in-aid Colonial Development Fund ..	15,630.69	10,414.23	..	5,216.46
TOTAL ..	34,196,482.65	30,476,290.73	626,766.67	4,346,958.59

The increase in Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc. is mainly due to retrenchment.

The decrease under Governor is due principally to the reduction of votes and transfers of certain votes to Public Works Department and Botanical Gardens.

The increase under Audit is due to the discontinuance since 1st July, 1933, of the charge for audit of Monopolies accounts and also due to the share of Home Expenditure.

The large increase under Drainage and Irrigation is mainly due to increase in personnel and other expenditure on account of drainage of Bachang Swamp and Tanjong Minyak Areas, Irrigation Scheme at Chohong, Irrigation Scheme at Sungei Acheh and outfall drains at Sungei Junjong.

The decrease under Education is due to retrenchment and the exercise of strict economy.

The increase under Botanical Gardens is due to the inclusion of certain votes transferred from Government House.

The decrease under Labour Department is mainly due to the fact that repatriation was in full swing during 1932 whereas in 1933 owing to the improved financial outlook and the resultant increased demand for labour, the numbers repatriated each month fell rapidly until eventually in May 1933 repatriation ceased altogether.

The decrease under Land and District Offices is due to the vote "Maintenance, light, water, coolies, caretakers' wages etc. for Government Flats and Emergency Houses" having been transferred to the Public Works Department.

The decrease under Marine is due to the laying up of the s.y. "Sea Belle II" and Government launches in Singapore and Penang and retrenchment in personnel.

The decrease under Medical General Branch, Health Branch and Social Hygiene Branch is due to reduction of personnel.

The decrease under Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries is mainly due to reduced contributions to the Hospital Boards.

The big decrease under Miscellaneous Services is due to the fact that in 1932 large sums were expended under the following special heads:—

	$	c.
Acquisition of land at Telok Blangah for Quarantine Camp and New Abbatoir, S. ..	58,571	00
Expenses in connection with the Singapore Manufacturers' Exhibition	22,294	22
Expenditure in connection with the repatriation of Unemployed Europeans from the Colony ..	37,237	31
Loss on sale of old round copper coins ..	160,847	84
Contribution to Singapore Improvement Trust	265,670	68
Loss on sale of 5 cents Nickel coins ..	81,074	04

The decrease under Monopolies is due to an all round reduction in the different branches of the Monopolies Department.

The decrease under Police is mainly due to the abolition of posts and the retirement of Police Officers and partly due to the introduction of new reduced rates of pay from 1st September, 1933, of the Rank and File.

The decrease under Post Office is mainly due to not filling vacant appointments, retirements under Pensions (Temporary Provisions Ordinance, 1932,) and economy exercised under other charges.

The decrease under Prisons is due to the reduction in the daily average population of the Prisons from 2,152 in 1932 to 2,028 in 1933.

The decrease under Public Works Department is due to the reduction of personnel.

The decrease in Public Works Extraordinary is accounted for partly by reduction in the programme of work and partly by savings made on the actual estimates due to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

The decrease under Survey is due to reductions in staff and in the number of Field Parties employed.

The increase under Transport is due to heavier expenditure on passages for European Officers going on furlough.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last five years and the portion of it which has been spent in Public Works:—

Year	*Total Expenditure*	*Public Works Extraordinary*
	$	$
1929	31,936,283	5,133,968
1930	35,000,586	5,658,712
1931	42,613,272	8,197,700
1932	30,249,340	5,762,470
1933	26,516,291	3,486,079

The amounts paid as Defence Contribution for the last five years are:—

	$
1929	3,775,714
1930	4,239,728
1931	4,189,286
1932	3,947,143
1933	3,960,000

Refund of $454,397 received in 1929 in respect of overpayment in the financial years 1927–1928 is not included in the above figure. Defence contribution was fixed by the new "Contribution to Imperial Defence Ordinance", No. 25 of 1933, at $4,000,000 a year for a period of five years from 1st April, 1933.

(iii).—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December,

	$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities		
Deposits:—		
Accountant-General (Court)	1,968,900.83	
Accountant-General (Other)	1,414,283.73	
Bankruptcy	855,464.58	
Mercantile Marine Fund	735,600.89	
Police Reward Fund	3,797.62	
Savings Certificates Fund	227,380.00	
Companies Liquidation Account	245,754.95	
Public Officers Guarantee Fund	69,225·80	
Miscellaneous Singapore (including Labuan and Chrismas Island)	675,892.48	
Miscellaneous Penang and Districts ..	205,633.15	
Miscellaneous Malacca and Districts ..	87,483.45	
F.M.S. Agency	38,006.42	
		6,527,423.90
Drafts and Remittances	..	45,655.08
Suspense Account: Coins for reminting, etc. ..	2,504,005.34	
Suspense Account: Interest, Currency Commissioners ..	49,778.21	
Suspense Account: Other items	228,848.74	
		2,782,632.29
Loans:—		
Straits Settlements 6% Loan 1916 ..	1,800.00	
Straits Settlements 5½% Conversion Loan 1919-1929	3,100.00	
		4,900.00
Surplus:—		
Amount set aside for Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	126,479,675.86	58,833,386.92
Balance of general surplus		67,646,288.94
TOTAL ..	..	135,840,287.13

The Surplus on 31st December, 1933, amounted to $67,646,288.94, of which approximately $47 millions were liquid. Against this commitments on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other administrations amounted to $8,129,546 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounted to $10,672,406. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1934 amounting to $5,471,471 and further commitments in connection therewith amounting to $5,209,008 had to be met. The total commitments and contingent liabilities on 1st January, 1934 against the surplus thus amounted to $29,482,431.

LIABILITIES

1932 were as follows:—

		$ c.	$ c.
Assets			
Cash:—			
	$ c.		
Cash in Treasuries	5,718,688.63		
Cash in Banks	5,025,085.97		
Cash with Crown Agents	3,531.61		
		10,747,306.21	
Cash in Transit		13,857.07	
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents) ..		1,868,571.44	
Fixed deposits (Colony)		6,650,000.00	
Fixed deposits (Accountant-General) ..		568,406.60	
			19,848,141.32
Suspense Account { Subsidiary Coins held by the F.M.S. Treasury		40,900.00	
Suspense Account { Other items		72,627.24	
			113,527.24
Suspense Stores Account, P. W. D.		..	124,996.09
Investments (Surplus Funds):—			
Sterling Securities		31,523,379.64	
Dollar and Rupee Securities		999,400.27	
			32,522,779.91
Investments (Specific Funds):—			
Accountant-General (Court)		981,378.94	
Accountant-General (Other)		845,857.13	
Bankruptcy		934,229.32	
Mercantile Marine Fund		670,609.22	
Savings Certificates Fund		201,902.50	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		63,609.25	
			3,697,586.36
Investments Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		..	58,833,386.92
Advances		..	2,591,195.71
Imprests		..	5,110.84
Loans:—			
	$ c.		
Municipality, Singapore	458,356.28		
Municipality, Penang	305,000.00		
Municipality, Malacca	325,431.66		
		1,088,787.94	
Kelantan Government		5,180,683.98	
Trengganu Government		4,177,894.99	
Singapore Harbour Board		4,769,577.82	
Penang Harbour Board		2,716,326.37	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		53,250.00	
Singapore Cricket Club		2,320.98	
Stadium Association		7,000.00	
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ..		107,720.66	
			18,103,562.74
TOTAL ..		..	135,840,287.13

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½% Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted on the 31st December, 1933, to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ..	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ..	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ..	320,137
	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and cost of conversion (1907) less interest received ..	3,388,205
	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of this loan was $2,079,911 in 1933. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been allotted. The value of the Investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1933, was approximately $17,983,779.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 stands at $15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on this loan is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provision of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounted to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the loan and of the Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—Taxation

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum, imported into and consumed in the Colony and from the profits on the opium monopoly, which is entirely controlled by the Government. The other main items are Stamp Duties, Estate (Death) Duties and Pawnbrokers' Licences which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years.

The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from licences.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licences for the year 1933 was $20,094,241.83 forming the greater portion of the Colony's Revenue and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$	c.
Liquor Duties	2,441,498	77
Opium Revenue	7,001,231	12
Pawnbrokers' Licences	520,818	00
Petroleum Revenue	2,659,043	90
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services)	765,212	61
Stamp Duties (Estate Duties) ..	2,189,164	02
Tobacco Duties	3,920,694	39

The only fiscal measure approximating to a customs tariff is the imposition of duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony.

Excise revenue is comprised principally of the revenue from the opium monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of similar brand. The only liquor manufactured locally which is subject to this duty, is samsoo. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy, but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp duties including Estate (Death) Duties form an important source of Revenue. Estate Duties, revised with effect from 1st January, 1932 are based on a graduated scale from a minimum of 1% on estates with a principal value of over $1,000 to 20% on estates with a principal value of over $10,000,000.

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provision of the Stamp Ordinance, 1929. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only ..	25 cents.
Bill of Exchange including Promissory Note	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof.
Cheque	4 cents.
Conveyance Maximum	$1.50 for every $250 or part thereof.
Mortgage Maximum	$1.00 for every $500 or part thereof.
Receipt	4 cents.

A Betting Tax was introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932, and the amount collected in 1933 was Singapore $204,967.90 and Penang $80,025.85.

CHAPTER XVI

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of many of the other settlers, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet, but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigrant Chinese population is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be: Hokkien, 43.2%; Cantonese, 21.4%; Tiu Chiu, 17.4%; Hakka (Kheh), 7.9%; Hailam, 5.4%; Hok Chhia, 1.5%; Hok Chiu, 1.3% and other dialects, 1.9%.

Of the Southern Indians who form over nine-tenths of the total Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam. The vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Malayalis are about four times as numerous as the Telugus.

The remaining Indian population consists of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani, with a few hundreds from Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

B.—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants was issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886, now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands), provided for a statutory form of Crown Title—the present

Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and of which the form was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued in the past, but the policy now is to restrict the issue of such Grants, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99-years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is now alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99-years, but there are a few leases of 999-years and a few Statutory Grants.

Alienated land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99-year leases from the Crown in the case of estates, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 127 (Labuan) and is alienated ordinarily by public auction.

The titles existing are leases of 999-years or less, but since 1919 leases for 30-years only have been granted.

Throughout the Colony alienation of the foreshore is governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

C.—CO-OPERATION

There has been considerable progress during the year in the development of Co-operation amongst salary-earners and Indian labourers. Owing to the low prices ruling for agricultural products, rural thrift and credit societies were dormant till the last quarter when a rise in the price of rubber led to a small revival of activity.

In Singapore there are now 17 societies amongst salary-earners as compared with 12 societies at the end of 1932. The subscription capital increased from $549,000 to $646,700 and the membership from 5,226 to 5,774. Investments in gilt-edged securities and bank deposits increased from $360,181 to $485,500.

Three more societies were formed amongst the labourers of the Singapore Municipality, making a total of 4. Their total membership was 1,638 with subscription capital amounting to $29,200, the whole of which is either invested in trustee securities or held on deposit in the bank. At the end of 1932 the one society with a membership of 744 held savings amounting to $9,902. In addition, a society has been formed amongst the labourers on Bukit Sembawang Estate, but it had not started work at the end of the year.

In Malacca the number of salary-earners' societies remained unchanged, while the membership increased by 9 to 1,115. The subscription capital, however, rose from $155,500 to $162,600. Investments and cash on deposit at the bank totalled $128,800.

The membership of the 8 Rural Credit Societies decreased from 319 to 302 and the share capital from $8,411 to $8,100. They held $4,712 in cash or on deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank.

The demand for societies amongst Indian labourers increased and the number rose from 2 to 10, while the membership increased from 228 to 1,708. The subscription capital totalled $13,109 as compared with $1,016 at the end of 1932.

In Penang and Province Wellesley there was no change in the number of societies amongst salary-earners, but the membership increased from 2,668 to 3,081. The subscription capital increased by $50,000 to $284,400. These societies held gilt-edged investments or bank deposits amounting to 194,900 as compared with $161,819 at the end of 1932.

The membership of the 6 Rural Credit Societies fell from 142 to 128 with a share capital of $4,374 as against $4,693. Cash in hand or in the Post Office Savings Bank totalled $3,254, an increase of $128.

Societies amongst Indian labourers are popular and their number increased from 8 with a membership of 1,007 and a subscription capital of $19,681 to 12 societies with a membership of 1,586 and a subscription capital of $27,747. Investments, and cash in hand or at a bank totalled $25,497.

In rural areas efforts were concentrated on developing a willingness towards combined effort with a view to the production of a better product which could be jointly marketed. Little visible progress can be recorded. Owing to the low prices ruling for agricultural products, few members of rural societies had any surplus income out of which to repay their dues or add to their savings.

The development of thrift through co-operative societies is evidenced by the fact that the total savings of all members of co-operative societies in the Straits Settlements for the first time exceeded one million dollars. At the end of the year 15,332 members of societies had accumulated savings totalling $1,176,230 of which $884,097 were either invested in trustee securities or held on deposit in a bank. Societies experienced some difficulty in obtaining local trustee securities.

D.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, was resident in Malaya throughout the year except for a brief visit to Sumatra on December the 29th when His Excellency made the trip by air.

Sir JOHN SCOTT, K.B.E., C.M.G., left the Colony on leave prior to retirement on April the 18th and Mr. A. S. HAYNES acted as Colonial Secretary until the 8th of December when Mr. A. CALDECOTT, C.M.G., C.B.E., who was appointed to the substantive post in succession to Sir JOHN SCOTT, arrived to take up his duties.

Major-General L. C. L. OLDFIELD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, and Captain M. R. J. MAXWELL-SCOTT, D.S.O., R.N., as Captain-in-Charge of His Majesty's Naval Establishments, remained at their posts throughout the year.

Group-Captain A. H. JACKSON was succeeded by Group-Captain SYDNEY W. SMITH, O.B.E., as Officer Commanding Royal Air Force, Far East, on the 10th November, 1933.

Sir BASIL BLACKETT, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., arrived in the Colony on 17th November, 1933, to enquire into the question of the Straits Settlements Currency Commission.

Captain EUAN WALLACE, M.C., M.P., Civil Lord of the Admiralty, was in Singapore from the 21st–24th of November, 1933.

The New Year Honours List contained the following names:—

Mr. TAN CHENG LOCK, C.B.E., (Civil Division).
Dr. H. A. TEMPANY, C.B.E., do.

The Birthday Honours List contained the following names:—

Sir WALTER CLARENCE HUGGARD, K.C., Knight Bachelor.
Captain ERIC NEWBOLD, O.B.E., (Military Division).
Major D. G. MACLEOD, O.B.E., (Military Division).
Mr. E. A. BROWN, O.B.E., (Civil Division).
Mrs. A. M. SIME, M.B.E., (Civil Division).
Miss P. R. ELLIOTT, M.B., M.B.E., (Civil Division).

G. L. HAM,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, 21*st July*, 1934.

APPENDIX "A"

Selected List of Publications relating to the Straits Settlements

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Dominions Office and Colonial Office List	35/-	Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London
Blue Book (Straits Settlements).	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Annual Departmental Reports (Straits Settlements) ...	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Census Report, British Malaya, 1931	$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies and The Malayan Information Agency, London
Malayan Statistics, 1932 (C. S. Alexander)	$1	Malayan Information Agency, London
Report by the Rt. Hon'ble W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit to Malaya, Ceylon and Java, 1928	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 28th February, 1931 (R. Boulter)	2/-	H. M. Stationery Office, London
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50*c*.	Dept .of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S., Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ...	Various prices	Forest Department, F.M.S. and The Malayan Information Agency, London
The Geology of Malaya, 1931, (J. B. Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, 1925, 5 vols. (H. N. Ridley) ...	£11-11-0	L. Reeve & Co., London
The Birds of Singapore Island, 1927. (Sir John A. S. Bucknill and F. N. Chasen) ...	$5	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore
Malayan Fishes, 1921 ...	$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society and Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Oxford Survey of the British Empire, 1914. Vol. 2 (Editors: A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth)	15/-	Oxford University Press, London
One Hundred Years of Singapore, 1921. 2 vols. (General Editors: W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke and R. St. J. Braddell) ...	Out of print	John Murray, London
One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore, 1923. (Song Ong Siang)	30/-	John Murray, London
Handbook to British Malaya, 1930 (Ed. by R. L. German) ...	5/-	J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London

APPENDIX "A"—continued

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—*continued*

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Historical Geography of British Dominions. Vol. 1. (C. P. Lucas)	Not sold separately	Oxford University Press, London
British Malaya, 1824-1867. 1925. (L. A. Mills)	$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London
British Malaya, 1929. (Sir F. A. Swettenham)	12/6	J. Lane, London
Papers on Malay Subjects. (Incidents of Malay life, Law, etc., Ed. by R. J. Wilkinson) ...	$1 ea.	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Malaya. The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, 1923. (Ed. by R. O. Winstedt)	12/6	Constable & Co., London
One set of the report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya—(Volumes I—III)	$12	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to Malaya, 1932 ...	50c.	H. M. Stationery Office, London

APPENDIX "B"

TABLE I

EXCESS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, FOR THE YEAR 1933

Nationalities	By Sea							By Air	By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
Europeans ...	− 197	566	− 31	− 16	− 78	− 6	− 5	− 2	14	7	− 17	66	301
Eurasians ...	− 123	21	...	4	27	...	...	...	24	...	− 18	− 7	− 72
Japanese ...	− 159	39	...	3	0	...	1	3	− 19	7	...	− 5	− 130
Chinese ...	− 25,763	− 3,745	1	148	− 2,687	...	− 7	0	339	− 421	86	871	− 31,178
Malays ...	1,805	267	...	131	1	6	3	− 1	− 9	− 1,290	− 117	− 492	304
Northern Indians ...	1,466	1,670	13	− 2	154	...	− 4	− 1	311	− 39	− 29	218	3,757
Southern Indians ...	− 2,387	− 4,174	...	2	− 4,722	...	− 1	...	106	31	− 32	2	− 11,175
Other Nationalities ...	207	− 230	...	− 21	...	...	7	4	− 155	− 242	170	4	− 256
TOTAL ...	− 25,151	− 5,586	− 17	249	− 7,305	0	− 6	3	611	− 1,947	43	657	− 38,449

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1932 AND FOR THE YEAR, 1933 ARE:—

	By Sea							By Air	By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
1932	– 85,014	–42,145	24	311	– 37,937	7	– 7	16	2,296	– 821	...	292	–162,978
1933:—													
January ...	– 3,771	– 1,088	2	– 52	– 821	...	...	4	115	– 33	...	– 200	– 5,844
February ...	– 3,127	– 512	5	80	– 793	...	6	– 1	93	– 28	...	– 5	– 4,282
March ...	– 5,175	– 2,530	– 15	– 12	– 1,686	...	0	– 13	– 205	– 86	...	– 148	– 9,870
April ...	– 4,036	– 2,018	– 7	0	– 1,189	...	0	2	119	– 46	...	– 17	– 7,192
May ...	– 4,082	– 1,076	– 3	32	– 937	– 1	0	3	134	– 148	...	223	– 5,855
June ...	– 3,019	– 482	– 1	30	– 512	...	– 3	– 7	47	– 65	...	203	– 3,809
July ...	– 1,495	159	7	– 39	– 423	...	– 1	8	69	– 448	– 42	31	– 2,174
August ...	– 1,640	– 37	– 9	95	– 441	...	– 5	4	57	– 150	– 323	105	– 2,344
September ...	– 911	– 91	1	– 38	– 273	1	1	– 1	– 10	– 262	67	124	– 1,392
October ...	505	533	3	– 8	– 107	...	– 6	– 3	– 40	– 193	– 11	220	893
November ...	847	1,528	...	70	73	...	3	2	143	– 208	158	6	2,622
December ...	753	28	...	91	– 190	...	– 1	5	89	– 280	194	115	798
TOTAL ...	– 25,151	– 5,586	– 17	249	– 7,305	0	– 6	3	611	–1,947	43	657	– 38,449

TABLE III

Arrivals and Departures of Passengers by Sea, Land and Air, by Countries of Origin and Destination, during the Year 1933

Arrivals from

Nationalities	BY SEA														
	Netherlands Indies					China					India				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	3,748	1,831	436	292	6,307	838	488	49	43	1,418	890	537	37	46	1,510
Eurasians ...	212	120	3	3	338	15	3	1	...	19	38	32	16	8	94
Japanese ...	722	148	40	18	928	58	17	6	3	84	89	19	12	9	129
Chinese ...	49,501	9,074	4,362	2,672	65,609	17,022	9,213	3,693	2,315	32,243	446	98	34	25	603
Malays ...	23,237	7,048	2,804	1,753	34,842	81	9	3	1	94	195	11	...	...	206
Northern Indians ...	2,432	150	77	60	2,719	441	11	1	1	454	8,650	1,183	556	355	10,744
Southern Indians ...	1,378	65	47	28	1,518	38	7	5	7	57	19,045	2,444	1,840	999	24,328
Others ...	496	44	37	16	593	27	6	1	2	36	331	68	33	22	454
Total ...	81,726	18,480	7,806	4,842	112,854	18,520	9,754	3,759	2,372	34,405	29,684	4,392	2,528	1,464	38,068

Nationalities	BY SEA														
	Siam					Other Countries					Total				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	399	125	15	16	555	4,437	2,976	450	400	8,263	10,312	5,957	987	797	18,053
Eurasians ...	20	4	1	3	28	63	32	17	13	125	348	191	38	27	604
Japanese ...	52	2	...	...	54	720	229	50	68	1,067	1,641	415	108	98	2,262
Chinese ...	1,319	323	223	96	1,961	5,336	1,251	458	306	7,351	73,624	19,959	8,770	5,414	107,767
Malays ...	164	46	20	25	255	1,268	484	142	116	2,010	24,945	7,598	2,969	1,895	37,407
Northern Indians ...	334	5	1	7	347	885	100	74	49	1,108	12,742	1,449	709	472	15,372
Southern Indians ...	270	16	17	11	314	758	171	86	63	1,078	21,489	2,703	1,995	1,108	27,295
...	223	159	35	38	455	660	61	49	15	785	1,737	338	155	93	2,323
Total ...	2,781	680	312	196	3,969	14,127	5,304	1,326	1,030	21,787	146,838	38,610	15,731	9,904	211,083

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1933

ARRIVALS FROM

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	210	51	4	1	266	1,114	336	23	13	1,486	11,636	6,344	1,014	811	19,805
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	75	28	3	2	108	423	219	41	29	712
Japanese ...	10	...	...	...	10	51	6	1	...	58	1,702	421	109	98	2,330
Chinese ...	13	...	...	...	13	14,079	1,734	592	275	16,680	87,716	21,693	9,362	5,689	124,460
Malays ...	1	...	...	...	1	7,141	2,653	577	308	10,679	32,087	10,251	3,546	2,203	48,087
Northern Indians ...	7	...	...	...	7	1,675	95	66	20	1,856	14,424	1,544	775	492	17,235
Southern Indians ...	...	...	...	...	...	543	53	30	7	633	22,032	2,756	2,025	1,115	27,928
Others ...	5	...	...	...	5	4,483	2,057	421	280	7,241	6,225	2,395	576	373	9,569
TOTAL ...	246	51	4	1	302	29,161	6,962	1,713	905	38,741	176,245	45,623	17,448	10,810	250,126

DEPARTURES TO

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA														
	NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA					INDIA				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children C.	Total
Europeans ...	3,351	1,564	246	222	5,383	1,130	562	50	41	1,783	921	492	52	42	1,507
Eurasians	287	189	6	2	484	8	11	1	...	20	31	20	2	2	55
Japanese ...	702	63	25	19	809	39	8	1	1	49	103	24	9	5	141
Chinese ...	37,100	4,267	1,304	767	43,438	57,009	16,361	8,545	7,422	89,337	858	179	111	35	1,183
Malays ...	24,083	5,435	2,050	1,352	32,920	4	2	1	...	7	64	8	4	3	79
Northern Indians ...	2,160	182	91	36	2,469	159	9	4	2	174	6,839	909	553	350	8,651
Southern Indians ...	989	37	26	15	1,067	62	1	1	...	64	26,345	6,353	2,528	1,568	36,794
Others ...	608	29	37	8	682	19	3	6	3	31	293	52	35	12	392
TOTAL ...	69,280	11,766	3,785	2,421	87,252	58,430	16,957	8,609	7,469	91,465	35,454	8,037	3,294	2,017	48,802

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1933

DEPARTURES TO

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B	G.				B.	G.				B	G.	
Europeans ...	440	146	28	10	624	4,470	2,907	617	529	8,523	10,312	5,671	993	844	17,820
Eurasians ...	16	4	2	6	28	40	27	13	8	88	382	251	24	18	675
Japanese ...	34	2	1	1	38	773	331	108	129	1,341	1,651	428	144	155	2,378
Chinese ...	1,095	169	88	52	1,404	3,234	842	219	163	4,458	99,296	21,818	10,267	8,439	139,820
Malays ...	182	29	7	10	228	1,249	443	159	109	1,960	25,582	5,917	2,221	1,474	35,194
Northern Indians ...	454	5	7	2	468	259	32	13	9	313	9,871	1,137	668	399	12,075
Southern Indians ...	209	8	5	4	226	373	30	15	8	426	27,978	6,429	2,575	1,595	38,577
Others ...	283	249	72	65	669	454	49	67	16	586	1,657	382	217	104	2,360
TOTAL ...	2,713	612	210	150	3,685	10,852	4,661	1,211	971	17,695	176,729	42,033	17,109	13,028	248,899

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B	G.	
Europeans ...	207	59	1	1	268	1,055	339	15	7	1,416	11,574	6,069	1,009	852	19,504
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	87	14	7	1	109	469	265	31	19	784
Japanese ...	7	...	...	.	7	73	2	...	...	75	1,731	430	144	155	2,460
Chinese ...	13	...	...	...	13	13,399	1,581	494	331	15,805	112,708	23,399	10,761	8,770	155,638
Malays ...	2	...	...	...	2	8,185	3,277	702	423	12,587	33,769	9,194	2,923	1,897	47,783
Northern Indians ...	8	...	...	...	8	1,259	86	39	11	1,395	11,138	1,223	707	410	13,478
Southern Indians ...	...	...	...	...	...	457	40	16	13	526	28,435	6,469	2,591	1,608	39,103
Others ...	1	...	...	...	1	4,693	2,096	457	218	7,464	6,351	2,478	674	322	9,825
TOTAL ...	238	59	1	1	299	29,208	7,435	1,730	1,004	39,377	206,175	49,527	18,840	14,033	288,575

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1933

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA														
	NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA					INDIA				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans	397	267	190	70	924	− 292	− 74	− 1	2	− 365	− 31	45	− 15	4	3
Eurasians	− 75	− 69	− 3	1	− 146	7	− 8	...	...	− 1	7	12	14	6	39
Japanese	20	85	15	− 1	119	19	9	5	2	35	− 14	− 5	3	4	− 12
Chinese	12,401	4,807	3,058	1,905	22,171	−39,987	− 7,148	−4,852	−5,107	− 57,094	− 412	− 81	− 77	− 10	− 580
Malays	− 846	1,613	754	401	1,922	77	7	2	1	87	131	3	− 4	− 3	127
Northern Indians ...	272	− 32	− 14	24	250	282	2	− 3	− 1	280	1,811	274	3	5	− 2,093
Southern Indians ...	389	28	21	13	451	− 24	6	4	7	− 7	− 7,300	− 3,909	−688	−569	− 12,466
Others	− 112	15	.	8	− 89	8	3	− 5	− 1	5	38	16	− 2	10	62
TOTAL ...	12,446	6,714	4,021	2,421	25,602	−39,910	− 7,203	−4,850	−5,097	−57,060	− 5,770	− 3,645	−766	−553	− 10,734

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans	− 41	− 21	− 13	6	− 69	− 33	69	− 167	− 129	− 260	...	286	− 6	− 47	233
Eurasians	4	...	− 1	− 3	0	23	5	4	5	37	− 34	− 60	14	9	− 71
Japanese	18	...	− 1	− 1	16	− 53	− 102	− 58	− 61	− 274	− 10	− 13	− 36	− 57	− 116
Chinese	224	154	135	44	557	2,102	409	239	143	2,893	−25,672	− 1,859	−1,497	−3,025	− 32,053
Malays	− 18	17	13	15	27	19	41	− 17	7	50	− 637	1,681	748	421	2,213
Northern Indians ...	− 120	...	− 6	5	− 121	626	68	61	40	795	2,871	312	41	73	3,297
Southern Indians ...	61	8	12	7	88	385	141	71	55	652	− 6,489	− 3,726	− 580	− 487	− 11,282
Others	− 60	− 90	− 37	− 27	− 214	206	12	− 18	− 1	199	80	− 44	− 62	− 11	− 37
TOTAL ...	68	68	102	46	284	3,275	643	115	59	4,092	−29,891	− 3,423	−1,378	−3,124	− 37,816

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1933

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans	3	− 8	3	...	− 2	59	− 3	8	6	70	62	275	5	− 41	301
Eurasians	...	...		...	...	− 12	14	− 4	1	− 1	− 46	− 46	10	10	− 72
Japanese	3	...	...	...	3	− 22	4	1	...	− 17	− 29	− 9	− 35	− 57	− 130
Chinese	...	..	...	...	0	680	153	98	− 56	875	−24,992	− 1,706	−1,399	−3,081	− 31,178
Malays	− 1	...	...	...	− 1	− 1,044	− 624	− 125	− 115	− 1,908	− 1,682	1,057	623	306	304
Northern Indians ..	− 1	...	...	...	− 1	416	9	27	9	461	3,286	321	68	82	3,757
Southern Indians ...	...	...	...	...	...	86	13	14	− 6	107	− 6,403	− 3,713	− 566	− 493	− 11,175
Others	4	...	...	...	4	− 210	− 39	− 36	62	− 223	− 126	− 83	− 98	51	− 256
TOTAL ...	8	− 8	3		3	− 47	− 473	− 17	− 99	− 636	−29,930	− 3,904	−1,392	−3,223	− 38,449

NOTES:—

1. Children are under 12 (English years of age
2. China includes Hong Kong
3. India includes Burma and Ceylon
4. Europeans include Americans
5. Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago
6. Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore
7. For movements *viâ* individual ports or land-routes, *see* monthly Return Statistics 3; for movements of deck passengers (Chinese, Javanese add Southern Indians) *see* monthly Return Statistics 13
8. Net Arrivals to date, 1933: −38,449
   Net Arrivals same period, 1932: −162,978

TABLE IV

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE, JAVANESE AND SOUTHERN INDIAN DECK PASSENGERS DURING THE YEAR 1933

Nationality	Singapore		Penang		Port Swettenham		Total		Net Arrivals during the year	Net Arrivals for the years 1932 and 1933	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures		1932	1933
1. Chinese from and to China including Hongkong (*a*) ...	24,985	72,479	3,479	11,174	...	2,902	28,464	86,555	– 58,091	–128,275	– 58,091
2. Javanese from and to Java (*b*) ...	50	87	...	...	...	...	50	87	– 37	– 766	– 37
3. Southern Indians from & to Presidency of Madras (*c*)	6,260	9,059	10,933	15,054	2,881	8,226	20,074	32,339	– 12,265	– 66,306	– 12,265
TOTAL ...	31,295	81,625	14,412	26,228	2,881	11,128	48,588	118,981	– 70,393	–195,347	– 70,393

(*a*) For Chinese: all deck passengers by all steamers

(*b*) For Javanese: all labourers recruited for Malayan estates as reported by recruiting agencies and the Labour Department at Singapore

(*c*) For Southern Indians: all deck passengers embarked and disembarked by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers between Malayan Ports and Madras, as reported by the Labour Department

TABLE V

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE DECK PASSENGERS FROM AND TO CHINA DURING THE YEAR 1933

Port (13)	Arrivals				Departures				Total Arrivals		Total Departures	
	Men	Women	Boys (*a*)	Girls (*a*)	Men	Women	Boys (*a*)	Girls (*a*)	1932	1933	1932	1933
Singapore	13,065	7,219	2,940	1,761	47,666	12,897	6,214	5,702	29,623	24,985	121,904	72,479
Penang	1,520	1,215	464	280	5,927	2,204	1,756	1,287	3,911	3,479	29,014	11,174
Port Swettenham ...	...	..	...	...	1,747	582	328	245	...	...	10,891	2,902
TOTAL ...	14,585	8,434	3,404	2,041	55,340	15,683	8,298	7,234	33,534	28,464	161,809	86,555

(*a*) Under 12 (English) years of age

APPENDIX "C"

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year 1933.

Nationality	Singapore						Penang					
	Merchant Vessels				Men-of-War		Merchant Vessels				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	4418	9,549,412	..	..	62	343,684	2671	7,498,134	..	..	16	23,768
American ..	84	455,660	..	..	2	3,226	80	446,200	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	2	430	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	74	18,822	..	..	..	..	2	3,834	..	..	..	..
Czecho Slovakian	2	4,244	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	153	607,672	..	..	..	..	88	334,948	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	4501	6,237,173	..	..	..	..	1075	1,253,589	..	..	..	..
French ..	404	1,896,596	..	..	..	..	92	782,534	..	..	..	..
German ..	338	1,479,036	..	..	..	..	171	768,586	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	4	12,590	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	132	778,360	..	..	6	15,206	50	166,482	..	..	2	712
Japanese ..	1278	5,126,301	..	..	..	..	240	1,052,012	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	803	1,437,662	..	..	..	..	158	237,702	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	8	10,512	..	..	2	3,514	4	5,256	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	82	241,848	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	82	320,665	..	..	..	..	32	119,598	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	147	77,979	..	..	..	..	2	202	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	344	183,289	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	4,016
Yugo Slavian ..	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	12856	28,438,611	28581	1,169,042	72	365,630	4665	12,669,077	12183	530,985	30	28,496
± 1932 ..	−598	−319,927	−2228	−102,151	−12	−19,746	−269	−44,947	−265	+6,456	+4	+3,218

APPENDIX "C"—continued

Nationality, number and tonnage of vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1933.

Nationality	MALACCA						LABUAN					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	872	897,014	..	..	..	..	266	232,662	..	..	12	11,228
American ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czecho Slovakia ..	4	8,486	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	70	260,698	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	20	66,074	..	..	..	..	6	2,108	..	..	..	..
French ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	56	250,848	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	8,586
Japanese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	83	66,096	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	346	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	30	20,654	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yugo Slavia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1135	1,569,870	4928	98,427	..	..	274	235,116	2776	29,190	16	19,814
± 1932 ..	−162	+20,453	−91	−8,953	..	..	−4	+526	−147	−793	+16	+19,814

NOTE:—To the above figures must be added:—

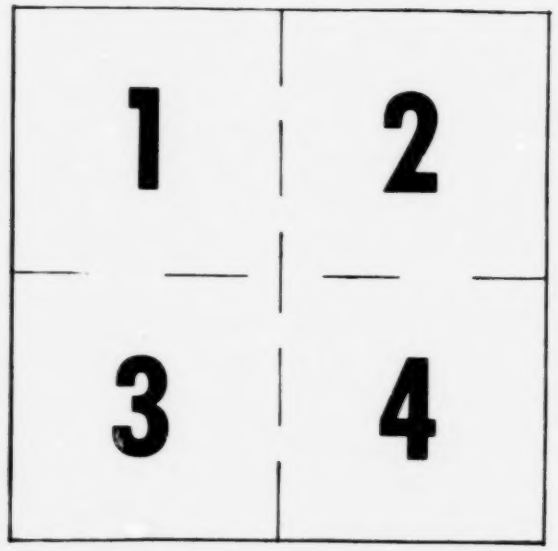
(*a*) Dindings: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1933 was 63,234 tons—a decrease of 21,272 tons, and

(*b*) Christmas Island: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1933 was 99,108 tons—an increase of 2,634 tons.

The total tonnage of vessels arrived and departed at the Straits Settlements ports during the year 1933 was 45,316,600 tons or a decrease of 464,688 tons as compared with the year, 1932. This comprised (*a*) merchant vessels 44,901,060 tons of which

(i) over 75 tons	... ...	43,056,128 tons
(ii) 75 tons and under and native craft	...	1,844,932 tons
(*b*) warships	... ...	415,540 tons
Total	...	45,316,600 tons

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



LABUAN

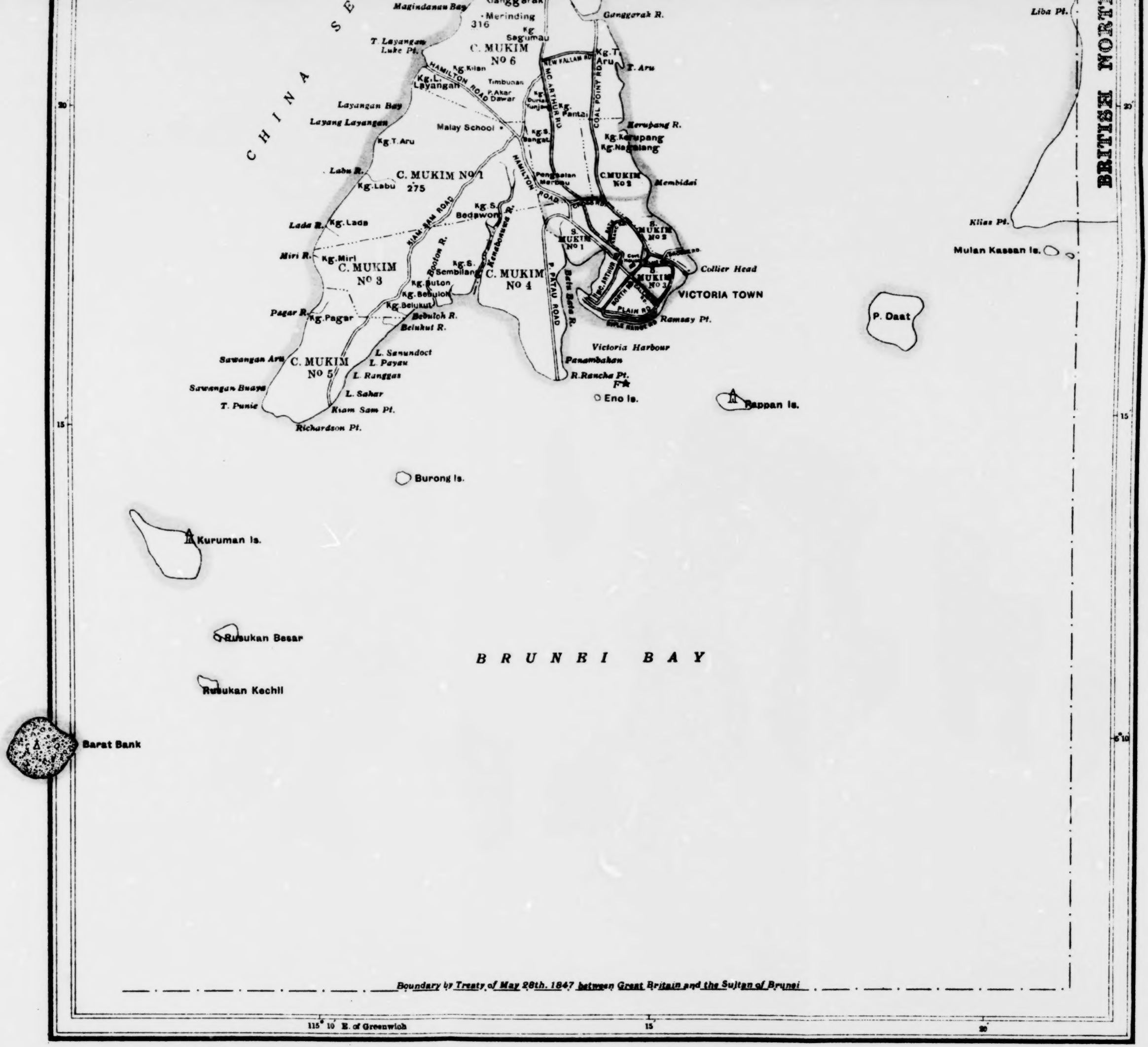
1933

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Earth Road & Bridle Path.....
Roads: Metalled.....
Point, Tanjong, River..... Pt. T. R.
Pulau, Light House..... P.
Kampong, Lobok..... Kg. L.
Flashing Light or Buoy.....
Fixed Light, Sungei..... F S
Mukim Boundary, Height..... 336
Country, Suburban..... C. S.
Districts: (1) Town (2) Suburban (1) (2)



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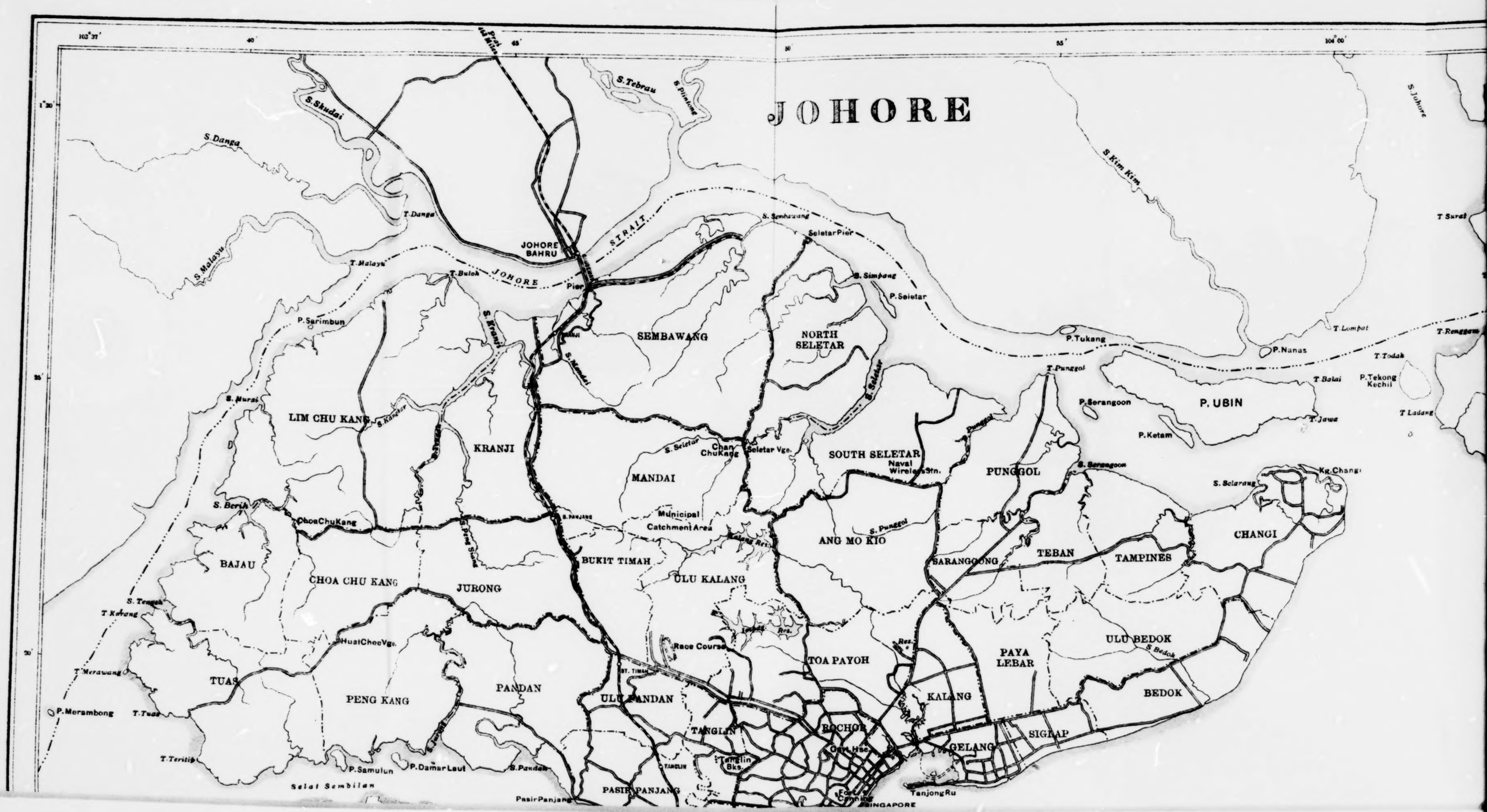
JOHORE
JOHORE BAHRU
Pier
STRAIT
JOHORE
S. Skudai
S. Danga
T. Danga
S. Malayu
T. Malayu
T. Buloh
P. Sarimbun
S. Kranji
S. Tebrau
S. Pulai
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
T. Surat
S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
S. Simbang
P. Seletar
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
S. Seletar
P. Tukang
T. Punggol
P. Nanas
T. Lompat
T. Renggam
T. Todak
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
T. Ladang
P. Serangoon
P. UBIN
T. Jawa
P. Ketam
S. Murai
LIM CHU KANG
S. Kangkar
KRANJI
S. Seletar
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
S. Serangoon
Kg. Changi
S. Selarang
S. Berih
Choa Chu Kang
S. Peng Siang
MANDAI
Municipal Catchment Area
S. Punggol
ANG MO KIO
CHANGI
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
SARANGOONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
S. Tengah
T. Kelang
Hua Chu Kang Vge.
Race Course
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
T. Merawang
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
P. Merambong
T. Tuas
TANGLIN
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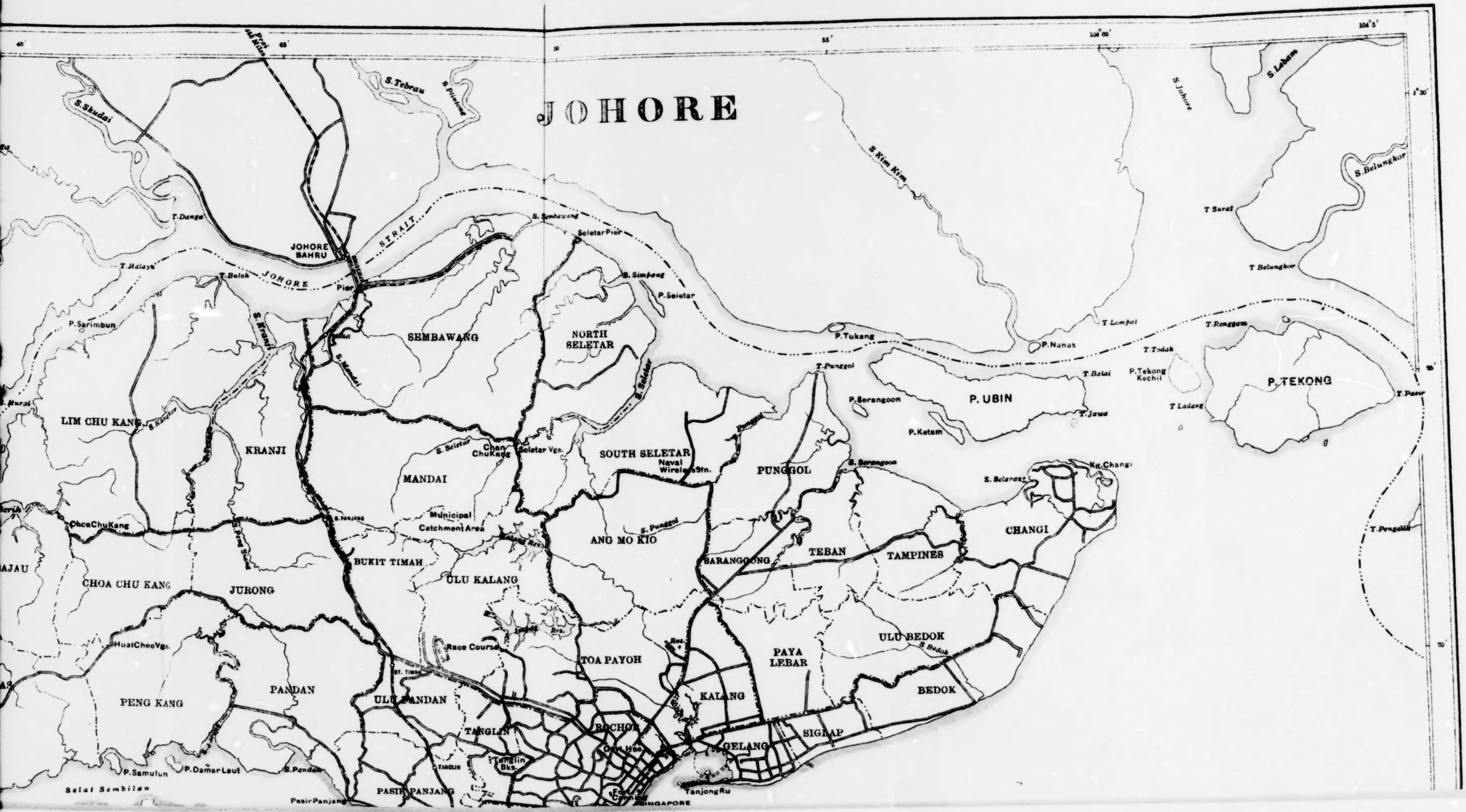
Tanjong Ru
SINGAPORE


JOHORE
JOHORE BAHRU
Pier
STRAIT
JOHORE
S. Skudai
S. Tebrau
S. Pintasan
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
S. Labam
S. Belungkor
T. Dangu
T. Malayu
T. Buloh
T. Surat
T. Belungkor
T. Lompat
T. Renggam
T. Todak
T. Balai
T. Jawa
T. Ladang
T. Pasir
T. Pengelih
P. Sarimbun
P. Tukang
P. Nanas
P. Tekong Kechil
P. TEKONG
P. UBIN
P. Serangoon
P. Ketam
T. Panggol
S. Seletar
S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
S. Simpang
P. Seletar
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
S. Serangoon
Kg. Changi
S. Selarang
CHANGI
Municipal Catchment Area
ANG MO KIO
S. Punggol
Choa Chu Kang
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
SARANGOONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
Race Course
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
HuatChee Vge.
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
PENG KANG
TANGLIN
BUCHOR
GELANG
SIGLAP
Tanglin Bks.
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang
Tanjong Ru
SINGAPORE
Selat Sembilan

SINGAPORE
1933
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards. 3500
0
2
4
6
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
Municipal Boundary
Mukim "
State "
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
SOUTH SELETAR
PUNGGOL
P. UBIN
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
ANG MO KIO
SARANGOON
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHANGI
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
BEDOK
KALANG
ROCHOR
TANGLIN
GELANG
SIGLAP
PASIR PANJANG
SINGAPORE TOWN
TELOK BLANGA
Selat Sembilan
Selat pandan
Municipal Catchment Area
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
Naval Wireless Stn.
Choa Chu Kang
Huat Choe Vge.
Race Course
Tanglin Bks.
Gov. Hse.
Fort Canning
Tanjong Ru
Pasir Panjang
Beri Beri Hosp.
Kappel Harbour
Cyrene Shoal
Outer Shoal
Quarantine Station
P.Merambong
P.Samulun
P.Damar Laut
P.Pesek
P.Merlimau
P.Seraya
P.Ayer Chawan
P.Ayer Merbau
P.Sekra
P.Brani
P.Blakang Mati
P.Busing
P.Bukum
P.Sakijang Bendera or St.John's Island
P.Sakijang Pelepah
P.Sudong
P.Semakau
P.Sebarok
P.Pawai
P.Senang
P.Satumu & Raffles Lighthouse
P.Serangoon
P.Ketam
P.Nanas
P.Tekong Kechil
T.Todak
T.Belai
T.Jawa
T.Ladang
T.Punggol
S.Murai
S.Berih
S.Tengah
T.Kelang
T.Merawang
T.Tuas
T.Teritip
S.Kranji
S.Seletar
S.Punggol
S.Serangoon
S.Selarang
Kg.Changi
S.Panjang
S.Pandan
S.Bedok
Res.
Kallang Res.
Jurong Res.
Seletar Res.
The Mole
Clifford Pier
Gen. H.
Tg. Pagar
BT. TIMAH
TANGLIN
103°37' E. of Greenwich
40'
45'
50'
55'
104°00'
25'
20'
15'
1°10'

SINGAPORE
1933
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3500
0
2
4
6
8 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
Municipal Boundary
Mukim "
State "
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
SOUTH SELETAR
PUNGGOL
P. UBIN
P. TEKONG
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
ANG MO KIO
SARANGOON
TEBAN
TAMPINES
CHANGI
BAJAU
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
BEDOK
KALANG
ROCHOR
GELANG
SIGLAP
TANGLIN
PASIR PANJANG
TELOK BLANGA
SINGAPORE TOWN
Selat Sembilan
Selat Pandan
P.Samulun
P.Damar Laut
P.Pesek
P.Seraya
P.Ayer Chawan
P.Ayer Merbau
P.Sakra
Cyclone Shoal
P.Busing
P.Bukum
P.Sudong
P.Semakau
P.Sebarok
P.Pawai
P.Senang
P.Satumu & Raffles Lighthouse
P.Brani
Outer Shoal
P.Sakijang Bendera or St.John's Island
P.Sakijang Pelepah
Quarantine Station
Keppel Harbour
Beri Beri Hosp.
Race Course
Fort Canning
Tanjong Ru
Pasir Panjang
Choa Chu Kang
Huat Choe Vge.
Chan Chu Kang
Seletar Vge.
Naval Wireless Stn.
Municipal Catchment Area
Kg. Changi
P.Nanas
P.Tekong Kechil
P.Serangoon
P.Ketam
T.Punggol
T.Balai
T.Jawa
T.Ladang
T.Pasir
T.Pengalih
T.Mat
S.Nursi
S.Berih
S.Kranji
S.Seletar
S.Punggol
S.Serangoon
S.Sclarang
S.Pandan
S.Bedok
1°10'
104°00'
104°5'

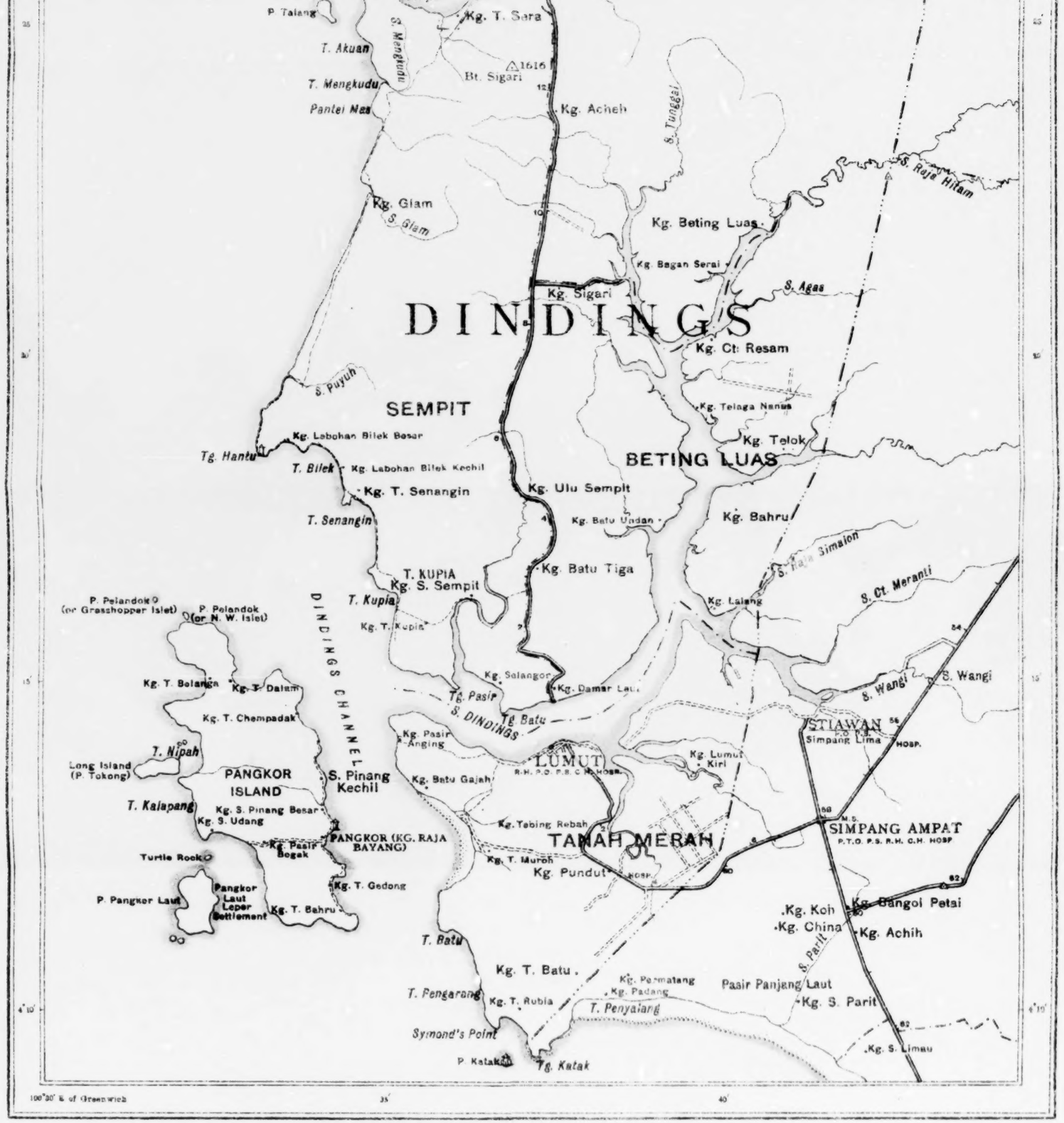
MAP
OF
PENANG ISLAND
AND
PROVINCE WELLESLEY
1933

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

REFERENCE

Railway with Station	Single Line — Double Line
Metalled Roads	
State Boundary	
District "	
Mukim "	
Municipal "	
Village "	

DINDINGS
1933
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 2800
0
2
4 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
Mukim Boundary
S. Tiong
S. Lada
S. Penchor
Kg. Panchor
Kg. Permatang Serai
Kg. Batu Hampar
1336
Matang Achih
S. Bruas
Kg. Che Puteh
S. ROTAN
Kg. S. Tontong
S. Tg. Burong
PENG. BAHRU
R.M.S.P. G.M.
Kg. Pantai Remis
Tg. Burong
PANTAI REMIS
Tg. Batu
(or Datoh Kramat)
T. Nipah
P. Talang
Kg. T. Sera
S. Batu
T. Akuan
S. Mengkudu
1616
Bt. Sigari
T. Mengkudu
Pantai Mas
Kg. Acheh
S. Tunggal
S. Raja Hitam
Kg. Glam
S. Glam
Kg. Beting Luas
Kg. Bagan Serai
Kg. Sigari
S. Agas
DINDINGS
Kg. Ct. Resam
S. Puyuh
SEMPIT
Kg. Telaga Nanas
Kg. Lebohan Bilek Besar
Kg. Telok
Tg. Hantu
T. Bilek
Kg. Lebohan Bilek Kechil
BETING LUAS



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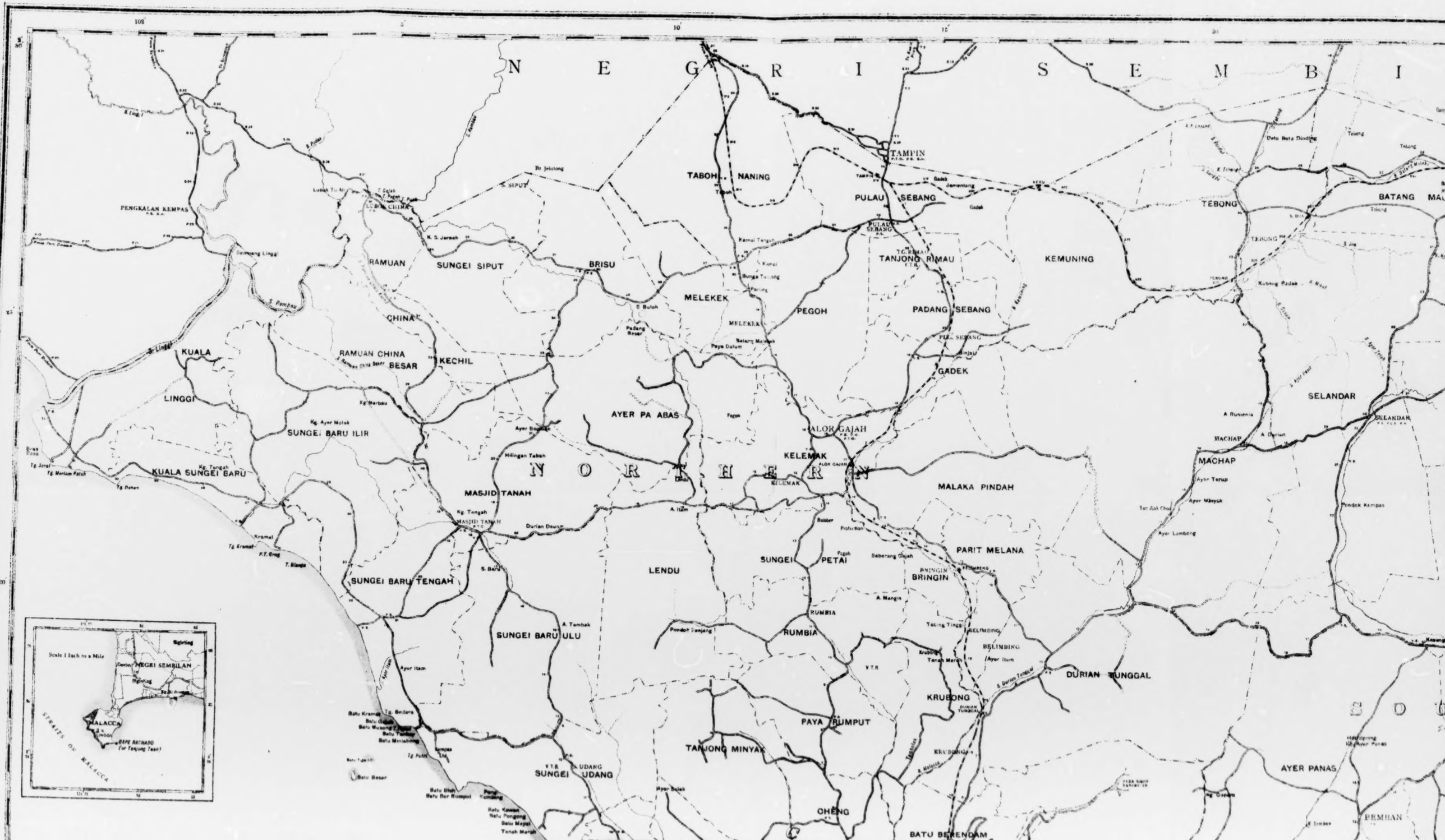
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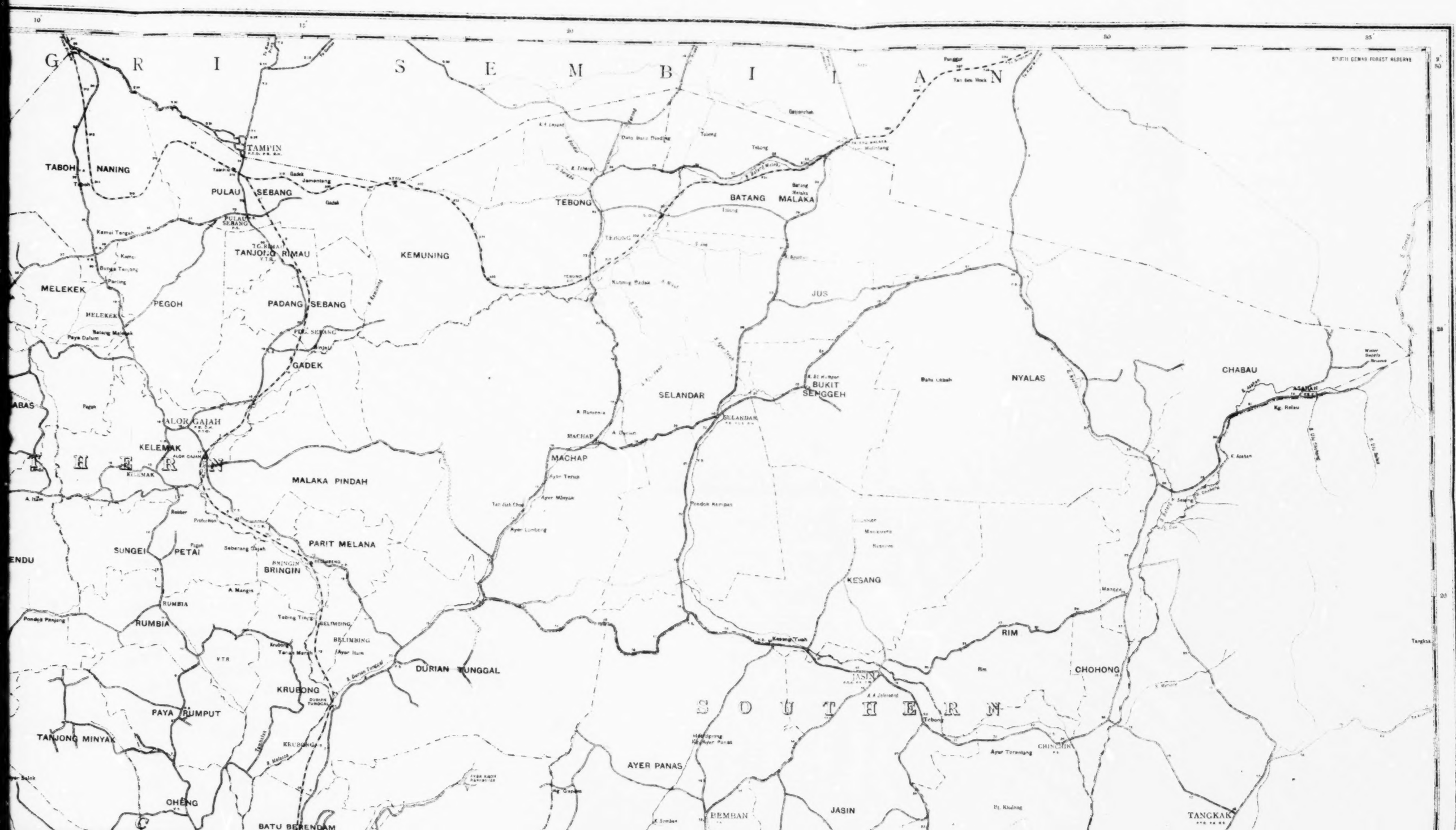
N O R T H E R N
S O U
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MA
PENGKALAN KEMPAS
RAMUAN
SUNGEI SIPUT
BRISU
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
CHINA
KUALA
RAMUAN CHINA BESAR
KECHIL
LINGGI
SUNGEI BARU ILIR
AYER PA ABAS
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
SELANDAR
MACHAP
KUALA SUNGEI BARU
MASJID TANAH
MALAKA PINDAH
PARIT MELANA
SUNGEI BARU TENGAH
LENDU
SUNGEI PETAI
BRINGIN
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
SUNGEI BARU ULU
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
SUNGEI UDANG
AYER PANAS
CHENG
BATU BERENDAM
PEMBAN
Scale 1 Inch to a Mile
NEGRI SEMBILAN
MALACCA
STRAITS OF MALACCA


G R I S E M B I L A N
E E R N
S O U T H E R N
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
JUS
SELANDAR
BUKIT SEMGGEH
NYALAS
CHABAU
ALOR GAJAH
KELEMAK
MALAKA PINDAH
MACHAP
SUNGEI PETAI
PARIT MELANA
BRINGIN
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KESANG
RIM
CHOHONG
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TANJONG MINYAK
AYER PANAS
JASIN
OHENG
BATU BERENDAM
BEMBAN
TANGKAK

MALACCA TERRITORY 1933

Scale. 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Furlongs 8 6 4 2 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

REFERENCE

- *Railway with Station*
- *Metalled Roads*
- *State Boundary*
- *District* "
- *Mukim* "
- *Municipal* "
- *Vernacular School, Customs Station*
- *Post & Telegraph Office, Rest House*
- *Police Station, Forest Checking Station*
- *Court House, Hospital*
- *Meteorological Station*

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FIJI.
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MAURITIUS.
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NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
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Penang Island and Province Wellesley.
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1934

CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, and about 217 square miles in area. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore which also form part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands lie about 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is five miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil and nuts are exported.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, and about 108 square miles in area. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait varying in width from 2 to 10 miles, lies *Province Wellesley*, a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. The principal town of the province is Butterworth.

Malacca is a town situated on the west coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang. It gives its name to the Settlement of Malacca, a strip of territory about 42 miles in length and varying in breadth from 8 to 25 miles, with a total area of about 637 square miles. At one time it gave its name to the whole peninsula, which is still known to the French as the Presqu'ile de Malacca.

Labuan is an island, some 40 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365, and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the great entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But with the development of Dutch commerce in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade dwindled and it has never recovered its old commercial pre-eminence although the development of plantation rubber in the present century has restored to town and territory a large measure of prosperity.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British and remained a part of the Settlement of Penang until its retrocession to the State of Perak in February, 1935, under arrangements concluded during the year under review.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield first place to the port with the better strategic position and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable

that trade has become large and important with the expansion of tin mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, and the development of trade with neighbouring countries.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement there in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired the whole island for the East India Company. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal and in 1826 was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands were declared a British possession in 1857. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1900 it was made part of the Settlement of Singapore.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The characteristic features of the climate of the Straits Settlements are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures found in continental tropical areas are never experienced.

The Mean Temperature during 1934 was:—

Singapore (Mount Faber)	80.1°F.
Penang (District Hospital)	81.5°F.
Province Wellesley (Bagan Dalam) ..	80.1°F.
Malacca (Bukit China)	79.0°F.

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperature varied as follows:—

	Mean Monthly Maximum		*Mean Monthly Minimum*	
	Highest °F.	*Lowest °F.*	*Lowest °F.*	*Highest °F.*
Singapore ..	87.9 May	82.6 Jan.	70.8 Feb.	76.4 Aug.
Penang ..	90.4 Apr.	88.3 Oct.	73.0 Jan., Dec.	74.9 June

The extremes of temperature (Highest Maximum and Lowest Minimum) recorded were:—

	Highest °F.	*Lowest °F.*
Singapore ..	90 on several days	67 on 30th & 31st January.
Penang ..	93 on several days	68 on January 31st.

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.

Records for 64 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches and February, May, June, July and September the dry months with between 6½ and 7 inches. Rain falls, as a rule on one day in two throughout the year.

The wettest year recorded was 1913 with 135.92 inches and the driest 1888 with 63.21 inches.

Records for 50 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107½ inches, October being the wettest month with nearly 17 inches and February the driest with three inches, rain falling on the average on about 165 days in the year.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt but the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz:*—

S. W. from May to October,
N. E. from November to April,

though at the coastal stations, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

Records of rainfall for the last three years are as follows:—

	1932	*1933*	*1934*	*No. of Rainfall days in 1934*
Singapore ..	77.49	82.52	106.55	194
Penang ..	109.11	97.37	137.31	205
Malacca ..	71.60	95.91	91.43	187
Province Wellesley	108.77	88.33	111.13	191
Dindings ..	68.52	59.02	77.86	184
Labuan ..	155.58	121.93	124.51	180

Although the days are hot, and on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The effect of the heat and humidity, without seasonal change, is, however, cumulative; and after a few years a change to a bracing climate becomes imperative for Europeans if health is to be maintained.

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Resident Councillor, Malacca, two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are

appointed, under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

The Legislative Council is constituted by Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by the Standing Orders made by the Council. Under Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, its constitution was enlarged and for the first time contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for Signification of the Royal pleasure. The King has the right of veto on the Ordinances of the Colony.

The administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident. The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the Rural areas within the three Settlements.

The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

In estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934 the method of calculating by geometrical progression has been discarded in favour of a calculation, based on the figures obtained in the census of 1931, which takes account of the excess of births over deaths and the excess of emigration over immigration figures since the census.

This change of method was rendered necessary by the large exodus of labourers, chiefly Chinese, Tamils and Javanese, which took place during the years 1931, 1932 and 1933. Under normal conditions these non-Malayan units form such a large proportion of the total population that the excess of emigration over immigration during the three years immediately following the census of 1931

became the dominant factor in determining the resident population. The wave of migration changed in 1933 and the population figures show a small increase in the numbers of Chinese and Tamils as on the 30th June, 1934. It is expected that with returning prosperity immigration will swell these numbers appreciably.

The distribution of the population by race amongst the various Settlements as on 30th June, 1934, is estimated as follows:—

	Singapore	*Penang*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*	*Total*
Europeans ..	8,298	1,625	329	23	10,275
Eurasians ..	7,148	2,413	2,095	38	11,694
Malaysians ..	68,137	121,916	101,047	5,054	296,154
Chinese ..	390,948	162,878	61,438	2,171	617,435
Indians ..	42,223	47,962	19,535	142	109,862
Others ..	8,474	2,498	647	69	11,688
	525,228	339,292	185,091	7,497	1,057,108

Births.—The number of births registered during the year amounted to 42,974 as compared with 42,538 in the previous year.

The birth-rate for the year was equal to 40.65 per thousand of the estimated population as against 40.95 in the preceding year.

The highest birth rate was that of the Chinese which was 44.34 per thousand.

The percentage of males born was 51.97.

Deaths.—The crude death rate was 26.54 per thousand; that for 1933 was 24.26, and the average for the ten years 1925–1934, was 27.14 as recorded in the annual reports of the registry of births and deaths.

Infant Mortality.—The corrected infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 171.87 per thousand as against 168.04 in 1933 and an average of 184.89 over the ten years 1925–1934.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

Measurements of migration are dealt with on a Malayan basis in the absence of inter-Settlement or inter-State control, or of control between the Straits Settlements and the Malay States. Migration is a subject of special interest in Malaya owing to the attraction of the country for foreign capital and for labour from India, China and the neighbouring countries of the Archipelago, and also to the situation of Singapore and Penang at the junction of ocean trade-routes. Until 1930 immigration was practically free, and one of the lucrative trades of Singapore was the importation of labourers from China. In that year a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China with the objects of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 the Aliens Ordinance which is administered by the Immigration Department extended this control, subject to certain temporary exceptions, to all adult male immigrants of other than British or British protected nationality.

Statistics of migration between Malaya and foreign countries by land, sea and air are collected by the Statistics Department and published monthly in the *Gazette*. These include particulars as to race, sex, proportion of minors, country of original departure or

ultimate destination, and the Malayan port of entry. Tables are also published to show arrivals and departures of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers, as indicating movements of labour. Copies of the summaries for the year are included in the Appendices.

Migration statistics are also, as already indicated, of importance as an aid to an estimation of the population in the periods between censuses.

The following are points of interest. The population of Malaya as ascertained by the Census on the 1st April, 1931, was 4,385,346, of which that of the Straits Settlements was 1,114,015 or approximately one quarter. The population on the 30th June, 1934, was estimated at 4,234,092 and 1,059,122 respectively. The Malayan immigrational surplus for the year was 142,089 persons, as compared with deficits of 38,449 in 1933 and 162,978 in 1932, a net loss to the population in three years of 59,338 persons, due largely to the slump in the prices of rubber and tin. The excess of arrivals over departures during 1934 showed reviving confidence, and this surplus which was noticed in the month of October, 1933, for the first time since July, 1930, has since been maintained except for a deficit of 1,186 persons in March of this year. A further reference to movements of Indian and Chinese labour is made in the following sections of this chapter.

All races showed a surplus of immigration over emigration for the year under review. The following table shows the racial composition of the migrational surplus or deficit during the last three years:—

MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

Race		*1932*		*1933*		*1934*
Europeans and Americans	–	569	+	301	+	1,599
Eurasians	–	61	–	72	+	263
Japanese	–	798	–	130	+	423
Chinese	–	97,518	–	31,178	+	61,639
Malays	–	3,996	+	304	+	3,425
Northern Indians ..	+	1,680	+	3,757	+	7,132
Southern Indians ..	–	61,320	–	11,175	+	66,666
Others	–	396	–	256	+	942
Total ..	–	162,978	–	38,449	+	142,089

During the year 1934 the total number of arrivals (to the nearest thousand) was 495,000, an increase of 98 per cent., and of departures 353,000, an increase of 22 per cent.

The means of transport continued to be principally by sea, though the number of recorded passengers by land and air considerably increased. The increase observed in land movements is due partly to the fact that migration between Perak and Siam by the Kroh-Betong route was not recorded before 1933 and partly to the development of trade between Northern Malaya and Southern Siam. The increase of migration by air was due to the development of civil aviation, the Royal Dutch Indian Airways having included Singapore in the direct route from Batavia to Amsterdam with effect from May, 1933, while Imperial Airways, Limited, inaugurated a weekly air mail service from Singapore to London on the last day of 1933.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—Indian Immigration*

(*a*) The total number of immigrants from Southern India that arrived at Penang by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1934 was 89,828. This is an increase of 69,586 over the figure for 1933, which was 20,242.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (labourers assisted to emigrate at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates etc., in Malaya)	45,469
Non-assisted immigrants (traders and others who paid their own passages)	44,359
Total ..	89,828

Of the non-assisted immigrants 27,306, or approximately 62%, were of the labouring classes, the remaining 17,053 being traders and others. It is estimated that about one-third of the non-assisted immigrants remained in the Colony, the remainder proceeding to the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States. There were 2,599 assisted immigrants for the Colony.

The following table shows the number of assisted passages taken during the last five years for labourers and their families emigrating from Southern India to Malaya and paid for from the Indian Immigration Fund:—

1930	36,957
1931	91
1932	12
1933	13
1934	36,712

The striking rise in the number of immigrants in 1934, as compared with the three previous years, was due to the resumption of assisted immigration in May, and also to the marked increase in arrivals of non-assisted passengers attracted by the improving economic conditions in Malaya.

(*b*) In addition to the immigrants who arrived by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 1,578 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes line.

(ii).—Indian Emigration

(*a*) The number of deck passengers that left Penang for Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1934 was 28,068 (24,965 adults, 1,600 minors and 1,503 infants) as against 32,738 (28,064 adults, 2,726 minors and 1,948 infants) in 1933.

Of this total number, 23,556 adults, accompanied by 1,238 minors and 1,315 infants, paid their own passages, and 1,409 adults, 362 minors and 188 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department.

* The word immigrant, as here used in connection with Indian immigration, means a deck-passenger only, and does not include first or second class passengers.

Of those repatriated through the Labour Department 917 adults, accompanied by 226 minors and 128 infants, were unfit for further work, and the remaining 492 adults, 136 minors and 60 infants were repatriated at the expense of private employers or Government Departments or with free passages granted by the British India Steam Navigation Company. The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
1. Sent at the expense of the Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund ..	215	31	13
2. Sent at the expense of estates and Government Departments ..	48	7	3
3. Carried free of charge by the British India Steam Navigation Company ..	30	17	9
	293	55	25

(*b*) In addition to the above, 399 deck passengers left for South India by the Messageries Maritimes steamers.

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese labourers arriving in the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong) was restricted by proclamation under the Aliens Ordinance. The quota was fixed at 1,000 a month from the 1st January to the 30th April, 2,000 a month from the 1st May to the 30th June, 3,000 for July, and 4,000 a month from the 1st August to the end of the year. This restriction applied not to labourers only but to all adult male Chinese, who arrived on ships working under the quota. Other ships were restricted to a total of 25 a month for each shipping company.

An amendment to the Aliens Ordinance (section 12A) in March allowed the issue of permits to *bona fide* employers to import their own labour outside the quota. The first batch of labourers imported under this system arrived in July.

At the same time, alien Chinese in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence issued under the Aliens Ordinance in the Colony, or a corresponding Aliens Enactment in a Malay State, were exempted from the provisions of Part I of the Aliens Ordinance and were therefore not counted against the quota.

The total number of Chinese entering the Colony under the quota during the year was 31,156.

The total number of Chinese who arrived on non-quota ships was 3,511.

The total number of Chinese who arrived on permits under section 12A was 5,902.

The total number of Chinese who arrived in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence was 11,454.

The total number of male Chinese from China ports (including Hong Kong) who arrived during the year was therefore 52,023, compared with 13,535 in 1933, 18,741 in 1932, and 50,120 in 1931.

No restriction was placed on the immigration of women and children. 29,678 women and 17,163 children entered the Colony from China ports. The corresponding figures for the last three years were:—

	Women	*Children*
1931	17,042	11,923
1932	8,652	6,141
1933	8,199	6,062

The number of women to a thousand men arriving from China ports during the years 1931, 1932, 1933 and 1934 was 340, 462, 605 and 570 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 68,129 as against 86,555 in 1933.

The fares for deck passengers from Singapore to China ports at the end of the year were from $12 to $15 to Hong Kong and $12 to $19 to Amoy and Swatow (Straits currency).

For passengers, counted against the quota, from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong to Singapore the fares varied as follows: $55 to $60 (China currency) and $50 to $55 (China currency) and $40 to $50 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

For passengers not counted against the quota from Amoy, Swatow, and Hong Kong to Singapore the fares were $35 to $46 (China currency) $30 to $40 (China currency) and $30 to $35 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

Fares for specially recruited labour (under Section 12A of the Aliens Ordinance) brought from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong to Singapore were $35 (China currency) from Amoy and Swatow and $25 (Hong Kong currency) from Hong Kong.

All these fares were subject to broker's commission.

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM PRINCIPAL DISEASES

(i).—General

(1) *Malaria.*—Eight hundred and fourteen deaths were registered as caused by malaria and 4,503 deaths as due to fever unspecified, as compared with 1,718 and 2,944 respectively for the year 1933.

(2) *Tuberculosis.*—Deaths to the number of 2,276 were attributed to tuberculosis as compared with 2,167 in the year 1933.

The problem of how best to combat pulmonary tuberculosis continues to engage the earnest attention of the Health Department and the measures taken for prevention may be classified under four main headings:—

(*a*) *Education.*—Every endeavour is made by means of films, posters, leaflets, informal talks, etc., to educate the

people in methods of cleanliness and personal hygiene with a view to avoiding infection and limiting its spread. This knowledge is being constantly imparted by Health Officers, Sanitary Inspectors, Health Sisters and Nurses and School Medical Officers.

(*b*) *Improvement of housing and general sanitation.*—Under this heading mention may be made of the Singapore Improvement Trust's policy of constructing back-lanes in the congested areas, which was energetically continued during the year. There are also schemes for the demolition of slums, the building of cottages and tenements and the establishment of open spaces.

(*c*) *Special measures of sanitation.*—Preventive and curative measures against malaria and ankylostomiasis are carried out on a large scale and have the effect of improving the general health and raising the natural resistance of the people against infection by tuberculosis.

(*d*) *Hospital treatment.*—Beds for tuberculous cases are available in most of the Government hospitals and special beds for the treatment of tuberculosis exist in the General Hospitals in Singapore, Penang and Malacca and also in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore. Facilities for modern medical and surgical treatment of tuberculosis are provided at these hospitals.

(3) *Pneumonia.*—Pneumonia accounted for 2,181 deaths as compared with 1,976 in 1933.

(4) *Beri-Beri.*— Nine hundred and thirteen deaths were registered as being due to this disease. This is an increase over the 721 deaths recorded in 1933.

(5) *Dysentery.*—Dysentery caused 442 deaths. The disease was less evident than in former years.

(ii).—Dangerous Infectious Diseases

(1) *Plague.*—No case occurred.

(2) *Cholera.*—No case occurred.

(3) *Small-pox.*—There was one fatal case.

(4) *Cerebro-spinal Fever.*—There were ten cases of which 4 were fatal.

(iii).—Venereal Diseases

The treatment of these diseases is undertaken by a special branch of the Medical Department known as the "Social Hygiene Branch", under the control of the Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene.

There are 30 treatment centres in the Straits Settlements as follows:—

Singapore	8
Penang (including Province Wellesley) ..	15
Malacca District	7

The number of new cases treated continues to show a progressive decrease for Singapore as follows:—

1932	..	..	..	14,926 cases
1933	..	..	..	11,961 „
1934	..	..	..	9,796 „

Penang.—The figures here show a fall in 1933 of 787 cases followed by a small rise of 410 in 1934, as follows:—

1932	..	..	..	8,546 cases
1933	..	..	..	7,759 „
1934	..	..	..	8,169 „

Malacca.—The figures show a slight rise in 1933 and a fall of 172 cases in 1934 as follows:—

1932	..	..	..	3,228 cases
1933	..	..	..	3,636 „
1934	..	..	..	3,464 „

Number of Seamen Treated.—There were 916 new admissions to the clinics for Sailors of whom 229 were British and 108 were other Europeans. Of the remainder 468 were Chinese, 10 Malays, 79 Indians and 22 belonged to other races.

Serological Reactions.—Eighteen thousand five hundred and sixty-six specimens of blood were submitted to the Kahn Test, of which 8,382 gave positive results.

Propaganda.—Pamphlets and leaflets were freely distributed to the public, and posters calling attention to the dangers of venereal disease and the facilities for free treatment were displayed throughout the town of Singapore.

(iv).—Yaws

There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of cases of yaws treated during the year:—

Cases of yaws treated in 1933	..	8,060
Cases of yaws treated in 1934	..	6,477

Facilities exist in most of the rural areas for the treatment of yaws, and the travelling dispensaries which visit outlying villages attract large numbers of Malays who are the chief sufferers. The treatment has firmly established itself in the confidence of the villagers and very few cases now remain untreated for long in the areas served by Government hospitals and dispensaries. Epidemic foci of the disease however still appear in certain areas and these accounted for most of the 6,477 cases treated during 1934.

B.—HOSPITALS, ETC.

(i).—Hospitals

Fifty-seven thousand eight hundred and seventy-six patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony as compared with 55,197 in the previous year. The malaria admissions numbered 5,638 as compared with 5,333 in 1933. Admissions for venereal disease totalled 3,269 with 175 deaths, as against 3,298 with 166 deaths in the previous year.

The new General Hospital in Malacca has been completed and was occupied on the 28th June, 1934. It contains 573 beds in four blocks designed on modern lines. This hospital is regarded as a model of what a tropical hospital should be.

(ii).—Dispensaries

There was a decrease in the number of out-patients treated at Government Dispensaries but an increase in the number of their attendances, the figures being:—

		1933	*1934*
Number of Out-patients	..	223,552	217,421
Number of Attendances	..	451,018	459,337

The number of people seeking advice at the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, increased from 38,507 to 39,218.

At a similar dispensary in Penang the attendances for 1934 were 19,128 compared with 19,756 in 1933.

At the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Malacca the number of attendances was 17,966 for 1934, compared with 16,081 in 1933, whilst at Merlimau and Masjid Tanah the numbers were 1,158 and 1,384 respectively.

(iii).—Motor Travelling Dispensaries

Motor Travelling Dispensaries are provided in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley. They visit the outlying districts of each Settlement and dispense treatment for minor ailments. Attendances for the whole of the Colony totalled 106,747 compared with 120,270 in 1933.

(iv).—Leper Settlements

Pulau Jerejak Settlement.—Modern treatment for leprosy has been given during the past four years to all curable cases at Pulau Jerejak with encouraging results. The success so far achieved has been reflected in the number of cases discharged as cured or free from infection which numbered 5 in 1932, 45 in 1933 and 30 in 1934. The patients have been encouraged to take an active part in the work of the Settlement and 123 able-bodied patients are now employed as artisans, wood-cutters, dhobies, etc. A few educated inmates serve as teachers, dressers and overseers. Many inmates take a lively interest in vegetable and fruit gardening and in poultry farming. The dramatic troupes formed in the year 1933 gave several successful performances. Fifteen boys now attend the Chinese School and 13 attend the English School. The Boy Scouts muster 44 and have drilled regularly throughout the year while outdoor sports have been extended and have proved popular. The brass band has maintained a high standard and has given much pleasure to the inmates.

Singapore Settlement.—The Settlement at Singapore has accommodation for both males and females, but male patients are transferred to Pulau Jerejak, Penang, as early as possible. "Toc H". has taken an active interest in the inmates and its members regularly visited the Settlement and provided comforts and entertainment for the patients.

(v).—Mental Hospital

The hospital for the treatment of mental patients is suitably situated in pleasant surroundings in the rural area of Singapore. There were 1,359 patients at the beginning of the year, admissions numbered 423 and 1,397 patients remained at the end of the year. Compared with 1933 the admissions showed an increase of 37. Patients whose mental and physical condition permit are employed in light manual labour in the hospital and its environment. Eight thousand four hundred and forty-eight yards of cotton cloth were woven for use in the institution and eighty-six thousand seven hundred pounds of vegetables were grown for the use of the patients. A small quantity of fruit and 1,760 coconuts were harvested.

C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i).—Quarantine

Seven hundred and eighty-three visits in Singapore and 299 visits in Penang (as against 965 and 359 respectively in 1933) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers. 391,982 persons were examined during the year as compared with 254,297 in 1933.

Two thousand and twenty persons were detained under observation in the Quarantine Stations at Singapore and Penang.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases at Singapore Quarantine Station was one for smallpox, fourteen for chicken-pox, nine for measles, one for cerebro-spinal meningitis, three for mumps and one for leprosy. At the Penang Quarantine Station four were treated for small-pox.

(ii).—Rural Conservancy

Singapore.—The more populous sections of the rural area in Singapore, have been gazetted as "Compulsory Nightsoil Removal Areas". In these areas, removal was carried out by Chinese labour under the supervision of the Health Officer. The nightsoil of approximately one-quarter of the houses in the rural area of Singapore was removed by this method. Disposal is either by trenching or septic tank treatment.

During the year seven hundred and sixty-eight latrines were constructed or reconstructed, and six hundred and three of an insanitary type were demolished.

Household refuse was collected by the Health Department and incinerated. One new incinerator was erected in 1934. The number of serviceable incinerators is twenty-four.

Penang.—Considerable extension of conservancy measures in Penang and Province Wellesley has been undertaken during the year, and an organised system of nightsoil removal and disposal exists in all gazetted village areas.

Pit and "bore-hole" latrines are the rule in the rural areas outside village limits. 1,412 latrines of various types were constructed during the year.

Malacca.—One thousand two hundred and sixteen new latrines were constructed or reconstructed during the year, and 544 insanitary latrines were demolished.

Twenty-three of the new latrines were of the Yaeger bore-hole type. There are 33 village incinerators in use but many of them are very dilapidated. A programme for their replacement by Horsfall destructors commences in 1935.

Labuan.—Conservancy was carried out by Chinese labour under the supervision of the Health Officer. Night-soil was removed from all latrines of approved type in the Urban and Suburban areas of Victoria and disposed of by dumping in the sea half a mile from the shore during ebb tide.

During the year, 72 sanitary latrines were constructed and 34 insanitary ones demolished.

Household refuse was collected daily by contract coolies under the supervision of the Health Department, and one method of disposal was to dump it in swamps and cover it with sand.

(iii).—Anti-Malarial Work

The need for economy still prevailed and $131,042.25 was spent on permanent and temporary anti-malarial measures as compared with $132,820.68 in 1933. The extension of the oiling interval from seven to ten days in certain areas, which was first tried in 1933, was continued; and it does not appear to have resulted in any marked increase in the incidence of malaria. On any evidence of a recrudescence of malaria it might be necessary to revert at once to a seven day period, but so far no such necessity has arisen.

CHAPTER V

Housing

Housing, particularly of the wage-earning population, varies widely in character in urban and rural areas. In municipal areas the various types of housing may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) Houses with gardens occupied by the well-to-do residents,

(*b*) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by the less prosperous, or the less well-paid of the salaried classes,

(*c*) Terrace houses for clerks and people of similar standing,

(*d*) Shop-houses,

(*e*) Common lodging houses, which are frequently overcrowded,

(*f*) Tenements in closely built areas, and

(*g*) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses in the outskirts of the city.

Shop-houses in the older parts of the towns are generally built in rows, of solid construction and two or more stories in height, but too frequently they are insufficiently ventilated and for many streets no back lanes are provided. Poor ventilation, of course, conduces to the spread of tuberculosis and the absence of back lanes interferes with proper sanitation. The upper stories of many of these houses are divided into small cubicles with temporary partitions, erected without regard to the need of light and air, and it is in these that

the worst overcrowding is found. Unfortunately too many of the labouring and artisan classes find their homes in such cubicles or in the common lodging houses of the most densely populated areas, which frequently consist of just an overcrowded dormitory above a shop or store; and it is not surprising therefore that tuberculosis is very prevalent in urban areas and that the infantile death rate is high.

In rural areas though brick shop-houses with tiled roofs are found in some of the larger villages, the houses are generally of old Malay or Chinese types, built of planks with roofs of attap, a very efficient native type of thatching with dried palm fronds. The wood and attap houses are usually owned by the occupiers, and as a general rule are clean and well-ventilated, besides being admirably suited to the climate and cool and comfortable to live in. Those of the Malay small-holder or peasant are raised about four to six feet above the ground level, and are especially well-ventilated, cool and commodious. The brick-and-tile shop-houses in the villages, like those in the towns, lend themselves to overcrowding, but the evils are less pronounced in rural areas where the houses are not built so closely together. Labourers on rubber estates are usually housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. Nearly all of these buildings conform to an approved standard design and frequent inspections by the health authorities and the officers of the Labour Department prevent overcrowding and ensure decent upkeep and cleanliness.

This short account of the conditions subsisting to-day in the larger towns of the Colony is enough to show how pressing is the necessity for comprehensive measures of slum-clearance and re-housing, and social workers and others who have studied the problem in the larger sea-port towns at home will appreciate the extra difficulties that attend its solution in a country where the main areas affected are occupied by a transient Asiatic population inured for generations to a standard of living compared with which their present circumstances give little cause for complaint. The Government, however, and the educated elements of the population, European and Asiatic, are fully alive to the needs of the situation, and the first steps have already been taken to deal with the re-housing of the poorer classes of the population in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, the three principal towns of the Colony.

In Singapore such measures fall within the scope of operations of the Singapore Improvement Trust, a body especially incorporated for the purpose by an Ordinance passed in 1927.

The Improvement Trust has entered on a fixed programme for the driving of back lanes through existing congested areas, which it is anticipated will have dealt with all the worst areas within five years; and has also acquired several large blocks of slum-property and pulled them down or established open spaces in their centres. About fifty acres of waste land adjoining a particularly crowded Chinese area have been bought, filled in, provided with roads, and laid out in building lots for sale, with a view to relieving the prevailing congestion. The Trust has built 118 better class cottages at Lavender Street for occupation by the clerical classes, and two large blocks of tenements comprising about 250 rooms at Kreta Ayer Road. It has also erected 224 artisan dwellings in Balestier and Kim Kiat Roads. In Penang and Malacca all measures of town-improvement are

undertaken by the Municipal Commissioners under the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance and, while development has not been possible on the same scale as the work undertaken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore, a great improvement has been effected during the last ten years and the work is still progressing. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings, and strict control of common lodging houses is maintained to prevent overcrowding and preserve a decent standard of sanitation. In the smaller towns of Penang and Malacca of course the problems to be met and solved are neither so great nor so pressing as those of Singapore but special schemes of slum clearance have been prepared, in addition to the year-by-year activities of the Municipal Commissioners, and are being put in operation as funds and circumstances permit. For the purpose of such approved schemes a grant of $300,000 was made to the Municipality of Penang during the year under review.

In rural areas planning schemes have been evolved for most gazetted villages, demolition notices are enforced against insanitary buildings whenever necessary, and the work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. For all new buildings, in Municipal and Rural Board areas, strict compliance with the building by-laws is now enforced, although it is impossible, and indeed unnecessary, to insist on the standards devised for the wealthier municipal areas in the rural areas where expense is a much greater consideration. There are no building societies in the Straits Settlements.

CHAPTER VI

Production

A.—AGRICULTURE

(i).—Crops Grown by Europeans and Asiatics

Rubber.—Under the influence of the International Rubber Regulation Scheme, of which the details were announced on the 30th April and which came into effect on the 1st June, the average price per lb. of standard smoked sheet in Singapore for the year at 20.63 cents was approximately double that of 10.21 cents in 1933. The opening price in January was 13 5/8 cents per lb. During the next four months, as hopes of the successful introduction of a restriction scheme rose, the price appreciated with increasing rapidity, and on May 8th, after confirmation of these hopes on April 30th, stood at 24¾ cents per lb. Rapid clearance of stocks during the few remaining weeks of unrestricted export caused a fall to 19 cents per lb. at the end of May. This was followed by a steady rise to the maximum price of 25 5/8 cents in September, and thereafter by a decline to a closing price of 20¾ cents per lb. in December.

Applications for assessment of standard production under the Regulation Scheme led to the revision of statistics concerning estates of 100 acres or over. Revised statistics for small holdings are not yet available. The figures used for the latter are, therefore, those for 1933. On this basis the total area under rubber in 1934 was 346,860 acres, an increase over the figure for 1933 of 8,794 acres

all of which was on estates of 100 acres or more. This increase is due to revision of statistics rather than to new planting. Of the total area 220,461 acres, or 64 per cent., were contained in 342 estates each of 100 acres or more and 126,399 acres, or 36 per cent., were on small properties of less than 100 acres. For purposes of assessing yield capacity all rubber planted before the season 1926-27 is regarded as mature, *i.e.* capable of giving its maximum yield per acre, while rubber planted during the season 1926-27 and subsequently is regarded as capable of giving only a portion of its maximum yield or as being too young to tap. Such rubber is classified as immature. On this basis the area of mature rubber on large estates amounted to 200,829 acres and that of immature rubber to 19,632 acres.

Production as declared was 59,683 tons of which 28,280 tons was from large estates and 31,403 tons from small holdings. Local consumption in Singapore declined and was negligible, so that practically the whole production was exported.

With the improvement in price large estates were all able to make a profit. Part of this was, in most instances, used for paying somewhat higher salaries and wages and for undertaking various upkeep works which had of necessity been neglected during the period of low prices.

In response to higher prices the number of small holdings in tapping again increased, while numerous instances of severe tapping were also recorded. On the whole, however, the general standard of maintenance and disease-treatment improved considerably, owing largely to the stimulus imparted by the fear that thick undergrowth and the prevalence of disease would result in a low assessment of production. The standard of upkeep and tapping on properties of an intermediate size of 25 to 100 acres was, as a rule, good.

Owing to favourable humid conditions mouldy-rot disease of the renewing bark was troublesome in the Settlement of Penang during the greater part of the year, and also occurred to a less extent in Malacca and on Singapore Island. Control measures were, however, carried out more carefully and good use was made of the facilities provided for obtaining approved fungicides at cost price. Leaf mildew again occurred on the young foliage after "wintering" in the Settlements of Malacca and Penang, the disease being most prominent in the southern portion of Province Wellesley where an imperfect wintering was experienced. The attack did not, however, cause permanent damage to the trees.

The Rubber Research Institute of Malaya commenced to build up a staff of Asiatic Rubber Instructors for work on small holdings throughout Malaya. The Instructors are employed by the Institute from which they receive instructions and advice, but for purposes of supervision are placed under the control of Agricultural Officers of the Field Branch of the Department of Agriculture in the various States and Settlements. The Instructors give lectures and demonstrations on all aspects of rubber production, but pay special attention to tapping, control of diseases of the renewing bark and preparation of sheet of good quality. This last matter is of special importance to small-holders under the Regulation Scheme, since for the purpose of export-rights all rubber is considered to be dry, so that a high moisture content in his sheet represents a direct loss to the small-holder of a portion of his export-rights.

Coconuts and Coconut Products.—The area planted with coconuts is estimated to have increased by about 100 acres to approximately 83,400 acres. An increase of approximately 500 acres has occurred in Malacca, whereas a revised estimate for the island of Penang shows a decrease of 430 acres as compared with the estimated area in 1933. As previously explained, no means exist for estimating total production.

There was again a marked increase in the local production and export of coconut oil with a corresponding increase in the export of the residual oil cake ("poonac"). This is believed to be due in the main to the prevailing low price for copra, but may be in part attributable to the increased demand for oil cakes for stock feeding in many countries.

The trade in fresh nuts between Penang and Burmah was well maintained, total exports being some 10,000,000 nuts as compared with about 10,370,000 in the previous year. The supplies of nuts were obtained from the Settlement of Penang and from South Kedah.

Local prices for coconut products during the year were the lowest on record. The lowest price quoted in Singapore for "Sundried" copra was $2.55 a picul in April and the highest price for the year was $3.30 a picul at the end of December. The average Singapore price for "Sundried" copra was $2.94 as compared with $3.89 a picul in 1933, while corresponding prices for "Mixed" copra were $2.44 and $3.41 a picul.

The average price of coconut oil was $5.96 and that of copra cake $1.28 a picul, as compared with $7.70 and $1.65 respectively in 1933.

As a result of the difficulties facing both the coconut and the oil palm industries, on the 21st April a committee was appointed by the Government to investigate and report on the present economic condition of the coconut and other vegetable oil producing industries and to make recommendations. The report of this committee, which was published in September, showed that the position had arisen from a rapidly increasing production of vegetable and animal oils and fats during a period when several factors, both natural and artificial, tended to restrict their free exchange and consumption. The committee made a number of recommendations to several of which effect has been or is being given.

At the close of the year, however, the interaction of certain unforeseen factors, notable among which was the prolonged drought in the United States, considerably reduced actual and potential production of oils and fats and thereby improved the more immediate outlook for copra and palm oil.

The prevailing market conditions did not encourage Malays to prepare copra or to erect improved kilns, but the few who already owned such kilns continued to produced good copra much of which obtained a premium on the Penang market. At the Coconut Experiment Station in Selangor, the Department of Agriculture again gave courses of training in the preparation of good quality copra to students at the school of Agriculture and to Malay Headmen from various parts of the country.

The standard series of manurial and cultivation experiments which had been in progress since 1931 on seven estates in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States were concluded. It was found that no results of economic value were to be expected from manuring or cultivation on normally well maintained properties. A preliminary survey of some of the very old coconut plantations in Penang was conducted with a view to possible measures of amelioration.

Coffee.—The price of coffee in Singapore improved somewhat in the first quarter of the year, but thereafter tended to decline. Palembang coffee averaged $14.10 and Sourabaya coffee $20.37 a picul as compared with $15.60 and $22.31 a picul in 1933. Imports of raw coffee at 6,224 tons were slightly above those of the previous year, but exports decreased by 487 tons to 2,117 tons so that net imports of beans were about 4,100 tons as compared with some 3,500 tons in 1933. Net imports of coffee in tins have declined steadily since 1929, being approximately 40,200 lbs. in 1934 and 62,100 lbs. in 1933. The fall in imports of tinned coffee is probably due in part to an increase in the retail sale of coffee grown in Malaya and in part to the roasting and tinning of coffee for local consumption from blends of imported beans. There was, however, practically no change in the planted area or its production in the Colony.

(ii).—Crops Grown Exclusively by Asiatics

Rice.—The area planted with rice (padi) in the season 1933-34 was estimated to be 70,550 acres, or about the same as in the previous season. The close approximation of the figures for the planted areas in the two seasons may be attributed to the fact that only a very small proportion of the available padi land in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca was left unplanted in either year. In the Dindings the comparatively small population sets a limit to the area that can be planted.

The total crop harvested was estimated at 29,424,000 gantangs of padi (rice grain) equal to 42,034 tons of milled rice. This was one of the heaviest crops of padi harvested in the Colony, at least during the last decade, and represents an increase of approximately 5,400,000 gantangs of padi, or 7,700 tons of rice, over the crop reaped in the season 1932-33.

Weather conditions in most parts of the Peninsula, more especially the north-western portion, were favourable throughout the season and enabled the Colony to produce its share of the highest Malayan rice crop on record. Other factors which contributed to this satisfactory result were the more extended use of improved seed, better water control and systematic destruction of rats. The remarkable average yield of 600 gantangs an acre was obtained in Penang Island, while the corresponding figures for Province Wellesley and Malacca, respectively 435 and 383 gantangs an acre, were also well above the usual rate of yield.

Favourable crops in other countries, combined with the reduced purchasing power of Asiatics, have been instrumental in maintaining the prices of milled rice and padi at a low level which has no parallel in recent years. The price range of padi was 5 to 9 cents a gantang in Malacca and 3¾ to 6 cents a gantang in Penang Settlement during

the first half of the year. Subsequently prices strengthened slowly closing at 7 to 8 cents in Malacca and 6½ to 7½ cents a gantang in Penang Settlement. The average retail price of Siam rice No. 2 in these Settlements was 24 cents a gantang. In spite of the low prices ruling, the good padi crops obtained in the last two years have undoubtedly assisted the Malay padi-growers to tide over a difficult period.

Figures for the area planted with padi in the season 1934-35 are not yet available, but the indications are that the rise in the price of rubber in conjunction with unfavourable weather conditions in some localities will result in a decline in the planted area and in the crop harvested. It is possible, however, that the cultivation of part of the area recently added to the available padi-land in Malacca by the completion of drainage and irrigation schemes may compensate for the decline in the acreage planted in the older padi-lands of that Settlement.

In Malacca the provisions of the Customary Lands Ordinance and Rules are available for ensuring the annual planting of padi-land in accordance with a definite programme of operations. The Rice Cultivation Ordinance No. 39 of 1934 and Rules thereunder will operate to the same end in the Settlement of Penang. The Irrigation Areas Ordinance No. 38 of 1934 enables a water rate to be imposed and adequate control of water supplies to be exercised in areas where drainage and irrigation systems have been installed by the Government.

Under the guidance of the special staff employed by the Department of Agriculture, measures for the control of rats were systematically carried out by padi growers in the Settlements of Penang and Malacca with such marked success that the losses caused by this pest were negligible.

Selection and testing of pure strains of padi, cultivation and manurial experiments and work on padi soils were continued. A few new selections gave very satisfactory results in trials. Certain of the older selections made at the Pulau Gadong Station in Malacca maintained their superiority of yield and were much in demand, so that the supply of 3,800 gantangs of seed was quickly sold. Manurial and cultivation experiments again failed to lift yields over the "bar", mentioned in last year's report, of which the cause still remains obscure. The year's work did, however, indicate that profitable increases in yield can be obtained from applications of cheap forms of water-insoluble phosphates, such as local bat guano, in areas where, in spite of favourable conditions of weather and water supply, yields do not approach within fifty gantangs of the "bar". Further experiments at the Station in Malacca on the cultivation of padi by mechanical means provided information which justified the continuation of these investigations on a larger area of land during the season not yet concluded.

Pineapples.—There was no significant change in the area planted with pineapples for local consumption as fresh fruit in the Settlements of Malacca and Penang. In Singapore Island, where the fruits are mostly grown for canning, the planted area decreased from 9,500 acres in 1933 to 7,500 acres in 1934, and the area planted with pineapples as a sole crop at 5,500 acres showed a slight decrease of 300 acres.

There has been a general tendency in other parts of the Peninsula to replace areas, on which catch-crops of pineapples were grown during the immaturity of a main crop of rubber, by areas on which pineapples form the sole crop. The increase in the sole-crop area has not, however, kept pace with the decrease in the catch-crop area, so that considerable extension of the planted area in the near future is necessary if supplies of fruit are to be maintained.

The average prices of canned pineapples for 1934 were nearly the same as in 1933, but the fluctuations during the year under review were smaller. For a case of 48 tins (72 lbs. of fruit) the average prices in 1934 were: Cubes $3.10; Sliced Flat $3.01; Sliced Tall $3.19.

Practically the whole output of canned pineapples is exported, so that gross exports represent production. In 1934 these exports for the whole of Malaya were 66,634 tons, as compared with 59,581 tons in 1933, and were the highest on record. The United Kingdom took, as in the previous year, about 77 per cent. of the exports and the Dominion of Canada 11.9 per cent. Thus the Malayan canned fruit maintained its position in the British market and considerably improved its standing on the Canadian market where prospects of still further expansion are promising, provided that the requisite quality is maintained. The growing demand in Canada is in no small degree due to the valuable propaganda conducted by the Malayan Information Agency during the last three years at the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto.

The Department of Agriculture continued, at the Pineapple Experiment Station and elsewhere, its investigations into problems connected with the planting of pineapples as a sole crop. Experiments on cultural treatment and manuring yielded results which, although not conclusive, none the less provided valuable guidance in designing the further experiments which were laid down during the year. Good progress was also made with experiments on green manuring and close planting, and with the selection of plants producing fruits of a suitable size and shape for canning.

The Pineapple Industry Ordinance, 1934, came into force at the beginning of October. This requires that all factories where pineapples are canned for export shall be registered and that a condition of registration shall be compliance with the requirements of the local health authority in respect of factory-hygiene and general sanitation. It further requires the registration by each factory of a special mark which must be embossed or indelibly stamped on every tin and every case of tins for export, so that each tin or case can be traced back to the factory where it was prepared. By means of temporary registration owners of factories have been allowed ample time in which to effect the required modifications and improvements in their factories. Four factories thus temporarily registered were operating in Singapore Island at the close of the year.

The Ordinance also provides machinery for a system of grading. The principle of a voluntary grading scheme was accepted by the industry during the year, and it is expected that the details of the scheme will be decided and effect given to it in 1935.

Enactments on the same lines as the Colonial Ordinance have been passed in the two Malay States where pineapples are canned for export, namely Johore and Selangor. In the Colony and in

Johore Committees, on which the industry is represented, have been appointed under the legislation to advise the respective Registrars. Uniformity in the incidence of this legislation in Singapore and Johore has been secured by arranging that the members of both Committees shall sit jointly when matters common to both administrations come up for consideration.

Finally, a scheme to provide research and advice on the canning side of the industry for a period of three years has been approved and will be financed jointly by the Colony, the State of Johore and the State of Selangor with the aid of a grant kindly made by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee from the Colonial Development Fund.

The year has thus been characterised by important developments in the Malayan pineapple-canning industry, which should help it to face the increasing competition from several directions, of which there is already evidence.

Fruit.—It is estimated that there were in the Colony some 7,300 acres planted with fruits of various kinds excluding pineapples, but including about 1,360 acres of bananas. There was a further extension of the area planted with fruit trees in Singapore Island on land formerly occupied by rubber.

Both half yearly crops of tree-fruits were on the whole disappointing, but prices were in consequence better than usual. There were, as usual, large imports of tropical fruits from the Netherlands Indies and of temperate or sub-tropical fruits such as apples, pears, plums, oranges and grapes from California, Australia and China.

The demand for planting material of good fruit stocks was well maintained and considerable quantities of such material were distributed from the various Agricultural Stations and from reliable private sources.

Vegetables.—The production of vegetables by Chinese market gardeners for sale in the towns continued normally. Singapore Island contains the largest number of these gardens which aggregate some 3,000 acres and are estimated to supply an average of about 12 tons of vegetables daily throughout the year. An interesting development in the Island has been the conversion by Chinese squatters during the year of some 300 acres of what was formerly poor rubber land into a valuable vegetable growing area.

The Department of Agriculture maintained close touch with these activities in Singapore Island through its Chinese Sub-Inspector of Agriculture. In Malacca contact was successfully established with the Chinese gardeners after the newly appointed Chinese Agricultural Assistant had assumed duty.

Tobacco.—This crop continues to be grown almost entirely by Chinese and usually in rotation with vegetables. The planted area consequently varies considerably at different times of the year under the influence of season and prevailing prices. It was roughly estimated at some 250 acres towards the close of the year. Production was returned at about 286,500 lbs. valued roughly at $71,000. The whole output is consumed locally in the form of cheap cheroots or finely cut tobacco, resembling "shag", which is consumed in pipes or cigarettes.

Experiments were made with moderate success in the production of a yellow leaf, suitable for the manufacture of cigarettes, from Virginian tobacco grown and kiln-dried at the Pineapple Experiment Station at Singapore, but a similar trial with Virginian leaf grown by Chinese gardeners was disappointing.

As in the previous year, a number of well known pests and diseases of this crop made their appearance. Some of these were successfully controlled, and others, such as mosaic disease, which are liable to prove more troublesome, occurred fortunately in a few instances only.

Derris Root.—Interest in the cultivation of this plant was well maintained under an active demand both for dried root for export and for planting material. The crop is grown mainly in Singapore Island where the area planted increased from 550 to 650 acres.

The dried root is now sold on two different bases of estimating its toxic content, namely rotenone content for the American market and ether extract value for the European market. The price on the basis of rotenone content rose from $30.50 a picul at the beginning of the year to $44 a picul at the close, while root sold on ether extract value opened at $25 a picul rose to $34.50 and closed at $30 a picul.

As a result of investigations conducted by workers in the local Department of Agriculture and elsewhere, evidence is accumulating which tends to show that certain varieties of derris are characterised by a high and others by a low toxic content. In one locality of Singapore Island root showing a high toxic content on analysis is produced. This sold at the close of the year for prices as high as $70 a picul. Cuttings from this locality have been much in demand for planting purposes and some 60,000 have been sold at $10 a thousand to purchasers in the Peninsula, Borneo and the Netherlands Indies.

An extensive series of investigations of the action of this root as an insecticide was completed at the Department of Agriculture during the year.

Pepper.—Speculation in the pepper market had its repercussions in Malaya and prices rose from about $30 a picul for Singapore white pepper in January to $65 a picul at the close of the year. The effect however was more noticeable in the trade in pepper centred in Singapore than in any stimulation of local production.

Cloves.—A good crop of cloves was reaped by Chinese growers in Penang Island during December and dried cloves were sold at the somewhat improved price of $38 a picul. The total area planted with this crop in the Settlement of Penang is estimated at about 370 acres.

(iii).—Livestock

The herd of cattle at the privately-owned daily farm in Singapore was increased to nearly 200 head during the year. A second farm, also under European management, for the production of milk, poultry and vegetables was established with a herd of 29 cattle and about 1,000 head of poultry.

Pig-rearing by Chinese was well maintained in all Settlements and was increasing in Singapore Island until the second half of the year when an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, together with several heavy floods, caused considerable losses.

The stock of pure bred poultry at the Agricultural Station in Malacca was built up as much as possible to meet the good demand from small holders for pure bred cockerels for crossing with local hens. A small flock of pure bred fowls was also maintained at the Pineapple Experiment Station in Singapore Island. Instruction work conducted by the Department of Agriculture has led to some improvement in the housing and feeding of poultry and has roused considerable interest in poultry keeping among Malay small holders.

Although attempts are being made to increase local production, imports of pigs, poultry and eggs remained high.

(iv).—Agricultural Instruction

All preliminary work on the small Agricultural Station in Labuan was completed during the year. Apart from this no additions were made to the number of Agricultural Stations, Padi Stations and Test Plots maintained by the Field Branch of the Department of Agriculture. All of these continued to provide useful demonstrations and supplies of planting material of good quality. Training courses were conducted at the Padi Experiment Station in Malacca for Malay pupils destined for service under the Governments of the Malay States and a week's course of instruction was given to Malay Headmen from several parts of the Peninsula. A holiday course on simple agricultural subjects was held in April at the Bukit Mertajam Agricultural Station for boys from the neighbouring High School.

The Agricultural Field Officer, Singapore, paid two visits of about three weeks' each to Brunei and Labuan to supervise the further extension of agricultural services. Good progress was made both in the development of Agricultural Stations and Padi Test Plots and in the building up of the necessary subordinate staff.

The number of School Gardens in the Colony increased from 126 to 138, new gardens being established in all three Settlements. These were as usual regularly visited by officers of the Department of Agriculture. The annual competitions showed that a satisfactorily high standard of upkeep was maintained. That the instruction given serves a useful purpose is indicated by the fact that many of the pupils cultivate gardens of their own on their parents' land.

Two successful Agricultural Shows were held in the Settlement of Penang. Numerous exhibits of padi from Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca were entered in the All Malayan Padi Competition organised by the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association. The prize for the best exhibit of padi from the whole of Malaya was won by a competitor from Penang Island.

The Rural Lecture Caravan made tours in Province Wellesley and Malacca during the year. The lectures and film displays were again well received, as was shown by the large attendances at each centre visited.

The School of Agriculture, Malaya, received additional support. The number of students present when the School year closed in April was 53. Although 24 students then completed their training and left the School, the new session opened in May with 71 students who came not only from the Peninsula but from various parts of

Borneo and included Malays, Chinese and Indians. Of the 24 students who left in April, 23 obtained employment in Government service, in the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, or with private companies.

In conformity with procedure in the Federated Malay States, definite recruiting for the junior staff of the Department of Agriculture in the Colony was suspended and replaced by the provision of six scholarships tenable at the School of Agriculture.

The scheme for the establishment of a Farm School at the Agricultural Station in Malacca, which was under consideration at the end of 1933, was finally approved and work on the erection of the required buildings was commenced.

The Department of Agriculture, in addition to its English, Malay and Chinese periodicals, published 8 Special Bulletins on general or scientific subjects and 9 circulars in English giving simple information on the cultivation of various crops.

(v).—Methods and Conditions of Recruiting South Indian Labour

The elaborate machinery which exists for the recruitment, in normal times, of South Indian labourers, required for work on rubber, coconut and oil-palm estates, is utilised also to supply the labour required for the Railways, the Municipalities and such Government Departments as the Public Works Department.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 and the Rules made thereunder. There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labourers for skilled work, but the recruiting of skilled labourers in British India for work in Malaya is practically non-existent.

The basis of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labourers is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is maintained by contributions from all employers (including the Governments of Malaya) of South Indian labourers. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may be spent only for the purpose of assisting immigration or on measures designed for the welfare and protection of South Indian labourers, such as the maintenance of "*choultries*" (free lodging houses) and a home for decrepit Indian labourers, the repatriation of labourers to India and the assistance of those in need of relief. During the years 1930-1933 the resources of the Fund were extensively used for these purposes.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being the cost of the train fares of emigrants from their homes to the ports of Negapatam and Madras and their feeding in the Emigration Camps at these places while awaiting shipment, of steamer passages (from Madras or Negapatam) to the Straits, of the expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang, Port Swettenham, or Singapore, of transport thence to their places of employment in Malaya and of the payment of recruiting allowances to the employers by whose agents they had been recruited.

These agents, known as Kanganies, are sent over by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers.

A "recruiting allowance" is paid to the employer in re-imbursement of this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

(i) he must be a South Indian of the labouring classes.

(ii) he must have been employed as a labourer on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit for a period of not less than three months.

Licences are issued by the Deputy Controller of Labour in Penang and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty and the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the office of the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments, with the approval of the Government of India, to supervise emigration to Malaya, or in Negapatam to the office of the Assistant Emigration Commissioner. Only on endorsement by either of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually six months and is limited, in any case, to one year.

After having his licence registered the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents where he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) before leaving for his own village where he informs his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate.

When the kangany finds people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Munsiff or Headman whose duty it is to see that there is no valid objection to their emigrating. If so satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman, he takes them to the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Madras or Negapatam, either himself pre-paying the train fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents employed at the charge of the Fund.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government—the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped, unless he is himself returning to the Colony in which case he is paid the balance due to him on arrival at the estate, the kangany receives his commission less the amount of his advance from the financial agents.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charges and is purposely kept low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from $3 to $20 and is at present fixed at $10 for

every female recruit or male recruit accompanied by his wife and $8 for every male recruit not accompanied by his wife. The latter figure is designed to cover all legitimate out-of-pocket expenses leaving a margin just sufficient to induce employers to recruit up to their requirements.

Assisted emigration however is not confined to labourers recruited by kanganies for individual employers. Any agricultural labourer, who is physically fit can, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant, obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing during recent years. They are for the most part labourers who have been in Malaya before and are returning to their old places of employment. As they are not recruited, neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable, on account of them, but each receives a gift of $2 and a free railway ticket to his destination on being released from the immigration depôts in Malaya. This is paid partly as an inducement and partly to ensure that they will not suffer from lack of food while seeking employment.

Assisted immigration from India was suspended in August, 1930 but was resumed in May, 1934. Recruiting licences have been issued only in special cases, the great majority of assisted emigrants to Malaya being non-recruited labourers. Owing to the attractive wages prevailing here, coupled with the widespread distress in the Madras Presidency, large numbers of labourers applied at the Depôts in India for assistance to emigrate to Malaya and it was even discovered that some labourers who were not assisted to emigrate made their way to Malaya at their own expense.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as *ex-officio* Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee, which consists partly of unofficials, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited, are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no "contract" or indentured labour in the Colony.

There were 91 European-owned, and 244 Asiatic-owned, estates in the Colony, employing 16,467 and 2,285 South Indian labourers respectively, on the 31st December, 1934.

B.—FORESTRY

It was decided during the year, as an outcome of the recommendations of the Trade Commission, to reconstitute a forest organization in Singapore, the main object being the development of the local sawmill industry and the extension of the trade in timber both for domestic consumption and for export. Owing to shortage of staff it was not possible to fill the appointment of Forest Officer, Singapore, until the 27th November, 1934, and therefore the amount of work that could be accomplished by the close of the year was necessarily limited, although some useful groundwork was done. The sawmill industry derives none of its supplies from Singapore Island

itself, and it is not intended that the Forest Officer should be concerned for the present, except in an advisory capacity, with the much depleted forests remaining on the Island, of which the Commissioner of Lands is to retain territorial charge.

The main function of the Forest Officer is to assist the sawmills in securing new markets for their products, and with this aim in view to establish, and maintain by means of a system of Government inspection and grade-marking, definite standards of production on which purchasers of timber can rely. Such standards have already gained recognition in the United Kingdom for the higher grades of Malayan timbers exported to that market, and the forest department grade-marks are accepted there without question. The same principle has now to be extended to the much wider range of medium and lower grades in demand in Eastern oversea markets and for local consumption.

Other duties of the Forest Officer include the supervision of improved methods of conversion, seasoning and preservative treatment of timber introduced by the specialist officers of the Forest Department, and the giving of assistance and expert advice in the purchases of timber by Government departments and quasi-governmental institutions in Singapore. It is anticipated that the savings in public expenditure that can be effected by expert buying of timber will far more than counterbalance the cost of the organization.

Exports of Malayan timbers to the United Kingdom increased from 15,169 cubic feet in 1933 to 18,472 cubic feet in 1934. When the depressed state of the market, in consequence of uncertainty as to the position of American hardwoods, the absence on leave of the sawmill expert of the Forest Department and a temporary shortage of officers, rendering it impossible to give constant attention to the requirements of the industry, are considered, this result cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory. Latterly the prices offering for Malayan timbers, particularly of the *meranti* class, have shown a tendency to harden, and interest in the trade is consequently reviving. A number of mills are now conversant with export grade specifications, and although they are not always ready to commit themselves to early delivery in any large quantity, a disposition is observable to cut to these specifications for stock in the practical certainty that material so cut can be disposed of without difficulty.

In Eastern markets attention is being directed to the prospects of increasing trade with Mauritius, Hongkong and Shanghai, and South Africa, and the possibilities of the Palestine market are also being explored. Although the output of the Singapore mills increased substantially during the year the additional production went mainly to the satisfaction of reviving local demand, and Malayan exports of sawn timber, shipped almost entirely from Singapore and including a small quantity of sleepers, rose in value only from $529,491 to $564,221. Exports to British territories, of which Mauritius and Hongkong are the chief markets, declined in value by about $17,000, and exports to foreign territories, principally China and the Netherlands Indies, increased by about $52,000. The demand for log supplies of Malayan origin led to the re-opening of logging operations in Pahang for the first time since the slump, and 1,200 tons of sawlogs are recorded as having been exported thence to Singapore.

The Public Works Department continued to use the old railway station at Pulau Saigon as a seasoning depôt for the conditioning of timber purchased on their behalf and inspected by the Timber Purchase Section of the Forest Department.

The Settlement of Malacca is well provided with forests, chiefly of the plains type, which are not however being exploited as fully as they should be, owing to the backwardness of local enterprise in the matter of sawmills. The forests of Penang and Province Wellesley are mainly hilly, but contain superior hardwoods in fair quantity and constitute a useful source of local supply. The amenity value of the Penang forests should moreover increase steadily as they are brought under regular management.

The forest reserves of the Straits Settlements at present occupy 180 square miles, or 12 per cent. of the area of the Colony, including the Singapore reserves amounting to 25 square miles. The latter reserves contain little forest of value, and the greater part of them is likely to be revoked in the course of time.

Trade recovery accounted for an increase in the forest revenue of the Settlements (excluding Singapore) from $21,250 to $32,083 and the improvement is being maintained. Expenditure was $68,676 as compared with $65,883 in the previous year.

The Federated Malay States organizations for forest research and education, forest engineering and marketing also serve the needs of the Colony. The main research organization deals with forest botany, ecology, silviculture, wood technology, timber testing and investigation of forest products generally, and a school for training forest subordinates is attached to it. The Forest Engineer is concerned with the improvement of methods of extraction, conversion and transport of timber and other forest produce. The Timber Purchase Section serves as an agency for direct purchase of timber on behalf of Government departments and others from forest contractors, and assists the latter in marketing their output. The work done for the Colony by the Timber Purchase Section increased largely during the year.

C.—FISHERIES

There has been a marked improvement in the fishing industry due to the general improvement in trade, and in Singapore to an increased demand for fresh fish, arising out of an increase in the European population.

Revenue from licence fees paid for boats, nets and other gear amounts to $12,546, an increase of $268 on the revenue for 1933.

There were 12,403 fishermen employed in the Colony of whom 6,821 were Malays, 4,031 Chinese, 1,050 Japanese, 474 Indians, 26 of Portugese Descent, and 1 of other nationality.

A considerable amount of experimental work has been completed, particularly on the salting of fish and the use of high grade salts. The results are interesting but not encouraging, for, although the use of a high grade salt may be advantageous, there does not accrue a sufficient improvement in price to justify its substitution for comparatively low grade solar salts.

The preparation of a high grade salted fish is complicated by certain factors, which, under the present conditions of the industry, cannot very well be altered. The most important of these is the fact that the fish are often in an advanced stage of decomposition before the salt is applied. Another is the fact that only a lightly salted product is in demand. Salt fish is mostly used as a condiment and not as a food, and its value lies chiefly in its flavour.

Samples of fish fat from cultivated carp have been prepared and examined by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Aberdeen, and favourably reported on. Further reports are expected.

Samples of liver oil from local shark and rays have been examined in the biochemical laboratories of the College of Medicine, and have been reported on as being exceptionally high in Vitamin A.

Canning experiments have been continued, and reveal some difficulty in dealing with prawns. The preparation of cooked prawns and fresh "whitebait" (Stolephorus) packed in cartons for the cold storage trade has been very successful, but careful rules governing the preparation of cooked prawns for sale are necessary if local people take up this business. The prawn-producing areas are generally remote and not easily accessible.

Carp (Cyprinus carpio) cultivation has been continued with the common carp as a subject, but this fish is not satisfactory unless large areas of weedy ponds are available. Since other fish can be cultivated in such places and easily fed to give a better yield, their cultivation is not being pressed.

Investigations into the rate of growth of young sea-fishes have yielded some surprising results. A very rapid rate of growth is established and throws some light on the ability of the local fish population to stand up to the intensive fishing which goes on in so many places.

D.—MINERALS

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca, where tin is mined and to Christmas Island, where deposits of phosphate of lime are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. There are coal deposits in Labuan but these are not at present being worked. On the 1st April, 1934, the tin mines of Malacca were brought formally within the scope of the International Scheme by the coming into operation of Ordinance No. 10 of 1934. By agreement with the Government of the Federated Malay States a fixed exportable allowance not exceeding 58.24 tons of tin per annum was allocated to the Settlement. This figure represents 1,296 pikuls of tin ore, and the actual production during 1934 was 1138.75 pikuls. At the end of the year there were only four producers, the whole of whose labour force was Chinese. The receipts from the royalty amounted to $9,513.

The smelting of tin at Singapore and Penang is one of the principal industries of the Straits Settlements. Tin smelter production based on smelters' declarations amounted to 49,637 tons as compared with 46,942 tons in 1933, showing an increase of 5.7 per cent.

Imports of tin-in-ore, at 75.5 per cent., into Singapore and Penang amounted, from countries outside Malaya, to 16,587 tons as compared

with 17,472 tons in 1933 and from the Malay States and Malacca to 37,786 tons as compared with 24,915 tons in 1933, a total for smelting purposes of 54,373 tons, as compared with 42,387 tons in the previous year. Exports of smelted tin amounted to 50,186 tons. The price of tin was £227 a ton at the beginning and £228 a ton at the end of the year.

The production of phosphates of lime as shown by exports from Christmas Island was 129,191 tons. Of this 105,420 tons were exported to Japan, 16,980 tons to the Continent of Europe, 5,500 tons to the Union of South Africa, 1,181 tons to Singapore and 110 tons to Sumatra. The labour force consisted of Chinese recruited in Singapore for work on the Island.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The Report of the Trade Commission was presented to Government in June, and Volumes I (report proper) and IV (tables and memoranda) were published later in the year. In the words of a local press criticism the Report "in relation to the majority of the points considered dictates an attitude of 'as you were' " and its essential and enduring value lies in the consideration that "the business community have at last facts, figures and authoritative opinions to which they can refer when any change in fiscal policy or general trade practice is contemplated".

By means of the Rubber Regulation Ordinance, No. 22 of 1934, rubber control was introduced on June 1st in implementation of the International Agreement signed in London on the 7th May.

Returns compiled under the existing triangular arrangement for the co-ordination of information concerning rubber between Malaya, the Netherlands Indies and the Rubber Growers' Association, London, were supplemented to include items of interest under the International Agreement and were published regularly in the *Gazette*.

At the invitation of the Imperial Government legislation was enacted, with retrospective effect to the 7th May, to regulate and control the introduction into the Colony for Malayan consumption of cotton and rayon piece-goods manufactured in foreign countries. In order to safeguard the entrepôt trade of Singapore and Penang, re-export depôts on the lines of bonded warehouses were established in both Settlements.

The Pineapple Industry Ordinance, No. 1 of 1934, was passed in order to subject canneries to approved standards of hygiene. It requires also the registration and embossment on all tins of distinctive marks by every cannery in order that the output of each may be traceable to its source.

The foreign (external) trade of Malaya, representing the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the Federated and the Unfederated Malay States, in merchandise, bullion and specie and Parcel Post, amounted in value to $1,039 (£121) millions, as compared with $767 (£89) millions in 1933, an increase of 35 per cent. Continuing the upward tendency of 1933, the 1934 figures show that the trading position has been restored to a higher level than in 1931, when the

corresponding total value was $897 millions. It is not possible to indicate the trade in terms of quantity, though it may be inferred from the figures of the principal exports that the total quantity also increased. Of the very considerable transhipment traffic at the ports of Singapore and Penang no statistics are available.

The increase in the value of trade was due chiefly to exports of, and to the higher values obtained for, rubber and smelted tin. The value of imports, however, also increased in respect of these same commodities, *i.e.* tin ore and rubber, owing to Singapore's position as an entrepôt of Malaysia. There were also increased values for total imports in pepper and sticklac, dried and salted fish, sweetened condensed milk, motor spirit, motor cars and cigarettes. The $1,039 millions of external trade consisted of imports $471 ($362) millions and exports $568 ($405) millions, the figures for 1933 being shown in brackets. The value of bunker coal, oil fuel and stores taken on board ships on foreign trade routes for their own consumption amounted to $11 ($11) millions and if this is added to the excess of exports there was a favourable trade balance of $108 millions, as compared with a favourable balance on the same basis of $54 millions in 1933.

There is need for some caution in the use of statistics for measuring Malayan trade, because a considerable portion of the declared trade values of Malaya and of the Colony represents the import and export of mineral oils, a fact which (as the Trade Commission pointed out in paragraph 776 of its Report) should always be borne in mind. Singapore by virtue of its geographical position and proximity to the oil fields is a natural storage and distributing centre for mineral oils, and distribution is effected as far as Africa on one side and Australia on the other. The following figures show the trade in mineral oils in 1934 and its relationship in value to the gross trade of Malaya:—

TRADE: MINERAL OILS, 1934

VALUES IN $000

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
Lubricating oil ..	2,111	763	2,874
Kerosene ..	9,334	5,796	15,130
Liquid Fuel ..	11,067	3,207	14,274
Motor Spirit ..	47,109	36,478	83,587
A. Total ..	69,621	46,244	115,865
B. Malaya ..	471,000	568,000	1,039,000
C. Percentage A and B	15	8	11

Of the $1,039 millions, representing the external trade of Malaya, $887 ($678) millions or 85 (88) per cent. indicate the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements. The value of imports was $428 ($330) millions and of exports $459 ($348) millions. The figures indicate an increase in gross Colony trade but a slight decrease in the proportion of Malayan trade carried by Colony merchants.

Of Malayan trade, and the same can be said of that of the Colony, the percentage with the United Kingdom increased from 13.9 to 16.8 but with British Possessions it decreased from 15.3 to 13.4; there was therefore, a net increase with all British countries of one per cent.

The following is a table of the trade values geographically apportioned:—

		Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
			$ in millions.	
1.	United Kingdom ..	67	107	174
2.	British Possessions ..	72	67	139
3.	Continent of Europe ..	20	88	108
4.	United States of America ..	8	189	197
5.	Japan	38	51	89
6.	Netherlands Indies ..	160	36	196
7.	Other Countries (principally Siam)	102	28	130
	Total ..	467	566	1,033
	Parcel Post, all countries ..	4	2	6
	Total from Trade ..	471	568	1,039
	Favourable Balance ..	97	..	..
		568	568	..

Detailed information regarding the trade of Malaya is contained in the regular periodical publications of the Department of Statistics.

CHAPTER VIII

Wages and the Cost of living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for Southern Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts in Malaya and these rates tend in practice to regulate the rate of wages earned in other districts and by labourers of other races. There was no change in standard rates during the year.

In the Colony the only key district in which standard wages were in force was Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates were 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer, 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female, and 16 cents for children of 10 years and over. No Indian child of under 10 years of age may be allowed to work.

The average price per gantang (8 lbs.) of Rangoon No. 1 rice in Penang, as published in the Municipal monthly market prices, declined slightly from 26 cents in January to 22 cents in December; the price of No. 2 Siam rice in Singapore declining from 23 cents in January to 22 cents in December, indicating a fairly steady price.

In the island of Penang and in the Dindings daily rates varying from 35 to 45 cents for a male labourer, from 24 to 40 cents for a female labourer, and for children 16 to 30 cents were paid. The labour forces on Province Wellesley estates are very settled. On the older estates which have employed Tamil labour for a long time many of the labourers have been born on the estates and are frequently not entirely dependent on their check-roll wages.

In Singapore the daily rates of wages on estates ranged from 30 to 55 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian male labourer, from 25 to 35 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian female labourer, and for children from 18 to 25 cents. Many employers paid their tappers by results. The rates of wages paid to Chinese and Javanese labourers were about the same as those paid to Indians. Government Departments paid from 40 to 96 cents and miscellaneous employers from 50 to 80 cents.

In Malacca, able-bodied Indian adult male labourers on estates earned 35 to 45 cents and able-bodied adult female labourers 30 to 40 cents a day. Store and factory labourers received 40 to 50 cents. In the Government Departments the rates of wages were from 40 cents to $1.35 (Health Department) for males and 32 to 35 cents for females. Under the law, every employer was required to provide at least 24 days' work in each month to every labourer employed. Skilled trades naturally commanded higher rates of wages. There is no indentured labour in the Colony.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 9 of 1932) came into force on the 1st of October, 1933. Health and Labour Departments are invested with powers under Ordinance 197 (Labour) to regulate and enforce proper conditions of health and labour. Protection from machinery is secured under Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery).

For further particulars, reference is invited to the Blue Book, section 23.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living, reference is invited to the separate report on this subject (No. S. 4) published annually by the Statistics Department. The average weighted index of commodity prices in Singapore, represented by 17 principal commodities (15 wholesale and 2 retail) increased by 40.5 per cent as compared with 1933, due principally to increases in the prices of rubber, tin and pepper. There were increases also in the prices of damar and tea, while the prices of coconut oil, copra, palm oil, rattans, rice and tapioca flake declined. The price of tin was £227 per ton at the beginning and £228 at the end of the year, the highest and lowest prices being £243 and £223, respectively. The price of rubber was 4 11/32 pence per lb. at the beginning and 6¼ pence at the end of the year, the highest and lowest being 7 5/8 pence and 4¼ pence, respectively. The following index numbers show changes in commodity values during the last five years:—

1930	*1931*	*1932*	*1933*	*1934*
64	41	37	45	63

The tendency for retail values was to rise slightly, as shown by an increase of 2.6 per cent in the index of food prices, representing the

mean of the differences of the averages of the two years in Singapore, Penang and Malacca. There was an increase of 3.9 per cent, 2.6 per cent and 1.7 per cent in the general cost of living for Asiatics, Eurasians and Europeans respectively. Rents represented by Municipal assessment values declined by 0.8, 4.0 and 0.9 per cent in Singapore, Penang and Malacca respectively, as compared with those of 1933. There were no recorded changes for Kuala Lumpur and Johore Bahru, for the reason that the Municipal assessments were not revised.

The general cost of living index numbers for the Asiatic, Eurasian and European standards as compared with 1914 and 1933 were as follows and shows that the present cost is higher, in respect of all three standards, than in 1914:—

Standard	1914	1933	1934	Percentage increase + or decrease – as compared with 1933
Asiatic	100	99.3	103.2	+3.9
Eurasian ..	100	105.7	108.5	+2.6
European ..	100	122.6	124.7	+1.7

CHAPTER IX

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools, (other than those in which the teaching is of an exclusively religious nature) in which fifteen or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance, 1926. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher of an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is insanitary or that is likely to be used for the purpose of propaganda detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director of Education may also, in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board receives, in addition to school fees, the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent on property in municipalities and 1 per cent on property in rural areas.

B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The English schools are schools in which English is the medium of instruction. Few of the pupils are English-speaking when they join. Of the 3,613 pupils admitted in 1934, only 414 (or 11.45%) were English-speaking. The lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and they are given an education which ends as a rule with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though a few stay on and prepare for the London Matriculation Examination.

The fees are $30 (£3 10*s.*) a year for the first six years (*i.e.* for the year spent in the Primary Division of the school) and $48 (£5 12*s.*) a year for the remaining period. These rates remain in force for pupils enrolled prior to 1st January, 1934, but the rates for those enrolled on or after that date are $36 (£4 4*s.*) a year for the first eight years (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and thereafter $72 (£8 8*s.*) or $108 (£12 12*s.*) a year according to the results of an examination, the successful pupils up to 50% of the available places paying the lower fee and the remainder paying the higher one.

Attendance is not compulsory.

In 1934 there were 23 Government and 34 Aided Schools in the Colony, 28 in Singapore, 20 in Penang, 8 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 25,065 (9,416 in Government and 15,649 in Aided Schools).

Of the 25,065 pupils in English schools, 20,917 were receiving elementary education (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and 4,148 secondary education (*i.e.* above Standard VI).

Two thousand seven hundred and twenty-two (or 13.01%) of those receiving elementary education and 1,040 (or 25.07%) of those receiving secondary education were enjoying free education. Of these free scholars 702 were Europeans and Eurasians, 1,291 Malays, 1,474 Chinese, and 264 Indians, while 31 belonged to other races.

The Aided English Schools are managed by various missionary bodies—the Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, the Portuguese Catholic Church, and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of European Missionary teachers at the rate of $3,000 (£350) a year for men missionaries and $1,800 (£210) a year for women missionaries. Allowances at these rates, however, are payable only to 16 per cent. of the total authorised staff in boys' schools and 25 per cent. of that in girls' schools. The other European missionary teachers are paid at the rate of $1,440 (£168) a year for men and $1,200 (£140) a year for women. In Christian Brothers' schools and Convent schools no distinction is made between European and Asiatic Missionary teachers who are paid at a flat rate of $2,400 (£280) a year for men and $1,500 (£175) a year for women. Under certain conditions capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government.

The Government Afternoon Schools in Singapore, which have existed since 1930, continued during 1934 to do useful work. These schools accommodate surplus pupils who are ineligible for admission to Government and Aided morning schools. They are staffed by unemployed or retrenched qualified and trained teachers. They provide an English education from the lowest Primary Class to the Junior Cambridge Class. The enrolment was 787 in 1934 as compared with 767 in 1933. The total expenditure was $29,098 and the total revenue $26,951.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—

(*a*) those controlled by religious bodies and accommodated in proper school buildings;

(*b*) those carried on by individuals for profit and accommodated in any sort of building—shop-house or private house, office or godown.

In 1934 there were 5,487 pupils in private schools in Singapore, 583 in Penang and 437 in Malacca.

There is no central College for the training of teachers for English schools. Such training was until recently supplied at Normal Classes held at one centre in each of the three Settlements but these classes have been suspended temporarily for financial reasons and also because the demand for teachers was materially reduced owing to the general depression. It is hoped now to reopen them before long, at any rate for Primary Teachers. The students who attend the Normal Classes, men and women alike, are required to hold Cambridge School Certificates with credits in at least two of the subjects English, Elementary Mathematics, History, Geography and Drawing, or Certificates accepted by the Director of Education in lieu thereof, and they must be at least sixteen years of age; they must also have satisfied the Education Department in an Oral English Examination. Those selected are appointed Student Teachers and they then spend three years in an English school studying and watching the teaching. In the mornings they are present for at least two hours in the class rooms studying teaching methods or themselves

teaching prepared lessons. In the afternoons and on Saturday mornings they attend the Normal Classes. The Normal Class Instructors are European Masters and Mistresses, the majority being Government officers. The subjects of instruction are English (Language and Literature), the Theory and Practice of Teaching, Hygiene, Physical Training and, in some centres, Art. An examination has to be passed each year, those for the first and third years being conducted by a central authority and that for the second year by the local Inspector of Schools and the Instructors. Student Teachers who pass the third year examination become "Trained Teachers".

At the beginning of 1934 there were only third year Normal Class students. At the final examination held in March, 1934, seventy students passed (33 men and 37 women) and, having completed the three-year course, became "Trained Teachers".

Secondary teachers are recruited mainly from Raffles College. At the end of the year seven student scholars were in training at Raffles College for work in classes in the secondary divisions of schools, of whom six were in the third year of their course and one in the second year. Seventeen students scholars completed their courses and obtained their diplomas in May. Eight Singapore, two Malacca and one Penang graduates received appointments in Government and Aided Schools. The remaining six Penang graduates were sent to Raffles College for a fourth year on completion of which they will be found work.

The old student scholarship system, by which selected students from the secondary schools were sent to Raffles College at Government expense and afterwards employed as teachers, has been abolished. The Education Department now recruits its teachers from among the whole body of graduates, those selected being sent back to Raffles College for a year's post-graduate course in Education and other subjects before being appointed to the Department.

C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School, Kuala Lumpur, which gives courses of training for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, and provides accommodation also for a class conducted by the Survey Department for its own untrained subordinates.

In the Government Evening Classes in Singapore, courses were provided in Structural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Machine Design, Surveying, Sanitary Science and Chemistry. The standard of instruction was high and the interest and diligence of the students increasingly gratifying. The examinations of the London City and Guilds Institute were taken.

The Government Evening Classes in Singapore continued to include Nautical courses. The local nautical examinations were taken; twenty-six candidates qualified, nineteen as helmsmen, five as third class gunners, one as second class gunner, and one as local trade master. All the successful candidates found employment.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils may proceed to the School of Agriculture, Malaya, at Serdang, Federated Malay States, where one-year and two-year courses of study are followed. Government provided a number of scholarships to this school in 1934.

Commercial Education.—Courses of study covering two years are provided by the Commercial Department of Raffles Institution, Singapore, and the Government Commercial Day School, Penang.

In the Government Evening Classes in Singapore courses were provided in Shorthand, Typewriting, and Book-keeping. The examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce were taken. As in the technical classes, the standard of instruction was high and the interest and diligence of students increasingly gratifying.

There was also an evening class at Malacca, but Typewriting was the only subject taught. One student sat for the London Chamber of Commerce Examination in June and twenty in December.

Industrial Education.—(*a*) The Singapore Trade School continued to do good work. There were 100 students undergoing training in the three classes. Until the middle of 1934 all students received a course of instruction in general mechanics (including machine shop practice) fitting and benchwork, blacksmith's work and motor repair work. In the middle of 1934 two new courses, one in electrical wiring and fitting and one in plumbing, were commenced.

As in past years, outside work was undertaken in order to give students practical training. A total of 56 cars were repaired or overhauled and 19 other outside jobs were undertaken. The total sum collected for the outside work amounted to $2,923.

Expert engineers have expressed the opinion that the standard of work of the students at the school is comparable with that of an apprentice in England with the same length of training and that the scope of the instruction is wider than that obtaining in most workshops. The work of the newly formed plumbing class has been particularly successful.

There is a Careers' Committee which includes several prominent local engineers. Of the 44 students who completed the first three-years' course of the school all except one have obtained suitable employment.

The staff of the school was increased during the year by the appointment of two instructors, one for the electrical and one for the plumbing course.

(*b*) The Penang Trade School, which opened in 1932, enrolled in July its third and last class of 32 students. The enrolment at the end of the year was 87 in the three classes. Sixteen boys were receiving free education. Satisfactory progress was made by all students who continued at the school. No difficulty was experienced in meeting the demands made for the repair or manufacture of many and various motor and other parts. Contracts for the maintenance of Government departmental vehicles were entered into with the Posts and Telegraphs, the Monopolies and the Police Departments. Casual repairs and overhauls were also undertaken for the Medical Department. A contract for 150 steel beds for the new General

Hospital was executed satisfactorily. An electric air pump was supplied to the General Hospital and an all-steel ball-bearing swing to the Wellesley Primary School. A total of 243 jobs were undertaken and the profit derived therefrom was $2,095. The fees collected were $2,304.

A short plumbing and pipe-fitting course has been arranged for, and will begin with the third year students in 1935.

(*c*) Owing to the delay in evacuation of the old hospital buildings, repairs and alterations could not be done in time to open the new Trade School at Malacca. Everything was in readiness, however, for its opening early in 1935. Carpentry and Tailoring will be taught in the first instance. Other trades can gradually be added as the demand arises. Each course is to last three years and will consist mainly of practical work with the addition of technical lessons on tools, machines and materials. All students will receive instruction in English, Arithmetic, Mensuration, Drawing and Book-keeping. It is hoped that towards the end of their course the students will be sufficiently skilled to accept orders for work and to execute them satisfactorily.

D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, and Raffles College, Singapore. The course of the College of Medicine covers six years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial List of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

Raffles College, Singapore, was opened in 1928 in order to place education of a University standard within the reach of all youths in British Malaya who were capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three-year courses in Arts and Science. Diplomas are awarded to successful students.

Two scholarships, known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 for the first year and £400 for any subsequent year, up to six years in all, may be awarded in each year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential college at Oxford or Cambridge.

The annual examination for these scholarships, the eleventh since they were restored by Government in 1923, was held in October. The successful candidates were A. V. WINSLOW of the Penang Free School and LAU FOOK KHEAN of St. Xavier's Institution, Penang. The former is taking Law and the latter Medicine, both at Cambridge University. Eighteen candidates competed at the examination.

E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay vernacular education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by the Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give a general and practical education to those boys who have no desire for an education in English, and who will find employment either in agriculture or in appointments in which a knowledge of the vernacular is all that is required, and (ii) to provide a sound foundation in the vernacular on which an education in English can be superimposed in the case of boys who desire to proceed eventually to an English school.

The school course normally lasts five years, during which period the pupils pass through five standards. The subjects of the curriculum are Reading and Writing (in the Arabic and Romanised script), Composition, Arithmetic, Geography, Malay History, Hygiene, Drawing and Physical Training. Boys do Basketry and Gardening in addition, and girls do Needlework and Domestic Science.

In 1934 there were 219 Malay vernacular schools with an average enrolment of 23,946 pupils. In addition there was an aided school at Pulau Bukom, Singapore, with 51 pupils.

Those who are to become teachers in the Malay vernacular boys' schools are selected from the pupils who have shown promise. As pupil teachers they both teach and study till they attain their sixteenth birthdays about which time they sit for an examination qualifying for admission to the Sultan Idris Training College, Tanjong Malim. If they do sufficiently well they are accepted into the College and put through a three year course. Graduates of the College are designated "Trained Teachers".

Twenty selected girls from the Malay vernacular schools in Singapore attended a special class in Domestic Science and Hygiene. In addition to the usual teachers' classes of past years a special class in tropical diet was arranged for the Malay women teachers. It was conducted by the Professor of Biochemistry of the King Edward VII College of Medicine and was very successful.

The Malacca and Penang vernacular schools maintained a high standard in Gardening. Malacca schools again won the highest points in the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association Exhibition in August.

Carpentry, Fretwork, Chick-making, Net-making and Book-binding were taught in a number of vernacular schools.

The reconstruction of the Durian Daun Hospital buildings, Malacca, for the use of the Malay Women Teachers' Training Centre, was nearing completion at the end of the year. The Centre will commence work early in 1935.

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1934 was 10 in Singapore, 23 in Penang and 3 in Malacca.

The grants to Chinese vernacular schools are in two grades:—

I. $10 per year per pupil,

II. $5 per year per pupil,

in average attendance. In order to qualify for Grade I schools must teach English for a certain number of hours each day with reasonable efficiency and must employ for that purpose a teacher who holds the minimum qualification of a Junior Cambridge Certificate or a certificate recognised by the Director of Education as of equal value.

There are three types of schools:—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public school, *i.e.* schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members";

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on school fees (these schools being usually small and old in type).

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1*s.* 2*d.*) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s.* 8*d.*) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of a Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The Primary course in Chinese schools normally occupies six years. The Government has little if any control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance, or the length of holidays in any except the Aided Schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curricula.

The Chinese High School, Singapore, reopened during the year with a first year secondary class. From this it is hoped to build up a full secondary course of four years. In Penang there were two schools for boys which provided a secondary education together with a primary course; in Malacca there was one, but the course of study was not complete. Four Girls' Schools in Singapore and two in Penang provided a Normal Class. One Girls' School in Singapore provided a Physical Training course.

At the close of 1934 there were 403 registered schools with 1,323 registered teachers and 28,874 pupils (of whom 7,423 were girls).

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There were no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil schools in Penang and Province Wellesley, and all those in Malacca, were estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder were private schools run by mission bodies or committees.

Lack of facilities and of trained teachers cause Tamil schools to fall behind Malay schools in such important subjects as drill, gardening and handwork. There is no provision in Malaya for the training of Tamil teachers. Though there is no policy of co-education, a number of girls attend boys' schools. There is only one Tamil vernacular school for girls in the Colony, the Convent Tamil School, Penang, and even it has a few boys in its lower classes.

The number of Tamil schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1934 was 21 in Penang and 11 in Malacca with an average enrolment of 1,365 and 531 respectively. No Singapore schools were in receipt of grants-in-aid.

Grants-in-Aid are paid at the rate of $6 per pupil per year.

F.—MUSIC, ART, DRAMA AND RECREATION

Music.—Singing continued as a class subject in the lower classes of most schools, and Folk Songs, Rounds and Nursery Rhymes were used as aids in the teaching of English. In some schools singing was introduced successfully into the higher standards. Lessons in musical appreciation illustrated by gramophone records continued to be given in senior schools. Part-singing and sight-singing of a high standard was continued at the American Mission schools. Several schools had orchestras.

Towards the end of the year a short singing course for teachers at Penang was conducted by a local teacher. It was attended by 40 teachers.

In Singapore, as in past years, successful children's concerts were held and the Children's Orchestra which was formed in 1933 continued to flourish and expand. Major E. A. BROWN, O.B.E., who was responsible for their initiation, remained in charge of them during the year, thereby continuing a notable public service and reaping his reward in the remarkable results achieved.

Art.—This subject has been given a great deal of attention in all English schools in Singapore and Penang and the standard of work is high.

In the Singapore English schools, primary classes did drawing and handwork which were intimately correlated with general school subjects; great attention was paid to the æsthetic side of the work. In elementary and secondary classes observational work has given place to imaginative and creative branches of study and to forms of artistic craft correlated with the design lessons. There were special courses for teachers in handicraft and design; potato-printing, marbling, book-binding and stencilling were included in the course. A course in simple basketry was completed by one hundred and twenty teachers in Singapore.

In the Singapore Malay schools there has been marked improvement in the work done owing to the success of the special classes for teachers. These classes followed a course which consisted mainly of observational work from common objects and from nature in pastel, followed by imaginative drawing, potato-printing, book-binding and museum study.

The Art Mistress, Penang, was not on duty during the year as she was posted to another appointment. Schemes of work in Art and Handicrafts, drawn up by the Art Mistress, were, however, followed in all schools.

Drama.—Dramatisation forms a part of the English curriculum of all English schools. The lower standards act simple plays and dramatic stories. The senior boys and girls act scenes from Shakespeare.

Parts of well known Tamil dramas are frequently acted in Tamil schools.

Recreation.—Adequate provision was made in all schools, English and Malay, for recreation. The more popular games, football, cricket, and hockey, were played in all boys' schools. Provision was made in some schools for badminton, tennis, volley ball and basket ball. Malay schools are particularly keen on association football and have a football league of their own.

All English schools held annual sports meetings, while Malay schools ran district and central physical training and games competitions.

Facilities for indoor games such as ping-pong and badminton were often to be found. A number of schools possess see-saws, swings, slides, etc. for the younger children.

Organised games were conducted in most of the girls' schools in the time allotted for Physical Training. In Malay Girls' Schools folk games were included in the Physical Training as part of the curriculum.

The Superintendent of Physical Education was stationed at Penang during the year. He held courses for the training of teachers both at English and Vernacular schools.

Systematic instruction in Swimming was given in Singapore at the Y.M.C.A. and Mount Emily Pools.

G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas Home (a Church of England institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children, without restriction as to race or religion, from all over Malaya. There was an average of 16 boys and girls in the Home during 1934. This Home is at Penang. It gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor.

There are thirteen orphanages in the Colony (three in Singapore, five in Penang and five in Malacca), with 2,264 orphans in 1934, maintained by various religious bodies. Most of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and, in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught housekeeping and needlework. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as mui tsai who complain of ill-treatment, are detained in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300.

CHAPTER X

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

Communications by sea between the various Settlements are frequent and regular.

There is a weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan by ships belonging to the Straits Steamship Company. Malacca also is in constant and regular touch with Singapore and Penang by the vessels of the same Company, and there are Chinese-owned vessels on the coastal trade. Moreover a large majority of the mail and passenger ships which call at Singapore, both eastward and westward bound, call at Penang also. Christmas Island is served by the *s.s.* "Islander" belonging to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which maintains a five-weekly service.

In regard to its sea communications with other countries the Colony is very favourably situated, Singapore being a nodal point for traffic between Europe, the Netherlands Indies, British India and the Far East.

The tonnage of all vessels entered and cleared at the six ports of the Colony, (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan, Lumut and Christmas Island) during the year 1934 was 46,764,945 tons, which is 1,448,345 tons more than in 1933. Particulars are shown in Appendix "*C*". The increase at Singapore was 1,734,536 tons, at Christmas Island 26,526 tons and at Lumut 2,303 tons: Penang, Malacca and Labuan combined showed a decrease of 315,020 tons.

The figure for merchant vessels above 75 tons net register increased by 950,352 tons.

In the last six years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1929	..	..	.. 45,435,395	tons
1930	..	..	.. 46,588,856	,,
1931	..	..	.. *43,632,445	,,
1932	..	..	.. 43,424,295	,,
1933	..	..	.. 43,056,128	,,
1934	..	..	.. 44,006,480	,,

B.—ROADS

At the end of 1934, the total length of metalled roads in the Colony was 994 miles. The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca maintained 242 miles and the Public Works Department, on behalf of Government, maintained 752 miles of road in rural areas. There are 113 miles of gravel roads, earth roads and hill paths maintained by the Public Works Department, in addition to the metalled roads.

* The decrease is partly due to the change in classification from "under 50 tons" in 1930 to "75 tons and under" in 1931.

The mileage in the various Settlements is given in the following table:—

Settlement	Municipal	Government Roads			Total Roads Mileage
	Roads and Streets	Metalled Roads	Unmetalled and natural Roads	Total	
Singapore	157	141	3	144	302
Penang	68	73	37	110	178
P. Wellesley ..	..	182	25	207	207
Dindings	..	34	19	53	53
Malacca	17	302	8	310	327
Labuan	..	20	21	41	41
Total ..	242	752	113	865	1,108

Expenditure.—Expenditure by the Public Works Department on these 865 miles of roads in 1934 was $681,225 including maintenance charges of $477,735, and in addition special expenditure on reconstruction or remetalling of roads was incurred to the extent of $203,490.

The maintenance cost of roads was $553 a mile, compared with an average annual cost of $779 a mile for the previous 5 years. In Singapore the Municipality spent $181,393 on road maintenance and $28,782 on road reconstruction, the year's total being $210,175 as compared with $194,572 for the previous year.

Municipal expenditure on roads was $93,358 in Penang and in Malacca $33,616. The figures for the previous year were respectively $106,970 and $43,423.

In the Colony, the principal work of reconstruction was that carried out on the main road between Singapore town and Johore Bharu. On this road, 1½ miles were widened to 26′, several corners being cut off and straightened in the process, and for a length of 1¾ miles a surfacing of 3″ asphaltic concrete was laid.

Traffic, Omnibuses and Tramways, etc.—Most of the roads in the Colony are subjected to very heavy and fast traffic. In rural areas the principal vehicle on the roads is the hired car or seven-seater motor-bus. Lorries are increasingly used for transport of goods, but there still exists a number of the old-fashioned bullock-carts. In Singapore, Penang and Malacca, 7,794 rickshaws were licensed at the end of the year, but these vehicles are principally used for short journeys.

In Singapore 7,246 cars and 2,111 motor-lorries were licensed at the end of the year and in Penang 2,087 cars and 385 motor-lorries; while the figures for Malacca were 1,171 and 244 respectively.

The Singapore Traction Company owns a fleet of 108 electric trolley-buses and 37 motor-buses, which operate on various routes totalling 45 miles in length.

A service of electric tramcars and trolley-buses is maintained by the Penang Municipality. The former in 1934 covered 470,062 miles and carried 3,296,000 passengers while the latter covered

567,353 miles and carried 5,493,000 passengers. The hotel and bungalows on Penang Hill are served by the Penang Hill Railway, which is operated by the Municipality. In 1934 120,050 passengers were carried to this Hill Station 2,250 feet above sea level.

C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Singapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, but communication between Prai and the island of Penang is by ferry. Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Province Wellesley a line runs North to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles.

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant or buffet parlour cars and sleeping saloons. The journey of 488 miles takes approximately 22 hours allowing for a break of approximately 3 hours at Kuala Lumpur which is situated 246 miles from Singapore.

D.—AIRWAYS

Imperial Airways Limited continued to run a regular weekly service between England and Singapore and in December an extension to Australia was inaugurated by Qantas Empire Airways Limited working in conjunction with Imperial Airways Limited. A regular weekly service was maintained by the K.L.M. (Royal Dutch Airways) between Europe and Singapore whence a service to the Dutch East Indies was operated by the K.N.I.L.M. (Royal Netherlands Indies Airways).

Singapore Civil Aerodrome.—Work on this Aerodrome, which was begun in 1931, is being expedited. At the end of the year $2,973,899 had been expended on the completion of approximately two thirds of the work. It is hoped that by the end of 1936 the Aerodrome will be ready for use.

This aerodrome, situated some 2 miles only from the centre of Singapore, lies between the business area and the residential area on the eastern outskirts of the city. Approximately 259 acres of tidal swamp is being reclaimed and 7,000,000 cubic yards of filling will be required. When the work is completed, Singapore will possess a landing ground 1,000 yards in diameter, and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes situated close to the centre of the city.

Until this aerodrome is completed commercial aircraft are allowed to use the R.A.F. ground at Seletar.

Penang Aerodrome.—Substitution of hard for soft earth was proceeded with and a few landings were safely made by Imperial Airways at the beginning of the year. Owing to exceptionally wet weather, however, it became necessary to close the Aerodrome in April, and in October it was decided to construct metalled runways, which were begun in December.

Emergency Landing Grounds.—A site prepared for this purpose on the Malacca Golf Course was not considered satisfactory and has since been abandoned.

Flying Clubs.—The Royal Singapore Flying Club has completed its sixth successful year. It owns three Moth seaplanes and two Moth land planes.

The Penang Flying Club opened in May with three light planes and was able to operate from the Flying Ground throughout the year.

E.—POSTS, MONEY ORDERS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(i).—Posts

Postal facilities are provided in all the towns and larger villages in the Straits Settlements. Excluding the head Post Offices at Singapore, Penang and Malacca and the Post Office at Labuan, there are 39 Post Offices in the Colony offering full postal facilities and 17 agencies at which limited services are provided. The number of posting boxes, exclusive of those at post offices and agencies, was 195 on the 31st December, 1934. Ninety licences were issued to vendors of postage stamps in the course of the year.

The improvement in general trade conditions resulted in a marked increase in the volume of business conducted by the Postal Department. The estimated number of postal articles dealt with during the year was 44,855,334 representing an increase of 13 per cent. over the estimated number dealt with during 1933. These figures include official, ordinary, registered and insured articles, printed papers, commercial papers, sample packets and parcels. Closed mails in transit handled at Singapore, Penang and Malacca during the year numbered 132,425.

Weekly mails to and from Europe were conveyed alternately by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and by the British India Steam Navigation Company *via* India. The average time taken in transit was 22 days both to and from London. Mails to and from Europe containing correspondence specially superscribed for conveyance by vessels of other lines were also despatched and received.

The year 1934 was one of interesting developments in the air mail services of Malaya. With effect from the 29th March, the air mail fee and postage, for correspondence addressed to Great Britain and British Possessions served through Great Britain, which had hitherto been calculated separately, were combined, and flat rates as follows were charged:—

By Imperial Airways ..	Letters ..	40 cents per ½ ounce.
" " " ..	Postcards ..	20 cents each.
By Netherlands Air Service ..	Letters ..	55 cents per ½ ounce.
" " " " ..	Postcards ..	25 cents each.

With effect from the 15th November, as a result of special arrangements with the British Post Office, very considerable reductions in the combined flat rates to Great Britain *via* Imperial Airways were

effected, the combined flat rate on correspondence addressed to places in Great Britain and Northern Ireland being reduced to 25 cents per ½ ounce for letters and 15 cents each for postcards.

On the 17th December, a new air-mail service with Australia began to operate in connection with the England-Singapore service of Imperial Airways. Planes leaving Singapore each Monday are due in Darwin each Tuesday evening, and the various capitals of the Australian States are reached within another two or three days.

The air-mail services have operated on the whole with remarkable regularity.

(ii).—MONEY ORDERS

The value of Money Orders issued and paid through the Postal Department during 1934 amounted to $6,195,142 as compared with $4,496,744 in 1933.

(iii).—TELEGRAPHS

Submarine cables, controlled and operated by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, radiate from Singapore to Penang, Labuan, Colombo, Madras, Batavia, Hong Kong, Cochin China, North China, Macao, Banjoewangi, Deli, Cocos, Port Darwin and Manila.

There is a system of Government telegraph lines in the Straits Settlements which, in conjunction with similar systems in the Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu and Perlis, provides telegraphic communication by land between Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley and all parts of the Malay Peninsula. There is also a telegraph line between Penang and Bangkok, in Siam.

The teleprinter apparatus introduced to replace morse working on the principal telegraph circuits operated satisfactorily thoughout the year. The future policy will be to extend the use of teleprinters and the telephoning of telegrams, in order eventually to eliminate the morse system except for wireless traffic.

The total length of wire in use for telegraph lines in the Straits Settlements at the 31st December, 1934, was 465 miles consisting of 350 miles in overhead lines, 80 miles, in underground cables and 35 miles in submarine cables.

At the end of the year there were 42 telegraph offices in the Straits Settlements and during the year 678,050 telegrams were dealt with, representing an increase of approximately 12 per cent compared with 1933.

(iv).—TELEPHONES

The number of direct exchange lines connected to the Straits Settlements telephone system on the 31st December, 1934, was 1,605, an increase of 86 compared with 1933. These figures do not include lines in Singapore, where the telephone system is operated by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, under licence.

The total number of telephone instruments installed was 2,469 and other miscellaneous circuits numbered 105.

The revenue derived from telephones was $358,248, an increase of $53,965 compared with 1933. Of this revenue $123,759 was derived from trunk and junction services.

The total length of wire in use for telephone lines in the Straits Settlements was 6,427 miles consisting of 2,812 miles of overhead wire, 3,484 miles of wire in underground cables and 131 miles of wire in submarine cables.

Nineteen telephone exchanges were in operation at the end of the year, new exchanges being opened at Bayan Lepas and Batu Ferringhi, during the year. Conversion from manual to automatic working was effected at the Balik Pulau and Lumut exchanges.

Rearrangement and extensions of trunk channels were carried out permitting a full range of trunk communication between all exchanges on the Malayan Trunk System, which comprises all exchanges in the Straits Settlements and the Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Johore and Kedah, with the exception of Pekan in Pahang and a few minor exchanges in Kedah, where local circumstances do not permit of long distance working.

The "Personal Call" service was also extended during the year to embrace all exchanges in the Malayan Trunk System.

Radio-telephone services with Bandoeng (Java) and Manila (Philippine Islands), whereby all exchanges in the Malayan Trunk System may communicate with all exchanges in Java and the majority of exchanges in the Philippine Islands, were inaugurated during the year.

(v).—WIRELESS

The two Government Wireless Stations at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Province Wellesley) operated satisfactorily throughout the year. The Paya Lebar Station maintains a ship-to-shore service on long, medium and short wavelengths and is also in communication with Kuching, Sarawak, and Christmas Island on short wavelengths. The Penaga Station maintains a ship-to-shore service on long, medium and short wavelengths and in addition receives the British Official Wireless Press transmitted from England. Communication with Bangkok in Siam is maintained by the Penaga Station and telegraph traffic between Malaya and Siam is diverted to this route whenever there is a total interruption of the overland telegraph system between Penang and Bangkok.

CHAPTER XI

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures

A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary 20 cent, 10 cent and 5 cent silver coins and a 5 cent nickel coin, which are legal tender up to two dollars. There are also copper cents, half-cents and quarter-cents, but the quarter-cent has now practically no circulation. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued in denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5, and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.

During the War, and for some years after, notes for 25 cents and 10 cents were issued.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony, and when Great Britain abandoned the Gold Standard during the War and again in September, 1931, the local currency automatically followed sterling to which it is linked at 2*s.* 4*d.* to the dollar.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2*s.* 4 3/16*d.* to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2*s.* 3¾*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits. Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $75,786,490.20 in notes and $3,179,897.50 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $135,965, compared with $136,045 at the end of 1933.

At the beginning of the year the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $66,964,286. There was a demand by the public for currency during the year and the consequent expansion in the note issue amounted to $8,630,400. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for silver current coin during the period under review, the result over the whole year being that on 31st December, 1934, the note circulation stood at $75,786,490.20.

It is a requirement of the law that a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund, being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation, shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.* in current silver coin in the Colony and in Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment Portion of the Fund.

The liquid portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $50,008,158.47, consisting of $16,700,131 in silver and $2,378,193.36 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £3,608,480 12*s.* 11*d.* in sterling and short-dated investments in London.

The investment portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year consisted of investments valued at $97,869,871.96 and cash awaiting investment amounting to $525,177.47.

The excess value of the Fund, including cash at Bank $35,733.14, over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $72,652,450.84 compared with an excess of $65,292,309.70 at the end of 1933.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of $720,492.15 in subsidiary silver coins during the year.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury, $10,103,606 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $723,459.20 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1932 was $725,228 and at the end of 1933 $724,075.95.

Fifteen million and fourteen thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and a half notes to the value of $64,057,047.75 were destroyed during the year as against $15,454,977 to the value of $66,814,330.25 in 1933.

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
„ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
„ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
„ Eastern Bank, Limited.
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited.
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
„ Banque de L'Indo-Chine.
„ National City Bank of New York.
„ Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
„ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
„ Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
„ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
„ Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Limited.
„ China and Southern Bank Limited.
„ Kwong Lee Banking Company.
„ Lee Wah Bank, Limited.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4 11/64 and 2/4. The higher rate was obtainable only over a very short period in June.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st, December was 37,340 as compared with 33,055 on the 31st December, 1933 an increase of 4,285. During the year, 8,995 new accounts were opened while 4,710 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was $7,711,658 as compared with $6,843,085 on the 31st December, 1933. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $207 at the end of 1933 and 1934.

The Book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December was $8,802,995 and the market value of these investments according to the Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $9,207,522.

A Savings Bank Fixed Deposit Scheme was introduced on 1st January, 1934, and the number of depositors on 31st December, 1934 was 294. The amount standing to their credit was $198,870, and the average amount to the credit of each depositor was $676. During the year 311 accounts were opened while 17 accounts were closed.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) Standard of Length, the Imperial yard.

(*b*) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(*c*) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes Chinese steelyards (called "daching") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The following are the principal local measures used with their English equivalents:—

The chupak ..	.. equals	1	quart.
The gantang ..	.. ,,	1	gallon.
The tahil ..	.. ,,	1 ⅓	ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	.. ,,	1 ⅓	lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	.. ,,	133 ⅓	lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	.. ,,	5,333 ⅓	lbs.

CHAPTER XII

A.—PUBLIC WORKS

In the Straits Settlements, the Department of Public Works is under the control of the Director who is responsible to Government for all public works in the Colony. The Director is also the Adviser on Public Works to the Federated and Unfederated Malay States.

In Singapore, the Director is assisted by the Deputy Director and Head Office Staff, the Government Architect, Assistant Architects and Drawing Office Staff. Work in the various Settlements is controlled by a local branch head. The local head in Penang controls both Penang and Province Wellesley. As an experiment, Malacca was placed from 1st January, 1934, under the administrative control of the State Engineer, Negri Sembilan but this arrangement was not altogether satisfactory and it was decided therefore to revert as from 1st January, 1935, to the previous arrangement whereby the S.E.E. is responsible for work in the Settlement.

The control of public works in the Dindings was in the hands of the State Engineer, Perak, and Labuan is in charge of an Assistant Engineer who also acts as Harbour Master.

The total expenditure of the Department was $5,950,595 compared with $6,361,689 in 1933. The details are shown in the following table:—

Head of Estimates	Expenditure	Settlement	Total Expenditure	Expenditure Extraordinary
	$ c.		$ c.	$
Personal Emoluments	577,136.01	Singapore ..	3,675,336.66	2,439,164
Other Charges ..	148,281.30	Penang ..	835,112.90	455,894
P. W. Annually Recurrent	1,649,867.60	Dindings ..	39,458.86	12,787
		Province Wellesley	556,907.48	264,144
P. W. Extraordinary	3,551,694.17	Malacca ..	810,554.07	373,757
Work done for others	23,616.45	Labuan ..	33,224.56	5,947
Total ..	5,950,594.53	Total ..	5,950,594.53	3,551,693

The senior staff of the Department of 31st December, 1934, consisted of 25 Engineers and 3 Architects compared with 26 Engineers and 4 Architects in 1933.

During the year, all roads and Government buildings in the Colony were maintained in a satisfactory condition, the expenditure on recurrent maintenance work being as follows:—

	1933	*1934*
	$	$
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals ..	697,367	709,459
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works ..	979,461	940,409
	1,676,828	1,649,868

The expenditure on reconstruction and other special work on Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was $477,265.

Buildings and Miscellaneous Works:—The expenditure (Extraordinary) on new buildings and miscellaneous works amounted to $3,074,428.

The principal works of interest completed during the year were:—

Singapore.—

Sikh Police Barracks, Pearls Hill.
Reconstruction of Chief Justice's House.
Hill Street Police Station.
Kandang Kerbau Police Station and Barracks.
Filling of Crown Land at Labrador, Pasir Panjang.
Police Station and Barracks, Beach Road.

Malacca.—

Extension of Northern Groyne, Malacca Harbour.

Penang.—

New General Hospital—two five storey Class III Wards.
Lunatic and Leper Cells.
Quarters for 100 Attendants.
Wireless Receiving Station—Province Wellesley.

(2) Ordinance No. 88 (*Wild Animals and Birds*). Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 7 an order prohibiting the importation into the Colony of certain birds was published as Gazette Notification No. 31 of 12th January, 1934.

(3) Ordinance No. 135 (*Municipal*). By-laws for the regulation of places used for the making and storing of matches were published as Gazette Notification No. 2140 of the 22nd December, 1933, and confirmed by the Governor in Council on the 17th January, 1931.

(4) Ordinance No. 146 (*Public Trustee*). Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 14(1) rules for carrying into effect the objects of the Ordinance were made and published as Gazette Notification No. 1464 of 29th June, 1934. Rules relating to fees made by the Governor in Council under section 10(1) were published as Gazette Notification No. 1465 of 29th June, 1934.

(5) Ordinance No. 148 (*Registration of Deeds*). Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 39(1), rules relating to the registration of deeds were made and published as Gazette Notification No. 824 of 20th April, 1934.

(6) Ordinance No. 176 (*Passports*). Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 2, regulations for the control of aliens entering or leaving the Colony were made and published as Gazette Notification No. 273 of 9th February, 1934.

(7) The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance 1931. Rules dated the 14th June, 1932, made with the approval of the Governor in Council under the powers conferred by section 20(1) were published as Gazette Notification No. 1898 of 21st August, 1934.

(8) The Aliens Ordinance 1932. Proclamations dated 29th January, 1934, 26th March, 1934, 25th May, 1934, 21st June, 1934 and 5th October, 1934 and made by the *Governor in Council under section 12, limited the* number of aliens which any shipping company or charterer or owner of any individual ship might bring into and land in the Colony during each month.

(9) The Registration of Dentists Ordinance 1933. Regulations made under section 25 by the Dental Board with the approval of the Governor in Council were published as Gazette Notification No. 9 of 5th January, 1934.

(10) The Pineapple Industry Ordinance 1931. Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 14, regulations for the control of the pineapple factories were published as Gazette Notification No. 1697 of 27th July, 1934, confirmed by the Legislative Council on 24th September, 1934 and published as Gazette Notification No. 2224 of 28th September, 1934.

(7) The Betting (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) increases the maximum penalty in order to combat extensive book-making in clubs and public-places.

(8) The Public Trustee (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) empowers the Public Trustee to act as next friend of a minor in certain cases. The formation of a Common Fund under section 6 is based on sections 32-35 of the New Zealand Public Trust Office Act, 1908.

(9) The Petroleum Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) amends the existing definitions of "export" and "import" to include export and import by air, and empowers the Governor in Council to exempt from the payment of duty petroleum supplied or carried by aircraft belonging to any international aircraft operating company.

(10) The Liquors Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 27) removes certain restrictions on the size of the containers in which intoxicating liquors may be sold. It also permits the sale without a licence of ale, beer or stout in unopened reputed half pint bottles for consumption off the premises.

(11) The Interpretation (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 29) enables the Colonial Secretary, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to delegate to a specified officer his duties under any particular provision of the law.

(12) The Destruction of Mosquitos (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 30) forbids the denudation of potential breeding places without the permission of the Health Officer.

(13) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 34) introduces a comprehensive definition of "Native Sailing Ship", and also implements certain provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1929, relating to the holding of examinations and the issue of Certificates of Competency as Life-coatmen.

(14) The Penal Code (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance (No. 36) was passed to assist the Government of Sarawak in the suppression of smuggling.

(15) The Interpretation (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance (No. 37) repeals a definition of "British Empire" which was wrongly adopted in 1933.

(16) The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 41) amends the definition of "dependant" so as to exclude any residential qualification.

Of the Subsidiary Legislation issued during the year the following are the more important items:—

(1) Ordinance No. 61 (Pawnbrokers). Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 45 were published as Gazette Notification No. 2328 of 12th October, 1934.

(14) The Distress Ordinance (No. 28) is similarly based except for sections 10 to 14, which are adopted from the law in England.

(15) The Advocates and Solicitors Ordinance (No. 32) was necessitated by the omission of the relevant provisions from the new Courts Ordinance. With the exception of certain sections which are designed to assimilate local to English practice, the Ordinance is founded on sections of the repealed Ordinance No. 101 (Courts). The new Ordinance also introduces a test of the candidate's knowledge of the English language.

(16) The Mental Disorders Ordinance (No. 33) provides for the reception and detention of persons of unsound mind in mental hospitals. It conforms closely to that in force in the Federated Malay States.

(17) The Irrigation Areas Ordinance (No. 38) provides for the establishment and regulation of irrigation areas within the Colony and is required for the effective operation of irrigation schemes. It is based largely on similar legislation in the Federated Malay States.

(18) The Rice Cultivation Ordinance (No. 39) follows the lines of existing legislation in the Federated Malay States and will apply only to such lands as are declared to be rice lands by the Governor in Council.

The more important Amending Ordinances are as follows:—

(1) The Second-hand Dealers (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) enables licensing officers to exercise discretion in the issue of licences and to take finger-prints before the issue of a licence.

(2) The Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 4) penalises the abetment in the Colony of offences against the revenue laws of the Malay States.

(3) The Aliens (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) empowers the Colonial Secretary to allow Alien labourers recruited under a permit signed by him to be brought into the Colony in excess of the number restricted by proclamation under section 12 of the Ordinance.

(4) The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) requires the retirement of ladies on the pensionable establishment at the age of forty-five.

(5) The Civil Law (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12) makes a tenant liable for double rent if he holds over after the determination of his tenancy. The opportunity was taken to prescribe the manner in which an intestate's personal estate which accrues to the Crown shall be dealt with.

(6) The Passenger Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) gives effect to the use of the flag "Y" under the new International Code of Signals.

(2) The Naval Volunteer Reserve Ordinance (No. 3) provides for the establishment of a local Naval Volunteer Force to be trained in patrolling and mine-sweeping.

(3) The Tin and Tin-ore (Disclosure of Smelters' Stocks) Ordinance (No. 7) requires the Smelters to make returns from time to time of the stocks of tin, tin-ore or any intermediate product of smelting held by them. The information is required for statistical purposes by the International Tin Committee.

(4) The Tin and Tin-ore (Restriction) Ordinance (No. 10) was necessary in order to bring the few tin-mines in Malacca within the Malayan regulation area.

(5) The Guardianship of Infants Ordinance (No. 11) is one of a series of Ordinances prepared to replace the Civil Procedure Code, which has now been repealed.

(6) The Courts Ordinance (No. 17) is the main Ordinance to replace the Civil Procedure Code, and re-enacts the law relating to Courts with certain amendments. The two divisions of the Supreme Court will henceforth be known as the High Court and the Court of Appeal, and Court procedure and practice be governed by Rules to be made under sections 87 and 88 of the Ordinance.

(7) The Registration of Imports and Exports Ordinance (No. 18) makes adequate provision for the registration of goods imported into or exported from the Colony by sea, land or air. It empowers the Registrar to open any package with regard to which a false declaration is suspected and he is also enabled to compound offences.

(8) The Settled Estates Ordinance (No. 19) has been separately enacted to replace the previous provisions of the Civil Procedure Code.

(9) The Legitimacy Ordinance (No. 20) makes provision for the legitimation, by subsequent marriage of their parents, of children born out of wedlock. The Ordinance follows closely the Legitimacy Act, 1926 and its scope is confined to cases in which the subsequent marriage is a Christian marriage.

(10) The Rubber Regulation Ordinance (No. 22) implements the international Agreement on this subject.

(11) The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance (No. 23) was passed in response to the invitation of the Imperial Government and regulates the importation into the Colony of cotton and artificial Silk piece-goods manufactured in foreign countries.

(12) The Probate and Administration Ordinance (No. 24) takes the place of the previous relevant provisions of the Civil Procedure Code.

(13) The Debtors Ordinance (No. 25) is also based on sections of the Civil Procedure Code, now repealed.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory at Singapore, is the only institution in Malaya specially organised for the reception of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and is not in any way connected with the Prisons Administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of 7 and 16 are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of 18.

At the end of 1933 the inmates numbered 108. Sixty-five were released and forty-one admitted during 1934. One absconded during the year. At the end of 1934 there were 83 inmates.

Of the 41 boys admitted during the year, 26 were from the Straits Settlements, 11 from the Federated Malay States, 2 from Unfederated Malay States and 2 from Brunei. There were 21 Chinese, 7 Malays and 13 Indians. Twenty were committed for criminal offences including fraudulent possession of property, housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 14 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 11 were committed for vagrancy, 4 as being uncontrollable, 3 for begging, 1 for distilling liquor without a licence, 1 for mischief by fire and 1 for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, grass-cutters, gardeners, washermen, cooks, orderlies and general coolies. They were all taught Romanised Malay for two hours daily with the exception of ten who continued their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

As far as possible work was found on their release for boys who had no parents, relatives or friends to look after them, or arrangements made for their adoption by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Forty-six Ordinances were passed during the year 1934. Of these, two were Supply Ordinances and twenty-four were purely Amending Ordinances.

Of the Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances the following are the more important:—

(1) The Pineapple Industry Ordinance (No. 1) provides that pineapple factories shall be registered and that the places for canning pineapples must be free from contamination. Each canner is required to register a mark to be embossed on the tins, so that any particular tin can be traced back to the factory of origin. This Ordinance gives effect to the recommendations contained in the report of the Pineapple Conference which was held in Singapore in the early months of 1931.

(iii).—SECRET SOCIETIES, CRIMINAL GANGS, ETC.

General.—As in previous years' reports, the remarks in this section of the report apply almost exclusively to Singapore. By comparison, society and faction troubles in Penang and Malacca were almost negligible.

Another year of comparative freedom from lawless outbreaks by secret societies and criminal gangs has been enjoyed, but their menace to the good order and peace of the Colony demands constant vigilance and preventive activity.

In this duty the police receive little assistance from the public who appear to be reluctant to offer resistance to the "gangsters" or to give early information against them to the police.

Although in Singapore conditions generally were as good as, and perhaps slightly better than, in 1932 and 1933, the number of fatalities due to gang or society activities was much higher, there being 6 deaths in all.

The Cantonese Societies were responsible for four murders, one attempted murder and thirteen robberies. Teo Chiu Societies were exceptionally inactive.

Of the Boyanese Societies all but eight "pondoks" are now amalgamated in the association registered in 1933 and were the source of but little anxiety during the year.

C.—PRISONS

At the beginning of the year, there were 1,733 prisoners in the five prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island). Admissions during the year numbered 12,000, as compared with 15,378 during 1933, and 12,537 prisoners were discharged, leaving 1,196 in prison at the end of the year. There were 140 vagrants in the House of Detention at the beginning of the year, and during the year 765 more were admitted, but 839 vagrants were discharged, leaving only 66 under detention when the year closed. The health of the prisoners was maintained in a satisfactory state throughout the year.

"Short-Sentence" and "Revenue-Grade" men are mainly employed at husk-beating and on fatigue duties. "Lower-Grade" prisoners are usually employed on husk-beating during the first six months of their sentence but thereafter join the "Middle-Grade" and "Upper-Grade" prisoners in industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making or mat and basket-making. Cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc. are selected from among the "Upper-Grade" prisoners when possible. A remission of sentence may be earned by good behaviour by prisoners sentenced to Penal Servitude or Rigorous Imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile offenders are kept separate from adult prisoners, so far as accommodation will permit, and under Section 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Courts may, in their discretion, release on probation any offender convicted of trivial offences.

A start has been made on the building, at Changi, on Singapore Island about ten miles from Singapore town, of a new Convict Prison, which should be ready for occupation in 1936.

investigation of any crime that is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(b) The Depôt, at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men for the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

(c) The Financial Branch.

Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, officers of the Attorney-General's department who are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts. The Deputy Public Prosecutor at Singapore includes the Settlement of Malacca in his jurisdiction.

(ii).—CRIME

Seizable offences reported during 1934 numbered 5,194, a decrease of 941 compared with the 1933 figure, the percentage of decrease being 17.5 in 1933 and 15.3 in 1934. Arrests were made in 2,449 of the cases and resulted in convictions in 1,845 cases.

The number of robberies of all kinds reported showed a remarkable decrease, falling from 104 in 1933 to 43 in 1934.

Simple thefts and thefts in dwellings combined, totalling 2,424 as compared with 3,294, show a general decrease in all districts. The most outstanding variation was in the Singapore figures—1,417 compared with 1,937.

Housebreakings and thefts at 610 compare favourably with the 1933 figure of 779. There was a considerable increase in the number of cases in Province Wellesley, but other districts showed decreases.

Cases of extortion showed an increase, the total of 77 being 37 above that for 1933. It is remarkable that no such case has been reported in Province Wellesley during the past 3 years. In addition to the 77 actual cases of extortion, there were 62 recorded attempts, 48 of which occurred in Singapore.

Prosecutions under the Merchant Shipping, Municipal and Minor Offences Ordinances and also under the traffic and gambling laws increased considerably, while there was also a large increase in the number of Chandu Revenue cases at the instance of both the Monopolies and the Police departments.

Reports of non-seizable offences totalled 103,754 as compared with 83,339 in 1933. In 78,025 of these cases prosecutions were undertaken by the Police.

CHAPTER XIII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

The Courts for the administration of civil and criminal law in the Colony, as constituted at the beginning of the year under review, were the following:—

(a) The Supreme Court;
(b) District Courts;
(c) Police Courts;
(d) Coroners' Courts.

In addition to these a Court of Criminal Appeal, to hear appeals from convictions had in trials before the Supreme Court, was created under the provisions of an ordinance passed in 1931 which was brought into force on the 1st September, 1934.

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction, in each case both original and appellate. When exercising appellate civil jurisdiction, the Court is styled the Court of Appeal. An appeal may lie from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. Criminal trials are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

A District Court, presided over by a District Judge and having both civil and criminal jurisdiction is constituted in each of the three Settlements of Penang, Malacca and Labuan. In Singapore, however, where the work of the courts is much heavier, there are two District Courts, one for civil and the other for criminal cases. The civil jurisdiction of a District Court is limited to suits involving not more than $500, when a District Judge presides and $100 when an Assistant District Judge presides.

Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is, in the main, criminal, and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

B.—POLICE

(i).—ORGANISATION

The Straits Settlements Police Force is organised on a territorial basis. Each Settlement is in the charge of a Chief Police Officer, whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended, in most cases, by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties, but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

(a) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned with the

In the Southern District work was confined to the drainage system of Trans-Krian where 6 miles of roadside drains were regraded at a cost of $1,997. Maintenance weeding was carried out on 181½ miles of roadside drains and on six other streams.

A scheme, providing protection from the sea and controlled drainage for 300 acres, was carried out in the Jurn rice area. The work entailed the rebuilding and raising of an old bund, and the provision of collecting drains 121 chains long with a water gate. The drains were dug by the planters and the bund work was done by contract, costing in all $3,497.70. A similar scheme was completed for the Kuala Bekah padi area of 290 acres, costing $4,990.90. This involved the construction of 136 chains of drains, a new outfall to S. Penaga and 84 chains of bund.

The principal item of Special Expenditure in Province Wellesley was the second instalment of $58,000 for the scheme to supply water to the Achih Area from the Krian (F.M.S.) System. Designs for the distributary channels were completed, but work cannot start until after the harvest in 1935, when negotiations for land acquisition will be sufficiently advanced to allow entry onto the required reserves. The four syphons, which will carry the water under the roads, have been built in readiness for the conduits to be led to them, and considerable progress has been made in enlarging the main canals in Krian so that they may carry the extra water required for the Sungei Achih area. It is anticipated that irrigation will be available for the next planting season.

A supplementary provision of $25,000 was sanctioned for rebuilding a length of 3,000 feet of the Muda bund which had suffered severe erosion. Construction commenced in mid-September and at the end of the year the new bund was well advanced, $15,500 worth of work having been done. It is anticipated that the whole of this work, which includes 1,030 feet for the protection of the railway embankment, will be completed by February, 1935.

There were two periods of flood during the year in Province Wellesley, in the first weeks of September and November. The first period affected the Northern and Central districts and the second the Northern district only. Investigation has confirmed the theory that the inundation had its origin in the unbunded South bank of the Muda River in Kedah territory. The Malakoff and Jerak roads were under water for several days on each occasion and the adjoining kampongs flooded to depths of from 2 to 4 feet.

Dredging.—Two miles of the bed of the Bruas River were cleared of snags and a corresponding length of bank cleared of all vegetation for 20 feet on both sides. Some 1,000 tons of timber were removed from the river channel.

A permanent watergate was constructed at S. Tong, and repairs made to an old bund, built by padi planters, to prevent the entry of salt water into an area of about 150 acres of rice land at Ujong Pasir.

A new rice area was established at Sungei Sempit-Bukit Senangin, where an area of 200-300 acres was provided with controlled drainage enabling maintenance of the water table during the growing period.

proved itself satisfactorily. At Rengek, a concrete dam was erected, at a cost of $725.92, to replace the unsatisfactory wooden dams built by the local Malays. It serves the Tengah Padang area (150 acres) with excellent results. The Pulau Sebang Dam was rebuilt, and an area of 100 acres thereby brought back into cultivation. At Alai, where an area of 180 acres was flooded at spring tides, three culverts were repaired and a new pipe culvert constructed. Two drainage outlets with flaps and tide gates were constructed at Ayer Salak to prevent flood water from the main stream inundating the reserve for vegetable gardens.

The rise in the price of rubber had a marked effect on the price of labour with the result that earthwork cost nearly double what it did in 1933.

Penang.—Maintenance of drainage channels is confined to the South-west District and the area round Balek Pulau. Most of the lesser channels serve the dual purpose of irrigation and drainage, according to the season. An aggregate of 191½ miles were kept in condition.

The banks of the Sungei Rusa were cleared and the channel widened and partly desilted for about 80 chains. Processes under the Land Improvement Ordinance in connection with the Sungei Rusa Bunding Scheme occupied the whole of the year, so that the provision of $21,500 had to be revoted for utilisation early in 1935. This scheme will provide protection from sea water for some 1,700 acres of agricultural land, including 400 to 500 acres of the best padi land in Malaya".

Province Wellesley.—In Province Wellesley 75½ miles of river and drains were kept clear of vegetation and silt. The greater part of this work took the form of special clearing and restoration rather than simple maintenance. Such work consists in felling and clearing growing timber from the channels, re-digging the channels to designed sections and slopes, and building bunds as inspection paths along the banks.

The rivers, as the main drains of the country, call for a great deal of attention. Vegetation on the banks, ranging in great variety from grasses to fully grown trees, is constantly encroaching on the river beds. Branches frequently fall into a stream and become effective dams to retard flood-flow, and retain silt. Deterioration of the channel and resultant overflowing of the river can only be avoided by persistent and continuous snagging.

In the Northern District, a total of 470 chains of channels, graded in 1933, was maintained throughout the year. The channels of the S. Merbau Kudong, S. Mat Sat, S. Orang Puteh, S. Selarang Gajah were cleared, dug to profile and regraded for a total length of 427 chains, while the tidal portions of S. Makiom and S. Lokan (142 chains) were cleared of nipah palm and the Channel of the S. Bekah restored and given a new outfall.

In the Central District seven miles of the Kulim River were snagged and its banks cleared from the mouth up to Ara Kuda. The branch stream, S. To'Tongkat, was similarly dealt with throughout its length of 200 chains, and a total length of 1,430 chains of the smaller streams cleared and regraded.

into and 226 contracts were completed, leaving 34 unfinished at the close of the year. The upward tendency in the cost of labour and materials which was noted at the end of 1933 continued throughout the year.

5.—DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

Malacca.—The scheme for the drainage of the Bachang Area, about 3 miles from Malacca town, which was begun at the end of 1932 was completed during the year. The work involved the construction of 3 miles of earth bund along the Malacca and Pya Rumput rivers to prevent inundation of the area by flooding from the Malacca River. The internal drains measure an aggregate of 8½ miles and the main drain connecting them with the sea is 130 chains long. The area of land taken up and cultivated is so far disappointingly small, but there were definite indications of a more satisfactory colonization in the near future. In all 275 acres were planted with padi, leaving a cultivable balance of 1,170 acres of which 100 have been reserved for Chinese market-gardeners.

The Tanjong Minyak Drainage and Irrigation Scheme was finally completed. It comprised the deepening and enlarging of two streams for the discharge of flood water, and the construction of headworks and distribution channels for the irrigation of 2,336 acres. Of this area 1,940 acres were alienated and 1,108 of them cultivated. Two reserves amounting to 237 acres have been set aside in the unalienated area for Chinese vegetable gardeners.

The total cost of the two schemes, exclusive of payments for land acquisition and compensation, was $61,099.60.

A bund, 560 feet long, was constructed at Belimbing to prevent the flood waters of the Malacca River invading a padi area and rendering large parts of it unplantable. The total cost of this work was $1,218.62.

A scheme for the improvement of 972 acres of rice land in the valley of the Sungei Putat was undertaken. The work comprises a deepening, widening and bunding of the Sungei Putat for a distance of 3½ miles; the excavation of 5 miles of irrigation channels; the tapping of a water supply main from Ayer Keroh Reservoir to augment the available supply, and the construction of a bund 3,532 feet long to protect the area from inundation by the Malacca River. Progress was unfortunately delayed by flooding in the last quarter, but $22,125.75 were spent out of a total estimate of $51,000.

The Controlled Drainage Scheme at Parit China, was commenced. The main features of the scheme are the bunding of the Parit China for a distance of nearly 4 miles, and the construction of a bund and drain along the Padang Temu rice lands. This scheme is designed to provide better drainage and irrigation facilities for 800 acres of new padi land, to protect 470 acres of existing padi land from tidal water and to reclaim 770 acres of swamp and abandoned padi land. $10,016 was spent out of the estimated total cost of $23,900.

Additional small schemes were carried out in the Serkam, Rengrek, Pulau Sebang, Pulau Gadong, Alai and Ayer Salak padi areas. At Serkam a concrete dam with pipe culverts and flumes, costing $729.95, was constructed to irrigate the Lubok Buayz area of 154 acres. The scheme was completed in time for planting and

The following important works were in hand during the year but were not completed.

Singapore.—

New Civil Aerodrome.
Reclamation of Foreshore in front of Beach Road.
Maternity Hospital, Kandang Kerbau.
New Convict Prison, Changi.

Penang.—

New General Hospital—Technical Block and First Class Wards.

Waterworks.—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are adequate and up-to-date. Installations elsewhere are controlled by the Public Works Department and were maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.

Electric Light and Power.—In Singapore and Penang, the Municipalities possess and operate their own power stations, and in Singapore there is an additional power station belonging to the Singapore Harbour Board. The Penang Municipality supplies current for the towns of Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam, both in Province Wellesley, on contract. In Malacca, a private company (Malacca Electric Lighting Ltd.) supplies current in the Municipal area. Outside these areas the Public Works Department maintains a number of small installations, the maintenance of which, including the electrical equipment of all Government buildings, cost $222,774 in 1934.

Reclamation.—In Singapore, apart from the Civil Aerodrome, the principal reclamation in hand is that of the foreshore in front of Beach Road, where approximately 47 acres are being filled with dredgings and topped with red earth. A coral bund is being constructed which, except for a gap left for a small access channel, was completed by the end of the year. 112,778 cubic yards of dredgings and 65,086 cubic yards of road earth were dumped inside the Bund.

The Reclamation at Labrador, Pasir Panjang, was completed at the end of the year, 494,500 cubic yards having been excavated and superimposed on the swamp.

The Dredgers "Mudlark", "Tembakul", and "Todak" worked in the Singapore River, Telok Ayer Basin, Inner Roads and on the access channel to the Beach Road Reclamation. The "Tembakul" was also employed in Malacca harbour from October onwards. The two grab dredgers were employed at the Civil Aerodrome, chiefly on a channel for the diversion of the Geylang River.

In Singapore pumping plants, disposal works and sewers are owned and controlled by the Municipality, but there still remains a considerable portion of the town in which sewers have not yet been installed. Connections to these sewers from Government buildings and houses have been made wherever possible, but in some areas independent septic tank installations have been found necessary.

General.—The Public Works Department had 37 contract in hand on the 1st January, 1934. During 1934, 223 contracts were entered

(11) The Naval Volunteer Reserve Ordinance 1934. Under the powers conferred on His Excellency the Governor by sections 5 and 6, the constitution of the Straits Settlements Naval Volunteer Reserve was declared and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 924 of 27th April, 1934.

Rules made by the Governor under section 25 were published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2137 of 21st September, 1934.

(12) The Rubber Regulation Ordinance 1934. Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 39, rules regulating the production of rubber were made and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1213 of 31st May, 1934.

(13) The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance 1934. Proclamations dated 19th June, 1934, 23rd August, 1934, 13th November, 1934 and 30th November 1934 made by the Governor under section 3 fixed the total quantity of textile goods manufactured in foreign countries which might be imported during the period from 7th May, 1934 to 31st December, 1934 and during the year 1935. *Gazette* Notification 1371 of 20th June, 1934, exempts from the provisions of the Ordinance articles imported as passengers' personal luggage or by parcel post in quantities considered reasonable by the Registrar.

Regulations made by the Governor under sections 13(1) and 15(1) were published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1372 of 20th June, 1934.

Factory Legislation

Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery) makes provisions for the inspection of boilers, engines and other machinery and for regulating their control and working. Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 4 for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the Ordinance and published as Notification No. 2142 in the *Gazette* of 30th October, 1931, were approved by the Legislative Council on 26th January, 1933, and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 215 of 5th February, 1933. Ordinance No. 197 (Labour) governs and prescribes the conditions of employment on plantations, factories and elsewhere, and includes provisions similar to those of the Truck Acts in England.

The Pineapple Industry Ordinance 1934 provides for the inspection of factories, their equipment and sanitary arrangements by the local health authority.

Compensation for Accident

Section 8 of Ordinance No. 111 (Civil Law) makes provisions for compensation similar to those adopted in Lord Campbell's Act (The Fatal Accidents Act, 1846).

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, which was passed in 1932, came into force on 1st October, 1933. This Ordinance provides for the payment by certain classes of employers, to their workmen, of compensation for injury by accident arising out of and in the course of their employment.

No legislative provisions exist for sickness or old age.

CHAPTER XV

Public Finance and Taxation

The revenue for the year 1934 amounted to $34,244,603.31 which was $5,731,219.31 more than the original estimate of $28,513,384 and $3,904,688.31 in excess of the revised estimate of $30,339,915

The expenditure was $30,937,261.61, being $3,047,593.39 less than the original estimate.

The year's working resulted therefore in a surplus of $3,307,341.70 under the Headings of ordinary Revenue and Expenditure.

(i).—REVENUE

The revenue was $2,659,413.10 more than that of 1933. Details are shown in the following table:—

Head of Revenue	1933	1934	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ..	2,428.20	2,459.58	31.38	..
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	20,094,241.83	21,566,219.13	1,471,977.30	..
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Service and Reimbursements-in-aid ..	1,113,278.39	1,349,709.12	236,430.73	..
4. Posts and Telegraphs ..	1,980,867.50	2,101,431.11	120,563.61	..
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,509,281.34	1,592,981.05	83,699.71	..
6. Interest ..	5,488,244.23	5,316,504.04	..	171,740.19
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ..	1,255,862.73	2,190,096.28	934,233.55	..
Total exclusive of Land Sales and Grants-in-Aid	31,444,204.22	34,119,400.31	2,846,936.28	171,740.19
8. Land Sales ..	140,985.99	124,045.86	..	16,940.13
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	..	1,157.14	1,157.14	..
TOTAL REVENUE ..	31,585,190.21	34,244,603.31	2,848,093.42	188,680.32

The increase under the heading "Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" is chiefly attributable to increases under the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Liquors	677,461	00
Motor Car Duty	43,807	00
Opium	1,722,196	00
Petroleum Revenue	289,357	00
Rubber Dealers Ordinance ..	37,599	00
Stamp Duties (various revenue services)	168,231	00
Tobacco Duties	65,504	00

There are decreases under the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Pawnbrokers Ordinance	33,630	00
Estate Duties	1,544,984	00

The increase in "Fees of Court, etc.," arises mainly from the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Contribution from Rubber Fund ..	185,757	00
Contribution from Immigration Fund	35,718	00

The increase under Posts and Telegraphs is distributed between:—

	$	c.
M.O. & B.P. Orders	7,362	00
Sale of Stamps	30,974	00
Telegrams	6,068	00
Telephones	37,449	00
Miscellaneous	38,710	00

The increase under "Rents, etc.," is thus allocable:—

	$	c.
Lands	78,039	00
Forest Revenue	11,778	00

The incidence of the decrease under "Interest" is as follows:—

	$	c.
Interest on Investments	294,713	00
Interest on Loans and Advances ..	74,655	00

On the other hand the following items under this Head shewed an increase:—

	$	c.
Interest on Opium Purchase money outstanding	135,998	00
Interest from Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	46,102	00
Interest on Banks account	15,299	00

The increase under "Miscellaneous Receipts" arises from the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Overpayments Recovered	194,373	00
Miscellaneous	128,794	00
Investment Adjustment a/c. Revaluation of Investments	624,912	00

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of expenditure are set out below:—

Head of Expenditure	1933	1934	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ..	37,083.40	37,083.40	..	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc.	2,438,947.83	2,183,027.67	..	255,920.16
3. Charitable Allowances ..	36,688.48	69,158.98	32,470.50	..
4. The Governor ..	116,862.07	114,639.66	..	2,222.41
5. Civil Service ..	700,349.37	646,264.89	..	54,084.48
6. General Clerical Service	1,126,044.87	1,150,179.16	24,134.29	..
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Residents ..	118,184.43	114,709.92	..	3,474.51
8. Secretary to High Commissioner ..	9,763.71	10,423.75	660.04	..
9. Malayan Establishment Office	..	31,094.66	31,094.66	..
10. Agricultural Department	77,816.43	81,695.68	3,879.25	..
11. Analyst ..	3,529.10	63,354.18	59,825.08	..
12. Audit	49,420.56	50,052.30	631.74	..
13. Chinese Secretariat ..	81,073.62	64,231.24	..	16,842.38
14. Co-operative Societies ..	45,570.76	23,587.01	..	21,983.75
15. Drainage and Irrigation	135,520.65	196,601.90	61,081.25	..
16. Education	2,118,580.07	2,005,134.73	..	113,445.34
17. Fisheries	28,834.25	33,987.06	5,152.81	..
18. Forests	46,003.27	48,163.18	2,159.91	..
19. Gardens, Botanical ..	119,543.71	112,240.62	..	7,303.09
20. Immigration Department	..	22,474.83	22,474.83	..
21. Labour Department ..	24,080.91	15,733.33	..	8,347.58
22. Land and District Offices	247,962.64	261,104.09	13,141.45	..
23. Legal	397,275.38	366,851.51	..	30,423.87
24. Marine	528,654.83	520,420.07	..	8,234.76
25. Marine Surveys ..	81,488.23	72,886.63	..	8,601.60
26. Medical	457,989.77	371,183.22	..	86,806.55
27. Medical, Health Branch	528,725.41	504,157.40	..	24,568.01
28. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	94,119.87	92,940.78	..	1,179.09
29. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ..	2,023,176.69	2,141,655.33	118,478.64	..
30. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,960,000.00	4,020,948.57	60,948.57	..
II. Local Forces ..	362,452.88	330,522.00	..	31,930.88
31. Miscellaneous Services ..	1,687,001.48	3,347,341.71	1,660,340.23	..
32. Monopolies	1,146,620.31	1,052,832.69	..	93,787.62
33. Museum and Library, Raffles	45,437.19	42,684.08	..	2,753.11
34. Police	3,031,859.32	2,828,393.90	..	203,465.42
35. Post Office	1,597,778.38	1,553,411.01	..	44,367.37
36. Printing Office ..	223,914.65	216,954.79	..	6,959.86
37. Prisons	489,017.68	470,330.46	..	18,687.22
38. Public Works Department	737,188.89	667,914.26	..	69,274.63
39. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ..	1,041,243.90	983,778.70	..	57,465.20
40. Public Works, Extraordinary	3,486,078.90	3,283,572.15	..	202,506.75
41. Statistics	40,991.96	76,975.79	35,983.83	..
42. Survey Department ..	387,175.63	372,120.19	..	15,055.44
43. Transport	388,879.74	90,598.59	..	298,281.15
44. Treasury	87,257.01	124,857.17	37,600.16	..
45. Veterinary	79,688.27	61,276.80	..	18,411.47
46. Grants-in-aid Colonial Development Fund ..	10,414.23	7,711.57	..	2,702.66
TOTAL ..	30,476,290.73	30,937,261.61	2,170,057.24	1,709,086.36

The decrease in "Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc.," is due to the 1933 figure having been swelled by pensions on premature retirement or abolition of office consequent upon the findings of the Retrenchment Committee.

The increase in Charitable Allowances occurred on the vote "Grant of Orphanages to Singapore, Penang and Malacca".

The decrease in "Civil Service" is attributable to the arrangement whereby leave salaries of European officers are now defrayed by the Malayan Establishment Office.

The increase under "General Clerical Service" can be ascribed mainly to increments earned and promotions effected in 1934.

The Malayan Establishment Office and the Immigration Department figured in the estimates for the first time.

The increase under "Analyst" is due to the fact that the expenditure shown in 1933 for this department was reduced by the amount of $54,445 which was contributed by the Monopolies Department.

The decrease under "Chinese Secretariat" is caused by an improvement in economic conditions and a consequently smaller expenditure on repatriations.

The decrease under Co-operative Societies is mainly due to the fact that a sum of $21,750.70 was paid out in 1933 as contribution to Federated Malay States Government for overhead charges and that no corresponding charge is included in the figures for 1934.

The increase under "Drainage and Irrigation" reflects additions to personnel and expenditure on the drainage of Bachang Swamp and other areas.

The decrease under "Education" is the result of retrenchment and the exercise of strict economy.

The increase under "Land and District Offices" is due in part to the re-survey of the country districts of Malacca.

The decrease under "Legal" is explained by the defrayment of the leave salaries of its European officers by the Malayan Establishment Office.

The decrease under "Medical" is similarly due to the salaries of officers on leave now being met from the funds of the Malayan Establishment Office. Moreover, the post of Accountant, Medical Department, has been included in the Treasury staff.

The decrease under "Medical, Health Branch" reflects the transfer to the Rural Boards of liability for mandores' and coolies' wages.

The increase under "Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries," is due partly to an increase in personnel and partly to the equipment of new hospitals.

The decrease under "Military Expenditure, Local Forces," was caused by a failure on the part of certain suppliers to effect delivery on indents within the year.

The large increase under Miscellaneous Services reflects the following payments made in 1934:—

	$	c.
Contribution to Malayan Establishment Office in respect of Personal Emoluments	791,694	00
Other Charges, Annually Recurrent, Malayan Establishment Office ..	302,467	96
Cost of an access road to the New Alexandra Road	183,805	60
Gift towards the cost of Imperial Defence	500,000	00
	$1,777,967	56

The decrease under "Monopolies" is due to the transfer to the Treasury Staff of the post of Chief Accountant and to the defrayment of leave salaries by the Malayan Establishment Office. There were also decreases in expenditure on Maintenance of Government Shops, Rent allowances, working expenses and special expenditure.

The decrease under "Police" is mainly due to the leave salaries of European Police Officers being met from Malayan Establishment Funds and partly to savings on the annually recurrent votes for "Other Charges".

The decrease under "Post Office" is due to the transfer of the Senior Accountant, Posts and Telegraphs, and sixteen clerks from Straits Settlements to the Federated Malay States.

The decrease under Prisons is due to a diminution in the number of prisoners and to a reduction in the cost of electric energy supplied by the Singapore Harbour Board.

The decrease under "Public Works Department" represents savings on the leave salaries of European officers, now paid from Malayan Establishment Funds.

The decrease under "Public Works Recurrent Expenditure" can be ascribed to a smaller provision and to economy.

The increase under "Statistics" mainly represents expenditure on the Trade Commission and on the regulation of Textile imports.

The decreases under "Survey Department" and "Transport" are due to the leave salaries and passages of European Officers being met from Malayan Establishment Office Funds.

The increase under Treasury is caused by the inclusion of Departmental Accountants in the Treasury staff.

The decrease under Veterinary reflects the transfer of expenditure from the Straits Settlements Estimates to the Federated Malay States Estimates with effect from 1st January, 1934.

The following table shews the Colony's expenditure, exclusive of Defence Contribution, for the last five years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary:—

Year	*Total Expenditure*	*Public Works Extraordinary*
	$	$
1930 ..	35,000,586	5,658,712
1931 ..	42,613,272	8,197,700
1932 ..	30,249,340	5,762,470
1933 ..	26,516,291	3,486,079
1934 ..	26,916,313	3,283,572

The amounts paid as Defence Contribution for the last five years are:—

	$
1930	4,239,728
1931	4,189,286
1932	3,947,143
1933	3,960,000
1934	4,020,949

The Defence Contribution has been fixed by Ordinance No. 25 of 1933 at $4,000,000 a year for a period of five years from 1st April, 1933.

The apparent excess for 1934 reflects a final adjustment with the Military Authorities in respect of the years 1927–1933.

(iii).—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December,

		$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities			
Deposits:—			
Accountant General (Court)		2,589,216.50	
Accountant-General (Other)		2,092,316.04	
Bankruptcy		808,296.15	
Mercantile Marine Fund		766,955.69	
Police Reward Fund		4,197.19	
Savings Certificates Fund		202,460.00	
Companies Liquidation Account		235,247.14	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		76,839.32	
Miscellaneous Singapore (including Labuan and Christmas Island)		997,237.19	
Miscellaneous Penang and Districts		423,996.85	
Miscellaneous Malacca and Districts		91,681.76	
F.M.S. Agency		124,296.13	
			8,412,739.36
Drafts and Remittances		..	56,730.39
Suspense Account	Coins for reminting, etc.	2,378,193.36	
	Interest, Currency Commissioners	..	
	Other items	2,590,687.47	
			4,968,880.83
Suspense Account Stores, P.W.D.		..	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		..	62,066,941.98
Loans:—			
Straits Settlements 6% Loan 1916		1,300.00	
Straits Settlements 5½% Conversion Loan 1919-1929		3,100.00	
S. S. and F. M. S. Victory Loan 5% 1920—1934		50.00	
			4,450.00
Surplus:—		..	70,953,630.64
TOTAL			146,463,373.20

The Surplus on 31st December, 1934, amounted to $70,953,630.64 of which approximately $50.2 millions were liquid. Against this, commitments on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other Administrations amounted to $7,856,571 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounting to $10,931,252.60. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1935 amounting to $2,722,116 and further commitments [illegible]

LIABILITIES

1934 were as follows:—

	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Assets			
Cash:—			
Cash in Treasuries	4,970,891.76		
Cash in Banks	7,309,760.49		
Cash with Crown Agents	15,767.10		
		12,296,419.35	
Cash held in Kuala Lumpur		51,400.00	
Cash in Transit		24,355.37	
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents) ..		4,740,000.01	
Fixed deposits (Colony)		4,392,000.00	
Fixed deposits (Accountant-General) ..		670,635.28	
			22,174,810.01
Suspense Account Other items		..	2,302,362.27
Suspense Interest Currency Commissioners ..		..	90.68
Suspense Stores Account, P. W. D.		..	105,275.32
Investments (Surplus Funds):—			
Sterling Securities		34,489,202.79	
Dollar and Rupee Securities		231,591.71	
			34,720,794.50
Investments (Specific Funds):—			
Accountant-General (Court)		967,696.38	
Accountant-General (Other)		1,393,100.60	
Bankruptcy		874,060.64	
Mercantile Marine Fund		710,201.47	
Savings Certificates Fund		225,600.00	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		73,042.50	
Miscellaneous		108,460.08	
			4,352,161.07
Investments Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		..	62,066,941.98
Advances		..	
Boards,			
Education		13,004.00	
Hospital		1,593.64	
Rural		45.64	
Building Loans		743,074.03	
Other Governments		70,935.48	
Postal Stores		300,000.00	
Sinking Fund Singapore Harbour Board ..		1,226,530.51	
Miscellaneous		301,217.79	
			2,656,401.09
Imprests			850.50
Drafts and Remittances			
Loans:—			
Municipality, Singapore	373,403.55		
Municipality, Penang	505,000.00		
Municipality, Malacca	312,791.88		
		1,191,195.13	
Kelantan Government		5,237,683.98	
Trengganu Government		4,060,000.00	
Singapore Harbour Board		4,746,869.61	
Penang Harbour Board		2,683,561.10	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		53,250.00	
Singapore Cricket Club		..	
Stadium Association		5,000.00	
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ..		106,125.66	18,083,685.78
TOTAL ..		..	146,463,373.20

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½% Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted on the 31st December 1934, to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.—The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board ..	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ..	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ..	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ..	320,137
	55,869,097
Loan Expenses and cost of conversion (1907) less interest received ..	3,388,205
	59,257,302

Charges on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan amounted to $2,079,907 in 1934. This sum was debited to the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been allotted. The value of the Investments of the Sinking Fund on the 31st December 1934 was $20,161,364.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provision of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounts to $80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of it is in the hands of the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest, connected charges and contributions to the Sinking Fund for its extinction.

The Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States 5% Victory Loan 1920 amounting to $15,074,300 was redeemed on 1st September, 1934.

(v).—Taxation

Tax revenue accrues mainly from duties on liquor, tobacco and petroleum, and from profits on the opium monopoly, which is entirely controlled by the Government. Other Sources consist of Stamp Duties, Estate (Death) Duties and Pawnbrokers' Licences.

The total revenue under the main head of "Duties, Taxes and Licences" for the year 1934 was $21,566,219.13 and represents the greater portion of the Colony's income. The yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$
Liquor Duties	3,118,963 02
Opium Revenue	8,723,427 76
Pawnbrokers Licenses ..	487,188 00
Petroleum Revenue	2,948,401 14
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services)	933,444 08
Estate (Death) Duties ..	644,180 13
Tobacco Duties	3,986,198 64

The only fiscal measure approximating to a customs tariff is the imposition of duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony.

Excise revenue consists mainly of the proceeds of the Opium Monopoly and of the duties on locally manufactured intoxicants, *i.e.* samsu and beer. These duties are seven-tenths of the rates prescribed for imported liquors of similar brand.

Stamp duties and Estate (Death) Duties form an important source of Revenue. Estate Duties, revised with effect from 1st January 1932, are based on a graduated scale from a minimum of 1% on estates with a principal value of over $1,000 — to 20% on estates with a principal value of over $10,000,000.

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents which require stamping under the Stamp Ordinance, 1929. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only ..	25 cents.
Bill of Exchange including Promissory Note ..	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof.
Cheque	4 cents.
Conveyance	$1.50 for every $250 or part thereof.
Mortgage	$1 for every $500 or part thereof.
Receipt	4 cents.

A Betting Tax was introduced with effect from the 1st January, 1932, and the amounts collected during 1934 were $270,843 in Singapore and $100,424.60 in Penang.

CHAPTER XVI

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of many of the other settlers, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet, but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigrant Chinese population is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be:—

Hokkien, 43.2%; Cantonese, 21.4%; Tiu Chiu, 17.4%; Hakka (Kheh), 7.9%; Hailam, 5.4%; Hok Chhia, 1.5%; Hok Chiu, 1.3%; and other dialects, 1.9%.

Of the Southern Indians who form over nine-tenths of the total Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam. The vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Malayalis are about four times as numerous as the Telugus.

The remaining Indian population consists of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani, with a few hundreds from Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

B.—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants was issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. 11 of 1886, now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands), provided for a statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and of which the form was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued in the past, but the policy now is to restrict the issue of such Grants, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99-years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the

documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is now alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99-years, but there are a few leases of 999-years and a few Statutory Grants.

Alienated land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99-year leases from the Crown in the case of estates, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 127 (Labuan) and is alienated ordinarily by public auction.

The titles existing are leases of 999-years or less, but since 1919 leases for 30-years only have been granted.

Throughout the Colony alienation of the foreshore is governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

C.—CO-OPERATION

The organisation of thrift on a co-operative basis has progressed steadily during the year, the total savings in Co-operative Societies in the Straits Settlements having increased by more than one quarter of a million dollars since the end of 1933.

This increase is largely attributable to the growth of savings amongst salary earners, though Indian labourers added nearly $50,000 to their previous total.

The year was full of difficulty for agriculturists and the membership of Rural Credit Societies decreased during the year. The price of padi remained low, while coconuts brought in a very meagre income to those dependent on them for a livelihood. Conditions improved somewhat amongst those who owned mature rubber, but this improvement is not yet reflected in the statistics of societies.

As a result of continuous propaganda, there has been more talk than ever before in rural areas about Co-operation, but any action that entailed the subscription of cash was postponed till conditions improved. Several groups have tried to establish Co-operative shops, but few of them are likely to last long. The experience, however, may be valuable.

The salary earners' societies amongst Government servants were busily occupied during the year in implementing the Government policy with regard to the indebtedness of Government servants.

Societies again experienced difficulty in investing their surplus funds in local trustee securities which were in short supply.

Singapore.—In Singapore there were 22 societies amongst salary earners as compared with 17 societies at the end of 1933. The Subscription Capital increased from $646,700 to $741,600 and the

membership from 5,774 to 6,373. The investment in gilt-edged securities of these societies increased by $83,300 from $485,500 to $568,800.

Societies for Indian labourers increased by 4 from 5 to 9 with a membership of 1,771 and a Subscription Capital of $54,900 as compared with 1,638 and $29,200 at the end of 1933. These societies had $55,700 invested in gilt-edged securities and on deposit in the bank.

Malacca.—In Malacca no new soceities were formed for salary earners. The 4 existing societies, however, increased their membership from 1,115 to 1,508, and their Subscription Capital from $162,600 to $188,800. Investments and cash in banks amounted to $137,400.

By the end of the year there was a further decrease in the membership of the 8 Rural Credit Societies from 302 to 294, and in the amount of Subscription Capital from $8,100 to $7,586. The holdings of these societies in cash and deposits with the Post Office Savings Bank amounted to $4,906.

There was a steady demand throughout the year for societies amongst Indian labourers and the number of these societies increased from 10 to 16. Their membership increased from 1,708 to 3,395, with a Subscription Capital of $34,247, as compared with $13,109 at the end of 1933.

Penang and Province Wellesley.—In Penang and Province Wellesley one additional society was registered for members of the Government Medical Department, thus increasing the total number of societies for salary earners to 8. These societies had a membership of 3,670 and a Subscription Capital of $371,200 compared with 3,081 and $284,400 at the end of 1933. Their investments in gilt-edged securities and bank deposits amounted to $264,900, an increase of $70,000 over the previous year.

With the liquidation of the Pekan Kongsi Balik Pulau Society the number of Rural Credit Societies dropped from 6 to 5, whilst the membership and Subscription Capital also decreased from 128 and $4,693 to 114 and 3,517. The cash deposits of these societies amounted to $2,869 compared with $3,254 at the end of 1933.

One new society was registered for Indian labourers, bringing the total to 13 with a membership of 1,740 and a Subscription Capital of $29,816 compared with 1,586 and $27,747. The investments of these societies in gilt-edged securities amounted to $30,462, whilst they had cash in hand and at the bank amounting to $1,553.

D.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief proceeded to England on leave on the 17th February, 1934, but ill-health led to his subsequent resignation with effect from the 18th October. Mr. ANDREW CALDECOTT, C.M.G., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, administered the Government until the arrival of Sir SHENTON THOMAS, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., who assumed the administration of the Colony in succession to Sir CECIL CLEMENTI on the 9th November. Mr. G. L. HAM acted as Colonial Secretary.

Major-General L. C. L. OLDFIELD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, relinquished his Command on the 2nd February and was succeeded by Major-General E. O. LEWIN, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Captain M. R. J. MAXWELL-SCOTT, D.S.O., R.N., was succeeded by Commodore W. P. MARK-WARDLAW, D.S.O., R.N., as Commodore-in-Charge of His Majesty's Naval Establishments on the 1st September. Group Captain SYDNEY W. SMITH, O.B.E., Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Far East, remained at his post throughout the year.

Visitors to the Colony included the Commanders-in-Chief of the China and East Indies Squadrons in January; the Right Honourable J. G. LATHAM, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, in April; Sir JOSIAH CROSBY in July; the Right Honourable Sir PHILIP SASSOON in October; the Duke of SAXE-COBURG and GOTHA and Lord and Lady BADEN-POWELL in November.

A Squadron from the Netherlands Indies consisting of the Cruiser "Java" and Destroyers "Witte de With" and "Van Galen", under the command of Commodore SCALONGNE, visited Singapore from the 8th to the 13th of March.

A Training Squadron of the Imperial Japanese Navy, under the command of Vice-Admiral HAJIME MATSUSHITA, visited Singapore from the 9th to the 12th of March.

The New Year Honours List contained the following name:—

Lieutenant ALEXANDER JOHN MINJOOT, M.B.E., (Military Division).

The Birthday Honours List contained the following names:—

Major-General LEOPOLD CHARLES LOUIS OLDFIELD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., late General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, K.B.E.

Mr. ARNOLD PERCY ROBINSON, Knight Bachelor.

Lieutenant-Colonel GEORGE CHRISTIAN MEREDITH, M.C., O.B.E., (Military Division).

Company Sergeant-Major THOMAS AUGUSTINE CUSACK, M.B.E., (Military Division).

A. CALDECOTT,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, 9*th July*, 1935.

APPENDIX "A"

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Dominions Office and Colonial Office List	35/-	Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London.
Blue Book (Straits Settlements)	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Annual Departmental Reports (Straits Settlements) ..	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Census Report, British Malaya, 1931	$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies; and The Malayan Information Agency, London
Malayan Statistics, 1934 (C. S. Alexander)	$1	Malayan Information Agency, London
Report by the Rt. Hon'ble W. G. A Ormsby Gore on his visit to Malaya, Ceylon and Java, 1928 ..	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 28th February, 1931 (R. Boulter)	2/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50*cts.*	Dept. of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S., Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ..	Various prices	Forest Department, F.M.S. and The Malayan Information Agency, London
The Geology of Malaya, 1931 (J. B. Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, 1925, 5 vols. (H. N. Ridley) ..	£11-11-0	L. Reeve & Co., London
The Birds of Singapore Island, 1927. (Sir John A. S. Bucknill and F. N. Chasen) ..	$5	Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Singapore
Malayan Fishes, 1921 ..	$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, and Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Oxford Survey of the British Empire, 1924. Vol. 2 (Editors: A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth)	15/-	Oxford University Press, London
One Hundred Years of Singapore, 1921, 2 Vols. (General Editors: W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke, and R. St. J. Braddell), ..	out of print	John Murray, London
One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore, 1923. (Song Ong Siang)	30/-	John Murray, London
Handbook to British Malaya, 1930 (Ed. by R. L. German) ..	5/-	J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London
Historical Geography of British Dominions, Vol. 1. (C. P. Lucas)	not sold separately	Oxford University Press, London

APPENDIX "A"—*continued*

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—*continued*

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
British Malaya, 1824-1867. 1925. (L. A. Mills)	$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London
British Malaya, 1929. (Sir F. A. Swettenham)	12/6	J. Lane, London
Papers on Malay Subjects. (Incidents of Malay life, Law, etc. Ed. by R. J. Wilkinson) ..	$1 each	Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Singapore, S. S.
Malaya. The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, 1923. (Ed. by R.O. Winstedt)	12/6	Constable & Co., Ltd. London
Report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya—(Volumes I-III)	$12	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to Malaya, 1932	50 *cts.*	H. M. Stationery Office, London
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony. 1933-1934, Vol. I	$5	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony. 1933-1934, Vol. IV. (Appendices)	$10	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.

APPENDIX "B"

TABLE I

EXCESS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, DURING THE YEAR 1934

RACE	BY SEA							BY AIR		BY RAIL		BY ROAD		TOTAL
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
Europeans ...	899	884	14	21	− 26	10	− 2	− 19	− 1	−268	22	0	65	1,599
Eurasians ...	169	56	...	10	− 3	...	...	...	...	28	− 3	0	6	263
Japanese ...	289	74	..	11	...	...	...	2	...	3	25	− 1	20	423
Chinese ...	56,920	3,577	1	314	− 1,793	...	− 11	− 7	...	657	140	689	1,152	61,639
Malays ...	3,912	426	...	− 52	− 15	9	0	− 1	...	288	− 1,729	38	549	3,425
Northern Indians ...	3,460	2,899	2	7	422	...	− 7	− 3	...	248	− 19	0	123	7,132
Southern Indians ...	4,673	22,858	...	15	39,010	...	− 1	− 2	...	− 16	35	48	46	66,666
Others ...	399	− 34	...	21	21	...	..	1	...	14	181	−79	418	942
TOTAL ...	70,721	30,740	17	347	37,616	19	− 21	− 29	− 1	954	− 1,348	695	2,379	142,089

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1933 AND FOR THE YEAR, 1934 ARE :—

	By Sea							By Air		By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
1933	– 25,151	– 5,586	– 17	249	– 7,305	0	– 6	3		611	– 1,947	43	657	– 38,449
1934:—														
January ...	456	– 853	...	49	– 513	...	– 2	4	...	367	26	32	1,121	687
February ...	615	1,207	– 1	– 23	– 366	...	– 1	– 19	...	20	17	88	– 3	1,534
March ...	– 246	– 268	12	– 43	– 560	...	1	– 5	...	– 285	262	44	– 98	– 1,186
April ...	4,131	584	1	– 16	– 404	...	– 4	1	...	119	275	3	– 13	4,677
May ...	3,904	2,389	1	101	– 37	9	...	7	...	165	966	– 79	140	7,566
June ...	5,889	1,735	...	– 35	1,181	...	– 8	3	...	– 45	– 300	23	103	8,546
July ...	7,664	3,051	...	83	6,267	10	2	2	...	157	– 635	44	160	16,805
August ...	7,293	2,783	1	– 42	4,692	...	– 2	– 2	...	– 85	– 771	20	145	14,032
September ...	9,576	4,264	1	36	4,198	...	...	– 5	...	173	208	0	134	18,585
October ...	11,106	3,939	1	66	4,533	...	– 1	– 7	...	32	168	9	167	20,013
November ...	7,489	5,751	0	44	8,623	...	– 6	1	– 1	227	– 1,711	234	210	20,861
December ...	12,844	6,158	1	127	10,002	...	...	– 9	...	109	147	277	313	29,969
Total ...	70,721	30,740	17	347	37,616	19	– 21	– 29	– 1	954	– 1,348	695	2,379	142,089

TABLE III

Arrivals and Departures of Passengers by Sea, Land and Air, by Countries of Origin and Destination, during the Year 1934

ARRIVALS FROM

Race	BY SEA														
	Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1)		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans (4) ...	3,891	1,993	421	369	6,674	1,196	677	41	43	1,957	1,021	559	65	58	1,703
Eurasians ...	371	232	5	8	616	65	5	4	3	77	32	47	5	8	92
Japanese ...	716	102	57	38	913	101	31	1	7	140	80	13	5	7	105
Chinese ...	47,344	7,383	3,695	2,345	60,767	56,765	35,063	13,884	7,801	113,513	511	137	67	46	761
Malays (5) ...	20,919	6,979	3,386	2,161	33,445	135	32	7	5	179	115	9	2	1	127
Northern Indians ...	2,518	169	120	76	2,883	264	7	4	...	275	12,082	1,484	652	460	14,678
Southern Indians (6)	1,799	118	79	49	2,045	49	2	1	1	53	62,585	15,652	10,142	7,967	96,346
Others ...	683	77	82	38	880	70	11	5	3	89	404	102	35	32	573
Total ...	78,241	17,053	7,845	5,084	108,223	58,645	35,828	13,947	7,863	116,283	76,830	18,003	10,973	8,579	114,385

Race	BY SEA														
	Siam					Other Countries					Total				
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans ...	423	161	25	24	633	6,275	3,881	574	515	11,245	12,806	7,271	1,126	1,009	22,212
Eurasians ...	16	10	15	10	51	74	28	18	15	135	558	322	47	44	971
Japanese ...	25	...	...	1	26	940	293	68	63	1,364	1,862	439	131	116	2,548
Chinese ...	2,326	361	206	123	3,016	6,249	1,387	529	369	8,534	113,195	44,331	18,381	10,684	186,591
Malays ...	107	23	11	9	150	1,952	745	288	204	3,189	23,228	7,788	3,694	2,380	37,090
Northern Indians ...	334	7	8	3	352	835	121	57	44	1,057	16,033	1,788	841	583	19,245
Southern Indians ...	116	4	1	1	122	768	124	54	50	996	65,317	15,900	10,277	8,068	99,562
Others ...	261	179	35	47	522	849	97	66	14	1,026	2,267	466	223	134	3,090
Total ...	3,608	745	301	218	4,872	17,942	6,676	1,654	1,274	27,546	235,266	78,305	34,720	23,018	371,309

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1934

ARRIVALS FROM

RACE	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	318	54	3	4	379	1,260	409	34	20	1,723	14,384	7,734	1,163	1,033	24,314
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	80	19	6	2	107	638	341	53	46	1,078
Japanese ...	16	...	...	...	16	147	6	...	10	163	2,025	445	131	126	2,727
Chinese ...	16	1	...	...	17	26,052	8,297	1,657	1,278	37,284	139,263	52,629	20,038	11,962	223,892
Malays ...	...	...	...	...	...	31,020	18,376	2,419	1,843	53,658	54,248	26,164	6,113	4,223	90,748
Northern Indians ...	3	...	...	...	3	2,796	112	67	64	3,039	18,832	1,900	908	647	22,287
Southern Indians ...	2	...	...	...	2	2,621	62	27	18	2,728	67,940	15,962	10,304	8,086	102,292
Others ...	1	...	...	...	1	12,908	8,713	1,537	1,166	24,324	15,176	9,179	1,760	1,300	27,415
TOTAL ...	356	55	3	4	418	76,884	35,994	5,747	4,401	123,026	312,506	114,354	40,470	27,423	494,753

DEPARTURES TO

RACE	BY SEA														
	NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children C.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	3,625	1,714	301	289	5,929	1,097	637	70	53	1,857	1,023	707	60	47	1,837
Eurasians ...	296	223	4	8	531	10	5	4	...	19	25	43	2	2	72
Japanese ...	429	52	22	17	520	44	8	2	7	61	98	15	5	4	122
Chinese ...	39,327	4,383	1,762	1,023	46,495	47,123	12,532	6,087	5,408	71,150	725	191	81	46	1,043
Malays (5) ...	21,048	4,855	1,876	1,398	29,177	45	5	...	...	50	92	6	7	3	108
Northern Indians ...	1,996	158	59	29	2,242	204	10	7	4	225	7,357	860	540	308	9,065
Southern Indians (6)	1,078	56	24	10	1,168	78	8	4	...	90	23,246	5,487	1,462	973	31,168
Others ...	657	63	28	7	755	22	5	...	...	27	311	90	35	13	449
TOTAL ...	68,456	11,504	4,076	2,781	86,817	48,623	13,210	6,174	5,472	73,479	32,877	7,399	2,192	1,396	43,864

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1934

DEPARTURES TO

RACE	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	431	152	18	11	612	5,292	3,520	732	633	10,177	11,468	6,730	1,181	1,033	20,412
Eurasians ...	15	5	3	3	26	52	22	8	9	91	398	298	21	22	739
Japanese ...	68	8	3	3	82	878	286	112	113	1,389	1,517	369	144	144	2,174
Chinese ...	1,215	243	111	50	1,619	4,923	1,516	496	341	7,276	93,313	18,865	8,537	6,868	127,583
Malays (5) ...	109	11	5	1	126	2,029	815	308	197	3,349	23,323	5,692	2,196	1,599	32,810
Northern Indians ...	353	18	13	6	390	445	51	31	13	540	10,355	1,097	650	360	12,462
Southern Indians (6)	113	7	2	1	123	402	29	18	9	458	24,917	5,587	1,510	993	33,007
Others ...	393	215	63	54	725	538	80	86	23	727	1,921	453	212	97	2,683
TOTAL ...	2,697	659	218	129	3,703	14,559	6,319	1,791	1,338	24,007	167,212	39,091	14,451	11,116	231,870

RACE	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	341	56	1	1	399	1,377	488	18	21	1,904	13,186	7,274	1,200	1,055	22,715
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	56	7	7	6	76	454	305	28	28	815
Japanese ...	13	...	...	1	14	110	6	...	...	116	1,640	375	144	145	2,304
Chinese ...	20	4	...	...	24	23,786	8,221	1,444	1,195	34,646	117,119	27,090	9,981	8,063	162,253
Malays ...	1	...	...	...	1	31,005	18,893	2,670	1,944	54,512	54,329	24,585	4,866	3,543	87,323
Northern Indians ...	6	...	...	...	6	2,537	84	30	36	2,687	12,898	1,181	680	396	15,155
Southern Indians ...	3	1	...	...	4	2,504	67	23	21	2,615	27,424	5,655	1,533	1,014	35,626
Others ...	...	...	...	...	...	12,585	8,428	1,583	1,194	23,790	14,506	8,881	1,795	1,291	26,473
TOTAL ...	384	61	1	2	448	73,960	36,194	5,775	4,417	120,346	241,556	75,346	20,227	15,535	352,664

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1934

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

RACE	BY SEA														
	NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1)		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans (4) ...	266	279	120	80	745	99	40	− 29	− 10	100	− 2	− 148	5	11	− 134
Eurasians	75	9	1	...	85	55	...	...	3	58	7	4	3	6	20
Japanese	287	50	35	21	393	57	23	− 1	...	79	− 18	− 2	...	3	− 17
Chinese	8,017	3,000	1,933	1,322	14,272	9,642	22,531	7,797	2,393	42,363	− 214	− 54	− 14	...	− 282
Malays (5) ...	− 129	2,124	1,510	763	4,268	90	27	7	5	129	23	3	− 5	− 2	19
Northern Indians ...	522	11	61	47	641	60	− 3	− 3	− 4	50	4,725	624	112	152	5,613
Southern Indians (6)	721	62	55	39	877	− 29	− 6	− 3	1	− 37	39,339	10,165	8,680	6,994	65,178
Others	26	14	54	31	125	48	6	5	3	62	93	12	...	19	124
TOTAL ...	9,785	5,549	3,769	2,303	21,406	10,022	22,618	7,773	2,391	42,804	43,953	10,604	8,781	7,183	70,521

RACE	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans ...	− 8	9	7	13	21	983	361	− 158	− 118	1,068	1,338	541	− 55	− 24	1,800
Eurasians	1	5	12	7	25	22	6	10	6	44	160	24	26	22	232
Japanese	− 43	− 8	− 3	− 2	− 56	62	7	− 44	− 50	− 25	345	70	− 13	− 28	374
Chinese	1,111	118	95	73	1,397	1,326	− 129	33	28	1,258	19,882	25,466	9,844	3,816	59,008
Malays	− 2	12	6	8	24	− 77	− 70	− 20	7	− 160	95	2,096	1,498	781	4,280
Northern Indians ...	− 19	− 11	− 5	− 3	− 38	390	70	26	31	517	5,678	691	191	223	6,783
Southern Indians ...	3	− 3	− 1	...	− 1	366	95	36	41	538	40,400	10,313	8,767	7,075	66,555
Others	− 132	− 36	− 28	− 7	− 203	311	17	− 20	− 9	299	346	13	11	37	407
TOTAL ...	911	86	83	89	1,169	3,383	357	− 137	− 64	3,539	68,054	39,214	20,269	11,902	139,439

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR 1934

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

RACE	BY AIR — FOREIGN COUNTRIES					BY LAND — SIAM					GRAND TOTAL (7) (8)				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans	− 23	− 2	2	3	− 20	117	− 79	16	− 1	− 181	1,198	460	− 37	− 22	1,599
Eurasians	...	...	..	...	...	24	12	− 1	− 4	31	184	36	25	18	263
Japanese	3	...	...	− 1	2	37	..	...	10	47	385	70	− 13	− 19	423
Chinese	− 4	− 3	...	...	− 7	2,266	76	213	83	2,638	22,144	25,539	10,057	3,899	61,639
Malays	− 1	...	...	...	− 1	15	− 517	− 251	− 101	− 854	− 81	1,579	1,247	680	3,425
Northern Indians ...	− 3	...	...	...	− 3	259	28	37	28	352	5,934	719	228	251	7,132
Southern Indians ...	− 1	− 1	...	...	− 2	117	− 5	4	− 3	113	40,516	10,307	8,771	7,072	66,666
Others	1	...	...	...	1	323	285	− 46	− 28	534	670	298	− 35	9	942
TOTAL ...	− 28	− 6	2	2	− 30	2,924	− 200	− 28	− 16	2,680	70,950	39,008	20,243	11,888	142,089

NOTES:—

1. Children are under 12 (English) years of age
2. China includes Hong Kong
3. India includes Burma and Ceylon
4. Europeans include Americans
5. Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago
6. Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore
7. For movements *viâ* individual ports or land-routes, *see* monthly Return Statistics 3; for movements of deck passengers (Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indians) *see* monthly Return Statistics 13
8. Net Arrivals, 1934: 142,089
   Net Arrivals, 1933: − 38,449

TABLE IV

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE, JAVANESE AND SOUTHERN INDIAN DECK PASSENGERS DURING THE YEAR, 1934

RACE	Singapore		Penang		Port Swettenham		Total		Net Arrivals during the year	Net Arrivals for the years 1933 and 1934	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures		1933	1934
1. Chinese from and to China including Hongkong (*a*) ...	100,518	58,200	8,749	8,109	...	1,820	109,267	68,129	41,138	- 58,691	41,138
2. Javanese from and to Java (*b*) ...	82	541	...	...	...	...	82	541	- 459	- 37	- 459
3. Southern Indians from & to Presidency of Madras (*c*)	12,569	7,955	33,992	13,008	43,061	6,814	89,622	27,777	61,845	- 12,265	61,845
TOTAL ...	113,169	66,696	42,741	21,117	43,061	8,634	198,971	96,447	102,524	- 70,393	102,524

(*a*) For Chinese: all deck passengers by all steamers

(*b*) For Javanese: all labourers recruited for Malayan estates as reported by recruiting agencies and the Labour Department at Singapore

(*c*) For Southern Indians: all deck passengers embarked and disembarked by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers between Malayan Ports and Madras, as reported by the Labour Department

TABLE V

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE DECK PASSENGERS FROM AND TO CHINA DURING THE YEAR, 1934

Port	Arrivals				Departures				Total Arrivals		Total Departures	
	Men	Women	Boys (a)	Girls (a)	Men	Women	Boys (a)	Girls (a)	1933	1934	1933	1934
Singapore	50,451	30,958	12,241	6,868	39,652	9,768	4,415	4,365	24,985	100,518	72,479	58,200
Penang	3,532	3,231	1,291	695	4,605	1,613	1,132	759	3,479	8,749	11,174	8,109
Port Swettenham ...	...	..	...	...	1,108	342	230	140	...	...	2,902	1,820
TOTAL ...	53,983	34,189	13,532	7,563	45,365	11,723	5,777	5,264	28,464	109,267	86,555	68,129

(a) Under 12 (English) years of age

APPENDIX "C"

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1934.

Nationality	Singapore						Penang					
	Merchant Vessels				Men-of-War		Merchant Vessels				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	ons	No.	Tons
British ..	4,855	10,481,791	..	..	128	543,608	2,710	7,736,575	..	..	54	137,422
American ..	92	482,318	..	..	..	..	83	472,107	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	4	860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	67	27,925	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	187	658,944	..	..	..	..	104	371,754	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	4,653	6,579,119	..	..	6	20,580	1,073	1,060,702	..	..	..	..
Finnish ...	2	7,082	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	408	1,903,368	..	..	2	5,000	..	..	..	..	2	4,000
German ..	330	1,442,554	..	..	..	..	175	790,762	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	18	60,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	2	5,444	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	152	875,678	..	..	8	14,560	34	178,716	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	1,184	4,917,280	..	..	6	48,960	286	1,284,144	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	1,112	1,770,037	..	..	..	..	258	383,928	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	8	42,268	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	16	12,602	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	148	80,367	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	329	177,315	..	..	2	2,000	..	..	..	..	6	1,738
Spanish ...	...	...	..	..	2	7,200	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ...	76	293,628	..	..	..	..	24	89,936	..	..	..	..
Total ..	13,643	29,819,280	30,742	1,246,631	154	641,908	4,747	12,368,624	11,988	539,945	62	143,160
± 1933 ..	+787	+ 1,380,669	+2,161	+77,589	+82	+276,278	+82	- 300,453	- 195	+8,960	+32	+115,000

APPENDIX "C"—*continued*

Nationality, number and tonnage of vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1934.

Nationality	MALACCA						LABUAN					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	852	853,248	..	..	..	..	280	234,862	..	..	12	17,710
American ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	430	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	212	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	62	227,676	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	24	36,348	..	..	..	..	6	2,042	..	..	..	..
Finnish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	50	208,512	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	84	68,114	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	692	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	24	16,056	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spanish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1,096	1,409,954	5,256	120,641	..	..	294	238,238	2,986	27,683	12	17,710
± 1933 ..	−39	−159,916	+328	+22,214	..	..	+20	+3,122	+210	−1,507	−4	−2,104

NOTE:—To the above figures must be added:—

(*a*) Dindings: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1934 was 65,537 tons—an increase of 2,303 tons, and

(*b*) Christmas Island: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1934 was 125,634 tons—an increase of 26,526 tons.

The total tonnage of vessels arrived and departed at the Straits Settlements ports during the year 1934 was 46,764,945 tons or an increase of 1,448,345 tons as compared with the year, 1933. This comprised (*a*) merchant vessels 45,959,587 tons of which

(i) over 75 tons ... ... 44,006,480 tons

(ii) 75 tons and under and native craft ... 1,953,107 tons

(*b*) warships ... ... 805,358 tons

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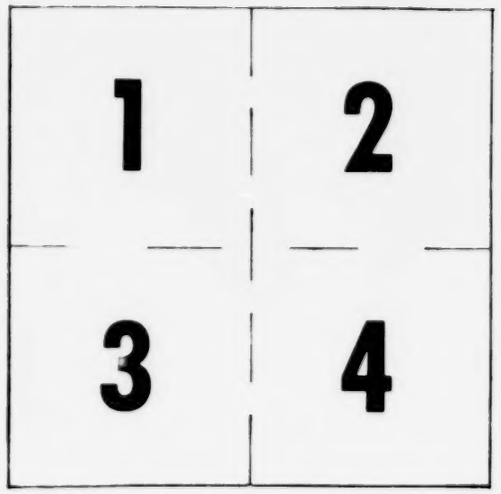

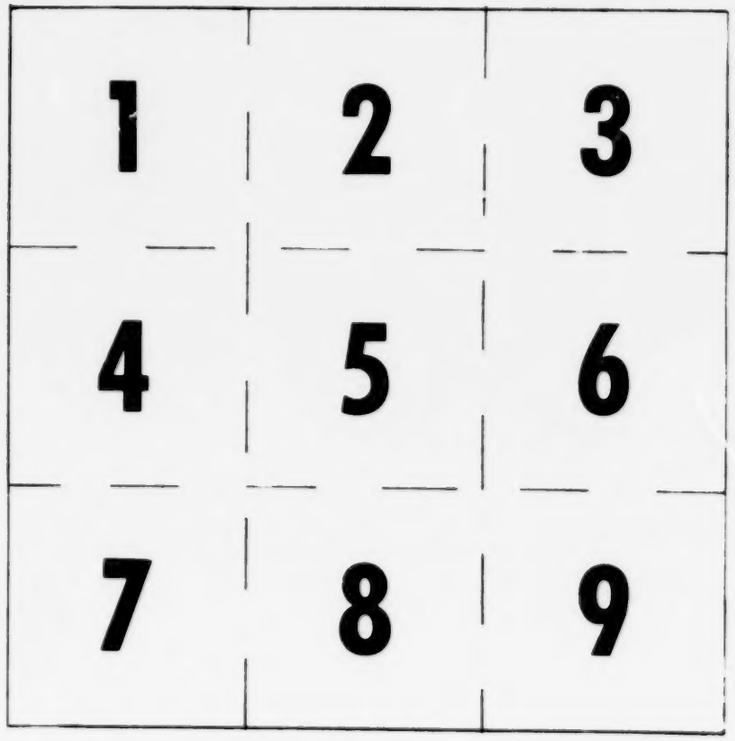

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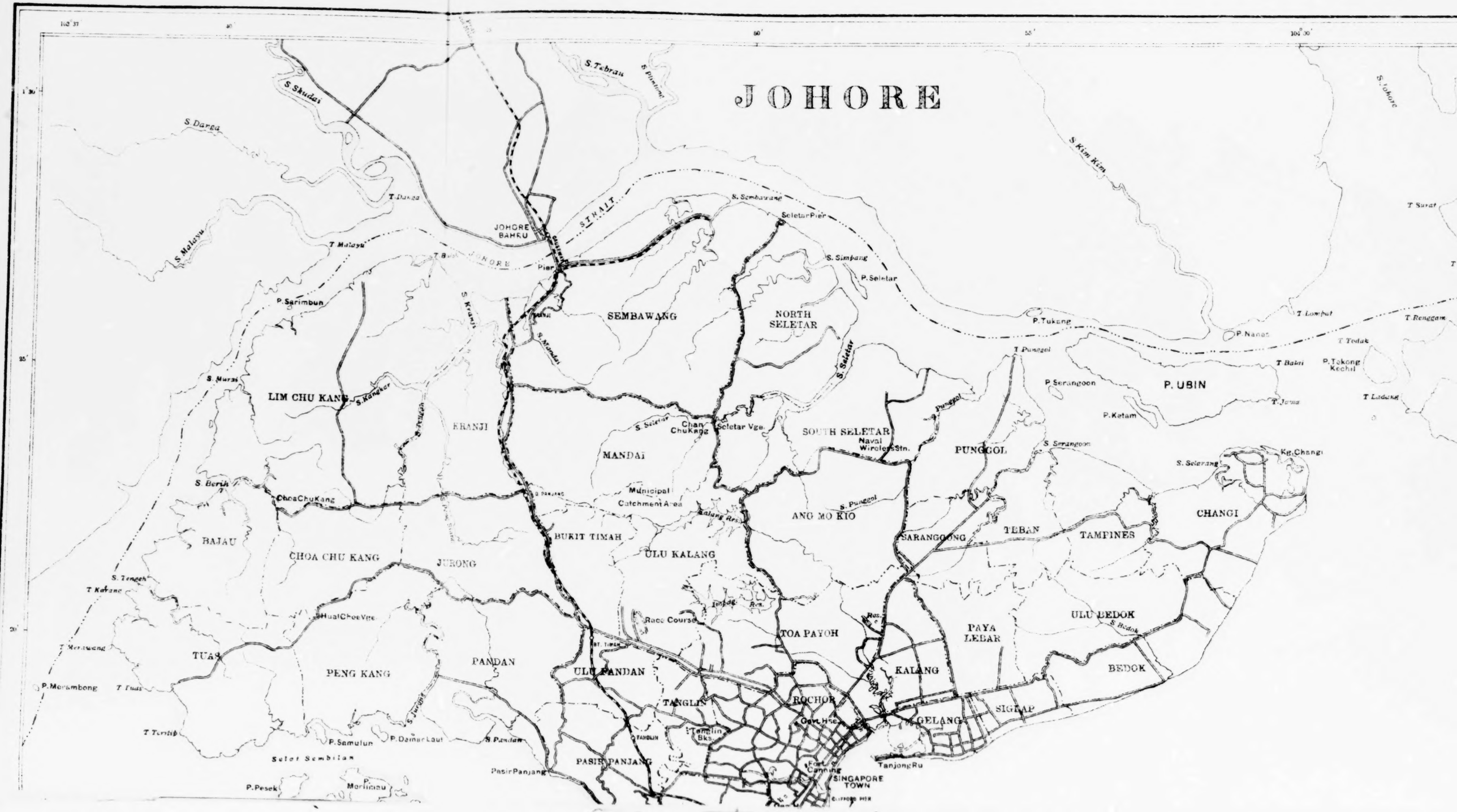
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S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
JOHORE BAHRU
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P. Sarimbun
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
P. Tukang
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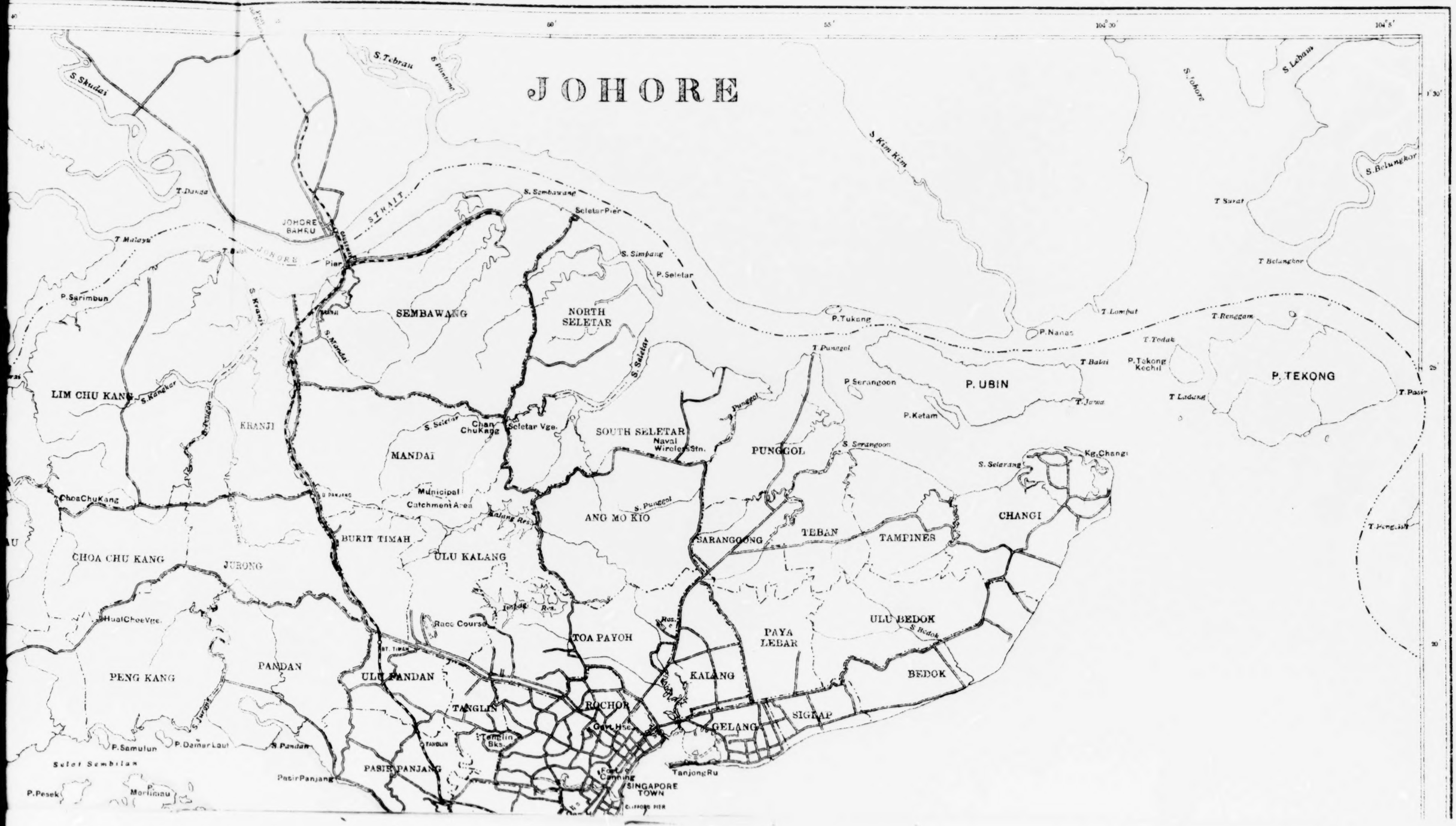
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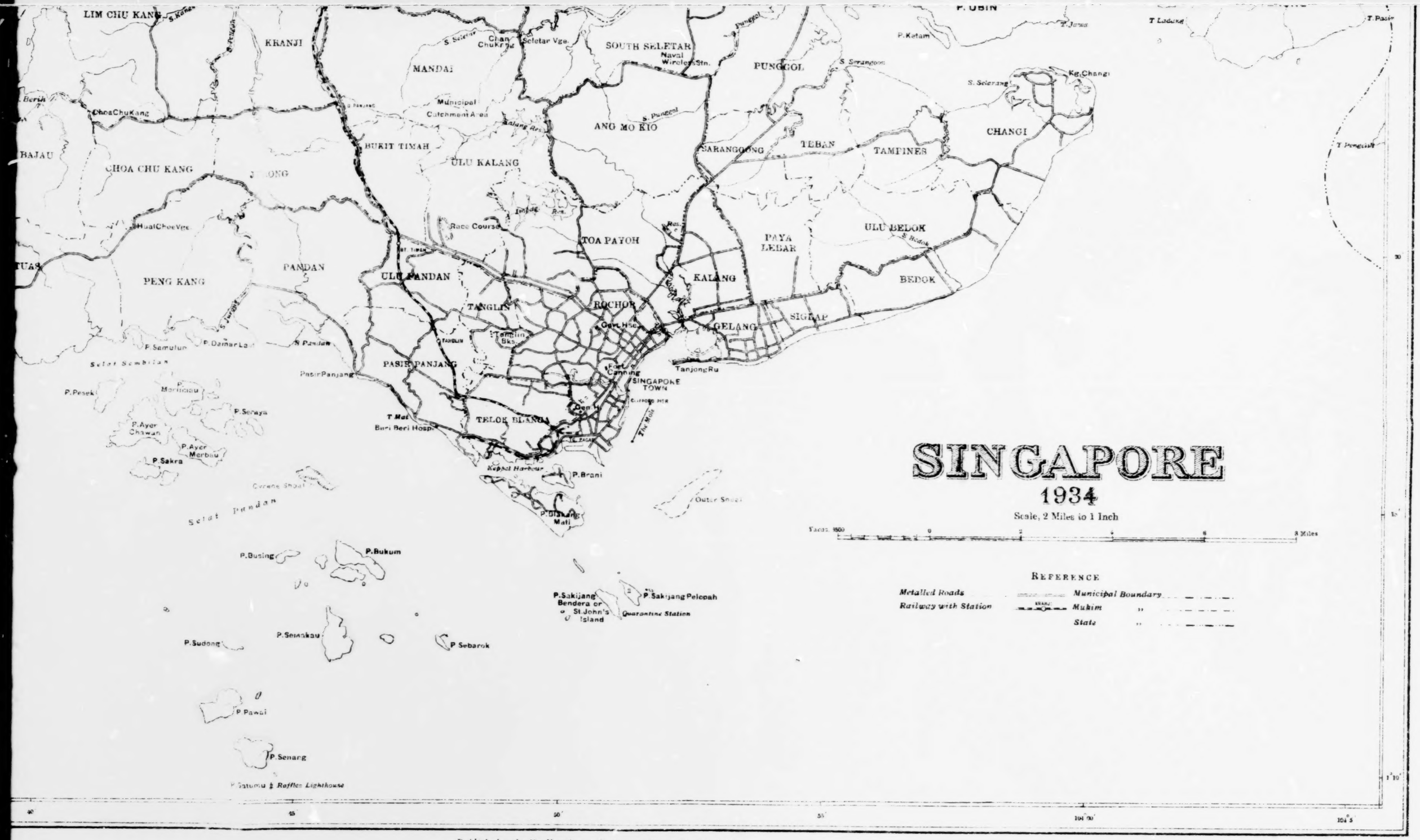

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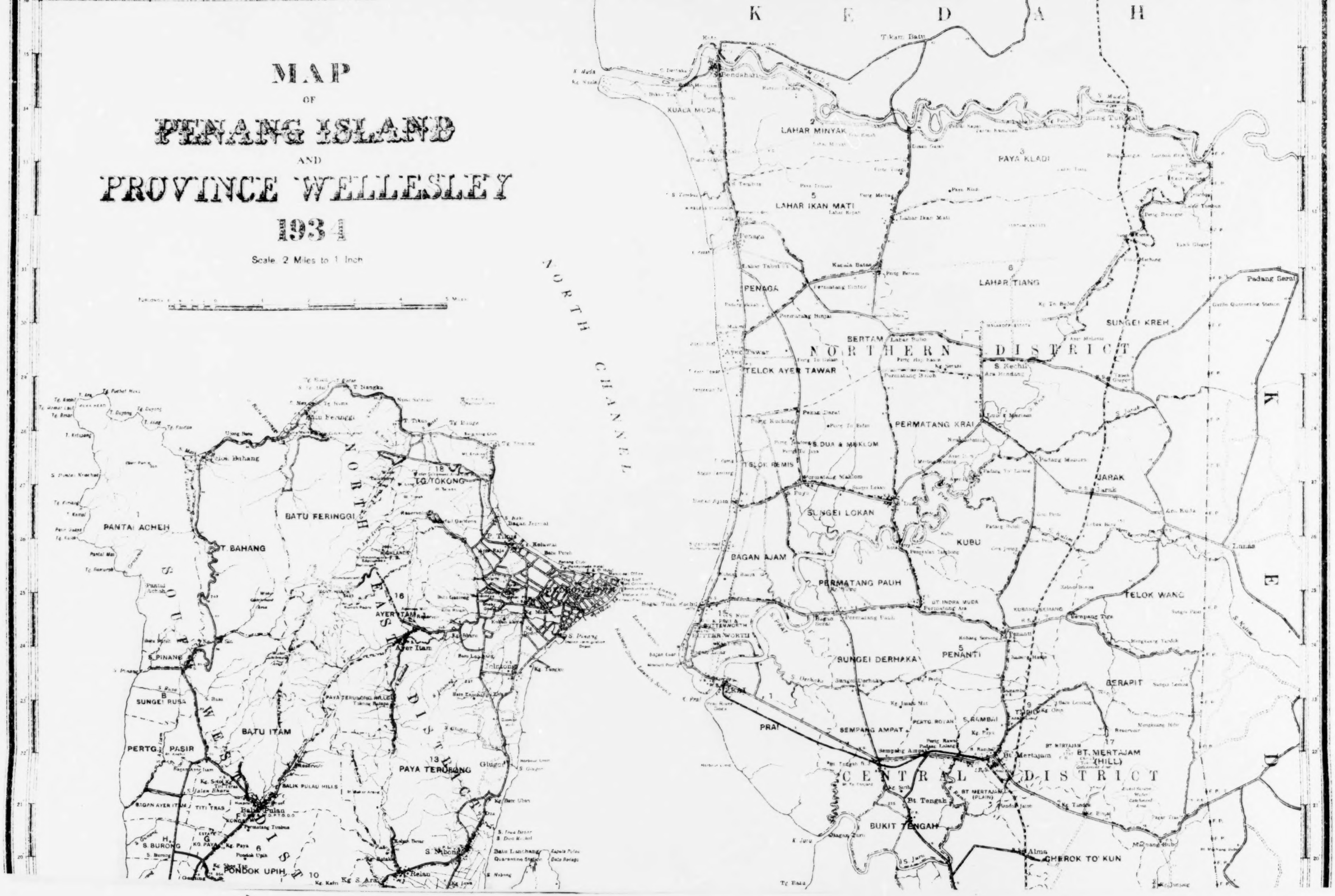
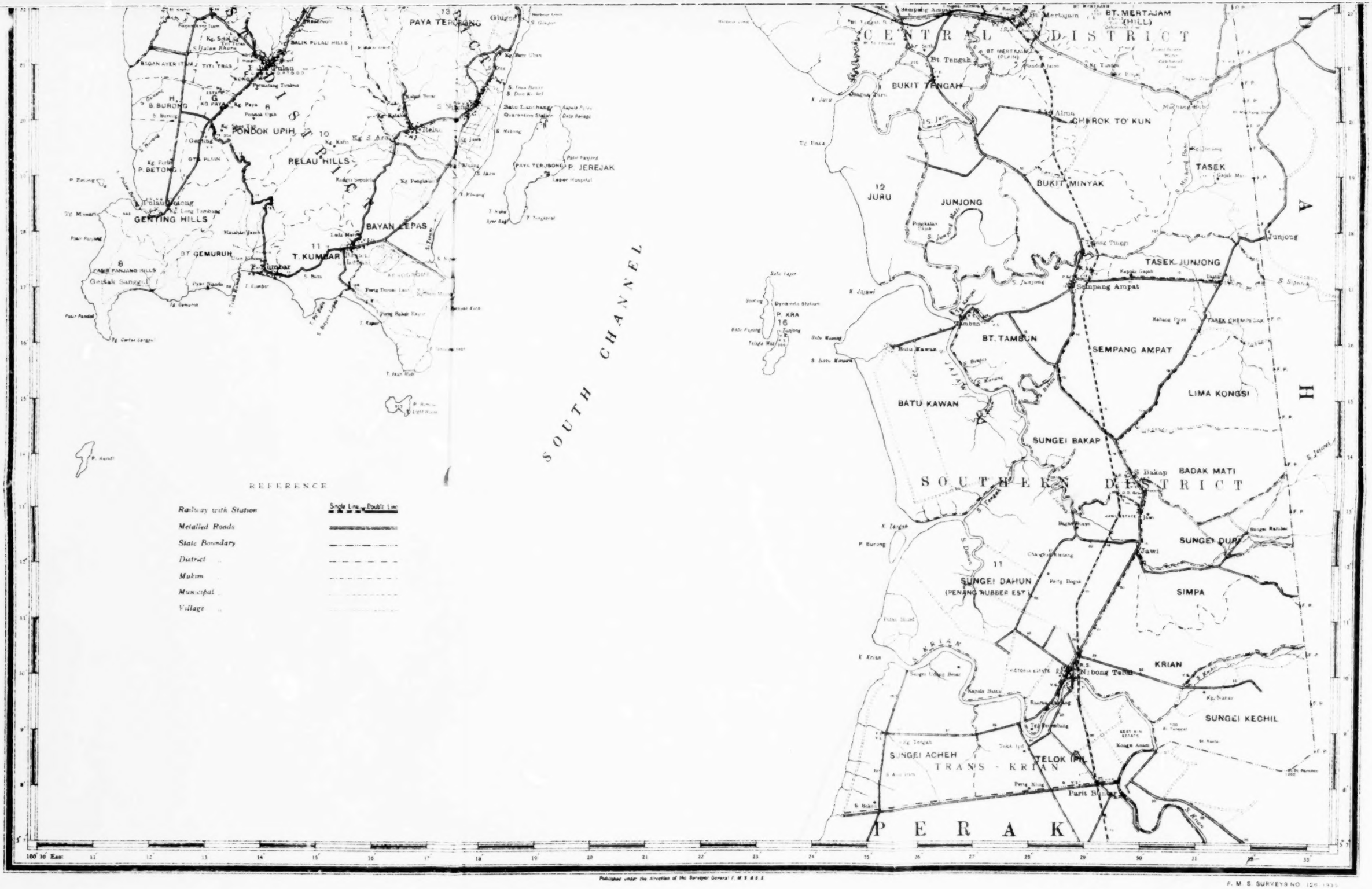
MAP
OF
PENANG ISLAND
AND
PROVINCE WELLESLEY
1934

Scale 2 Miles to 1 Inch





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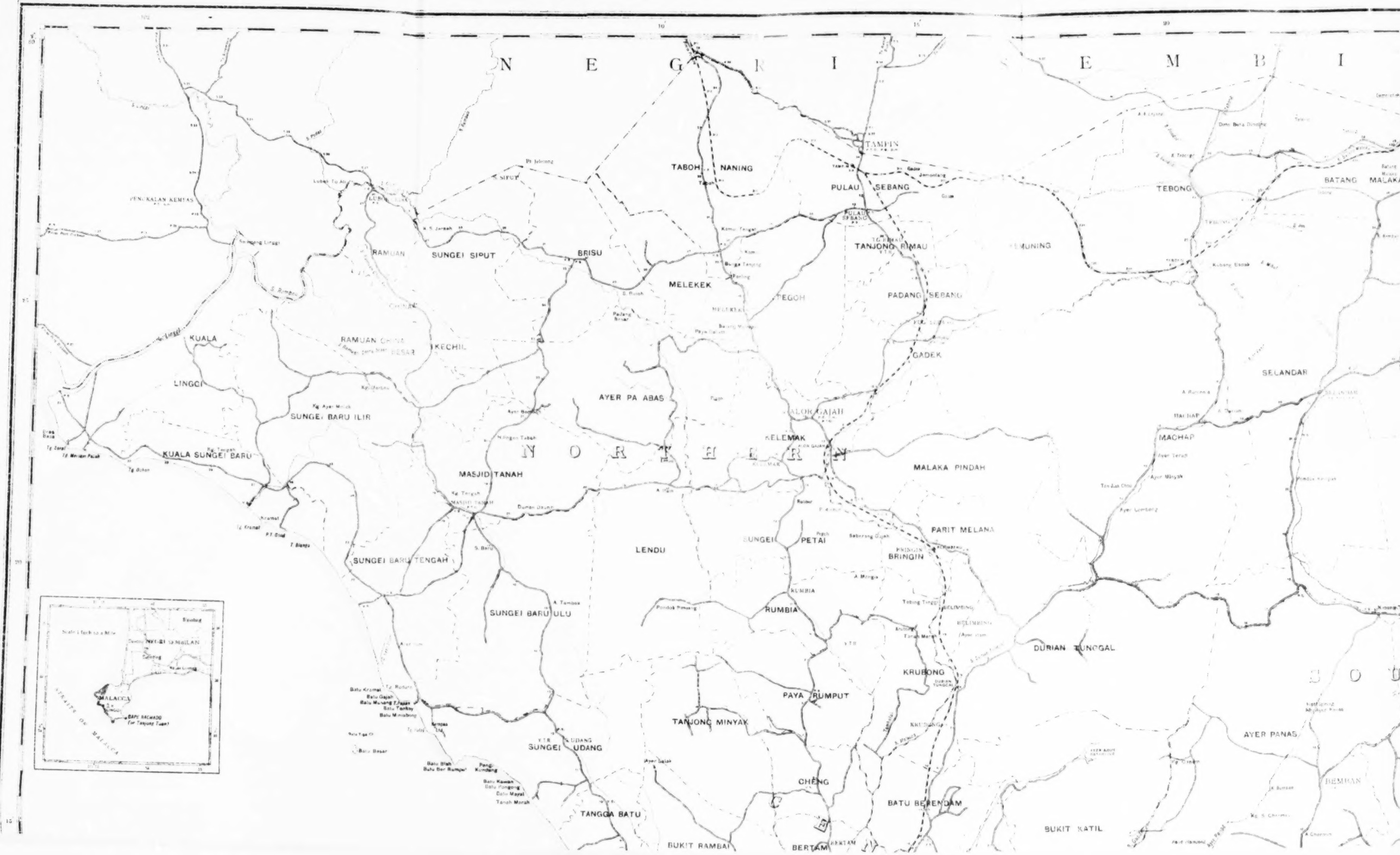

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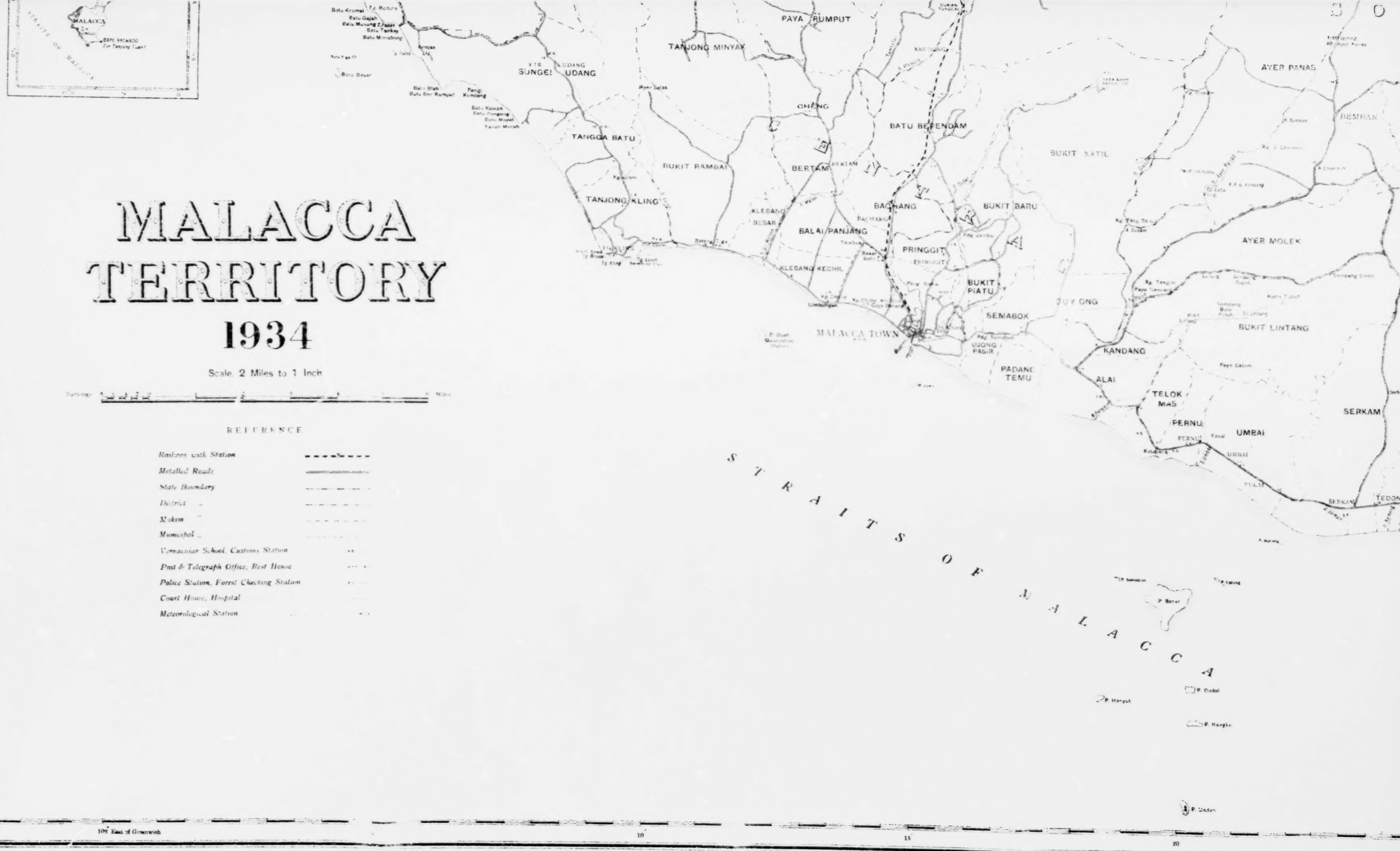
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN
JASIN
CHINCHIN
TANGKAK

MALACCA TERRITORY 1934

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

REFERENCE

- *Railway with Station*
- *Metalled Roads*
- *State Boundary*
- *District* "
- *Mukim* "
- *Municipal* "
- *Vernacular School, Customs Station*
- *Post & Telegraph Office, Rest House*
- *Police Station, Forest Checking Station*
- *Court House, Hospital*
- *Meteorological Station*



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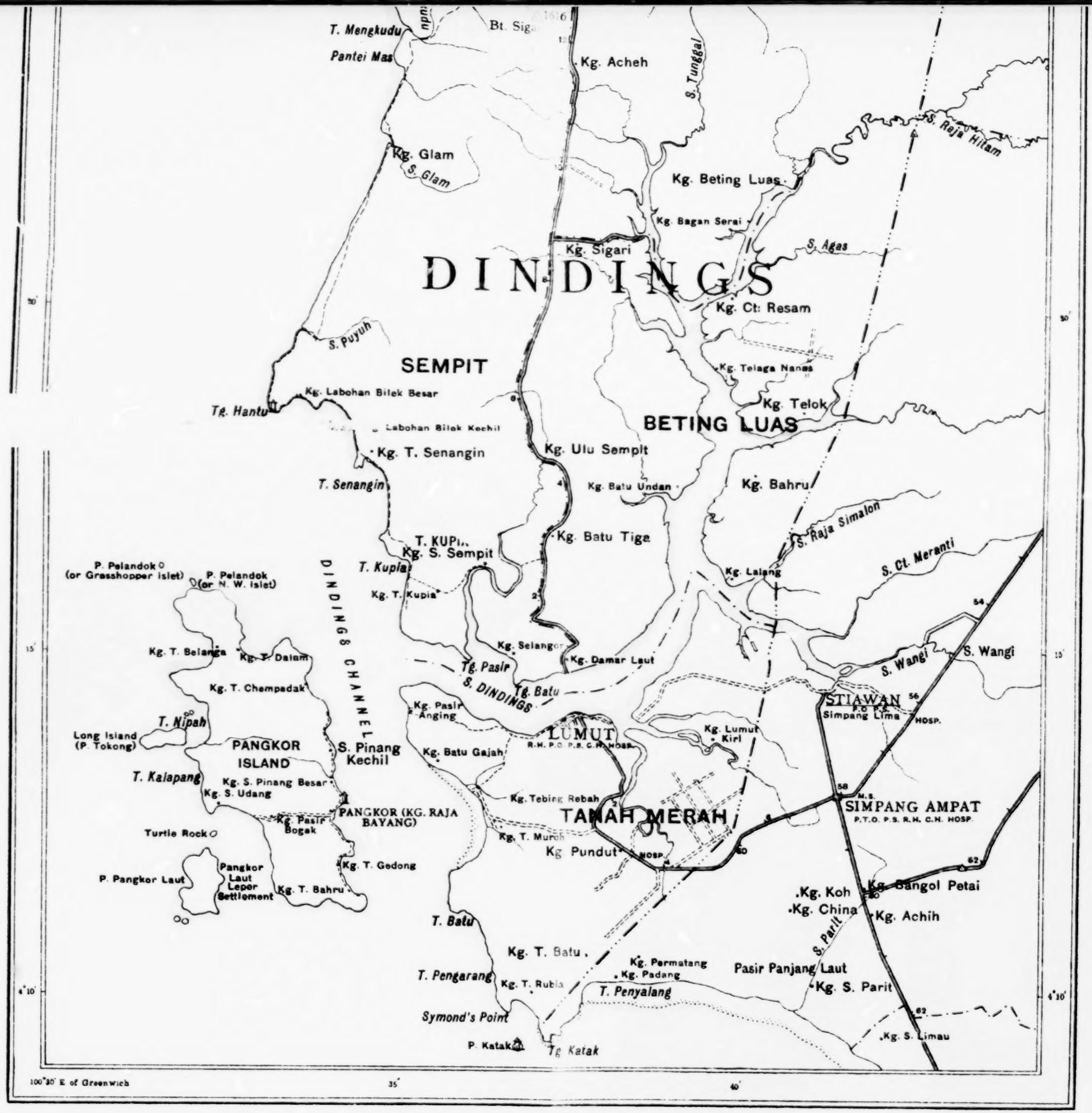
DINDINGS
1934
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 3600
0
2
4 Miles
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
State Boundary
Mukim Boundary
S. Tiong
S. Lada
S. Panchor
Kg. Panchor
Kg. Permatang Serai
Kg. Batu Hampar
1336
Matang Achih
S. Bruas
Kg Che Puteh
S. ROTAN
Kg. S. Tontong
S. Tg. Burong
PENG. BAHRU
R.H. P.S. C.H.
Kg. Pantai Remis
Tg. Burong
PANTAI REMIS
Tg. Batu
(or Datoh Kramat)
T. Nipah
S. Batu
P. Talang
Kg. T. Sera
S. Mengkudu
T. Akuan
1616
Bt. Sigari
T. Mengkudu
Pantei Mas
Kg. Acheh
S. Tunggal
S. Reja Hitam
Kg. Glam
S. Glam
Kg. Beting Luas
Kg. Bagan Serai
Kg. Sigari
S. Ages
DINDINGS
Kg. Ct: Resam
S. Puyuh
SEMPIT
Kg. Telaga Nanas
Kg. Labohan Bilek Besar
Kg. Telok
Tg. Hantu
Labohan Bilek Kechil
BETING LUAS



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LABUAN

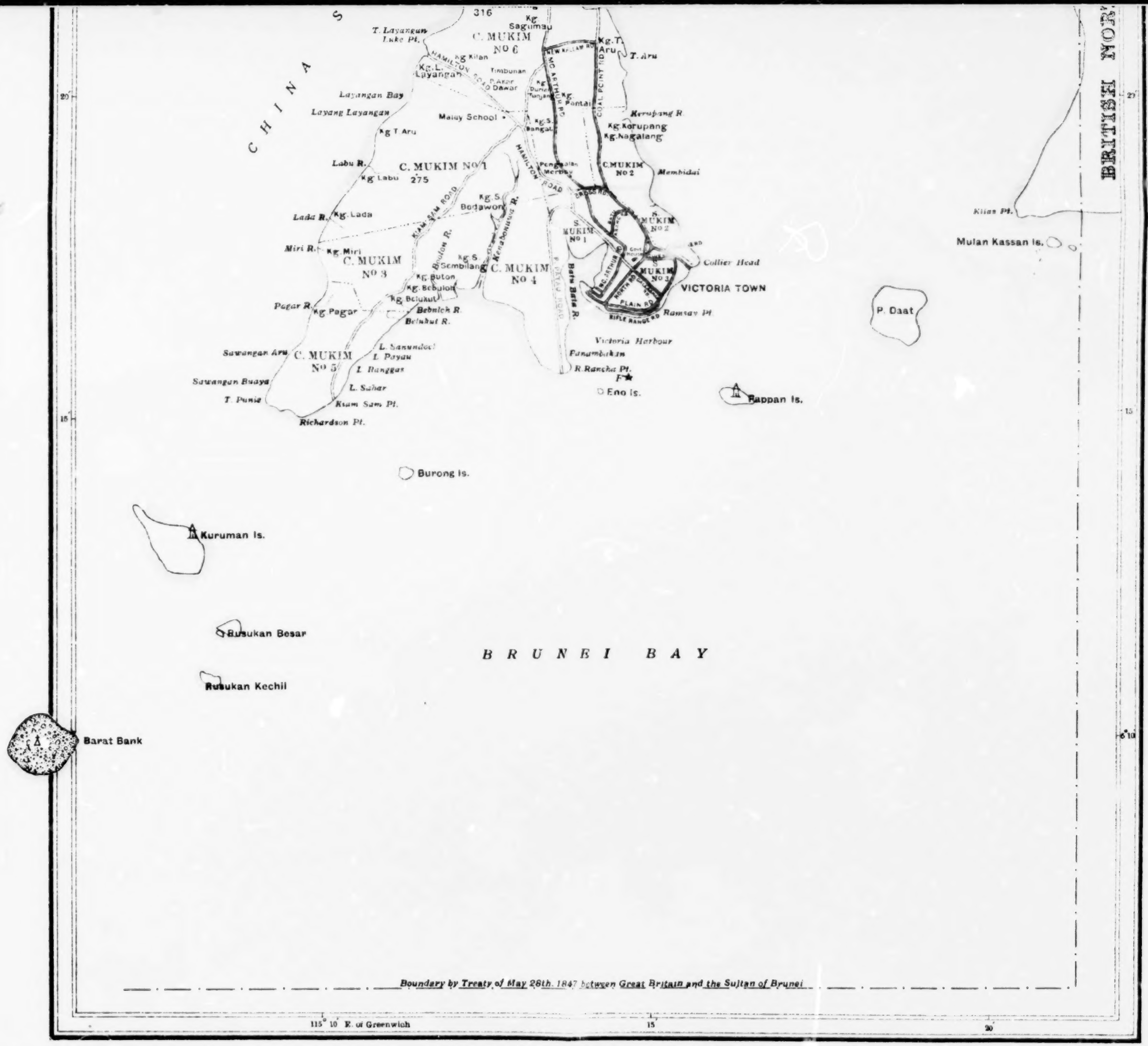
1934

Scale 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 — 2 — 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Earth Road & Bridle Path		
Roads *Metalled*		
Point, Tanjong, River	Pt.	T. R.
Pulau, Light House	P.	
Kampong, Lubok	Kg	L
Flashing Light or Buoy		
Fixed Light, Sungei	F★	S
Mukim Boundary, Height		336
Country, Suburban	C.	S.
Districts (1) Town (2) Suburban	(1)	(2)



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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1935

CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, and about 217 square miles in area. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore which also form part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands lie about 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is five miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil and nuts are exported.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, and about 108 square miles in area. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait varying in width from 2 to 10 miles, lies *Province Wellesley,* a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. The principal town of the province is Butterworth.

Malacca is a town situated on the west coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang. It gives its name to the Settlement of Malacca, a strip of territory about 42 miles in length and varying in breadth from 8 to 25 miles, with a total area of about 637 square miles. At one time it gave its name to the whole peninsula, which is still known to the French as the Presqu'ile de Malacca.

Labuan is an island, some 40 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca, said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365 and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the great entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But, with the development of Dutch commerce in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade dwindled and it has never recovered its old commercial pre-eminence although the development of plantation rubber in the present century has restored to town and territory a large measure of prosperity.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British and remained a part of the Settlement of Penang until its retrocession to the State of Perak in February, 1935.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield first place to the port with the better strategic position and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable

that trade has become large and important with the expansion of tin mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, and the development of trade with neighbouring countries.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement there in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired the whole island for the East India Company. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal and in 1826 was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands were declared a British possession in 1857. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1900 it was made part of the Settlement of Singapore.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The mean temperature during 1935 was:—

Singapore (Kallang Aerodrome) ..	80.9°F.
Penang (District Hospital) ..	82.3°F.
Province Wellesley (Bagan Dalam) ..	80.7°F.
Malacca (Bukit China)	79.4°F.

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperature varied as follows:—

	Mean Monthly Maximum		*Mean Monthly Minimum*	
	Highest °F.	*Lowest °F.*	*Highest °F.*	*Lowest °F.*
Singapore ..	87.7 Mar.,	84.8 Dec.,	78.5 July	73.4 Jan.
Penang ..	93.2 Mar.,	88.5 Nov.,	75.2 May	72.1 Jan.

The extremes of temperature (highest maximum and lowest minimum) recorded were:—

	Highest °F.	*Lowest °F.*
Singapore ..	91 on several days	70 on January 15th
Penang ..	96 on March 14th	68 on January 16th

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.

Records for 64 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September are the dry months with between 6½ and 7 inches. Rain falls on the average on half the days in the year.

The wettest year recorded was 1913 with 135.92 inches and the driest 1888 with 63.21.

Records of 50 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107½ inches, October being the wettest month with nearly 17 inches and February the driest with three inches; rain falling on the average on about 165 days in the year.

The force of the monsoon is not much felt though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz.*:—

S. W. from May to October

N. E. from November to April

At coastal stations, however, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The Rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1933	*1934*	*1935*	*No. of Rainfall days in 1935*
Singapore ..	82.52	106.55	72.76	177
Penang ..	97.37	137.31	107.98	193
Malacca ..	95.91	91.43	95.92	188
Province Wellesley	88.33	111.13	91.02	191
Labuan ..	121.93	124.51	140.59	187

Mere statistics, however, of temperature and rainfall give a very inadequate picture of the Malayan climate without further explanation. The characteristic features are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperatures throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures met with in continental tropical countries are never experienced here.

An annual rainfall about twice as great as that of the wettest parts of England must sound positively depressing to anyone who has never lived in the country, but, in fact, there is nothing depressing about the rainfall in Malaya, and the typical "rainy day" of England is unknown. The rain when it comes is heavy, frequently torrential, but generally it is soon over, and there are few days that the sun does not shine brightly for some part of the day at least. A spell of rainy weather is actually much less trying than a prolonged period of drought, or even inadequate rain, can be, and the truth is that the rain is welcomed in Malaya by everyone. After all, it is the rain that keeps the temperature within bounds, and if the devotee of golf, tennis or cricket occasionally has cause to complain when a downpour in the afternoon robs him of his usual exercise, he still remembers that it is the same element which provides for him all the year round

the perfect putting greens, lawns and playing fields which are the envy of visitors from India and other tropical countries.

The excessive humidity, which makes the temperature so much more trying and enervating, has also its compensations, for it is probably due to the ever-present moisture in our atmosphere that sun-stroke is almost, if not entirely, unknown in this country. That the sun is not to be feared here as it is in other tropical countries is a comparatively new discovery. Not many years ago the sun was treated with the greatest respect and it was considered absolutely necessary for a European to wear a sun-helmet or double-crowned "terai" hat in the daytime after the sun was up. Now, however, ideas have changed and sun worship has become a local cult in all three Settlements, particularly in Singapore, where its finest temple is found in the palatial premises of the Singapore Swimming Club.

This is a European club, with a membership of over 3,000, which since 1931 has possessed what is probably one of the finest swimming pools in the whole Empire. The pool is 100 ft. wide and 210 ft. long, divided into a main pool 165 ft. long and a children's pool 45 ft. long. The depth varies from 4 ft. 6 in. at the shallow end of the main pool to 10 ft. at the deep end, with a depth of about seven feet half way. The pool is filled with sea water which is filtered and treated by a most elaborate and expensive process that successfully maintains at all times a purity equal to that of drinking water. The club is situated on the sea-shore at Katong, a suburb of Singapore about five miles from the centre of the town, and for members who prefer it there is also swimming in the open sea, with the protection of two "pagars" or fences to keep out the occassional sharks from the harbour that have been known to visit the sandy beaches of Katong. The club is crowded on Sundays and holidays and its regular habitués wear, the shadowed livery of the burnished sun as naturally as the Prince of Morocco himself, while the European children, who a few years ago would hardly have been allowed out of the house between the hours of nine in the morning and half past four in the afternoon, now play about the whole morning through in the scantiest of swimming suits acquiring, like their elders, a sun-bronze complexion all over.

With all its compensations, however, the climate is a very trying one. The enervating effect of continuous heat combined with high humidity is cumulative and the very monotony of the never-ending summer has a deleterious effect on the nervous system even of the healthiest. For the visitor or tourist the climate is delightful and the many amenities offered make any of the Settlements well worth a visit. It is no paradox, however, that the ideal holiday climate is not necessarily good for every-day enjoyment the whole year round. Though thoroughly appreciative of the many advantages that Malaya's eternal summer offers, particularly the all-the-year-round facilities for out-door games and sport of every kind, the European finds after two or three years continuous residence, with only local leave, that work and play alike become an effort, and that mentally and physically he is tired out. A lengthy holiday with a change to a more bracing climate then becomes an absolute necessity if health is to be maintained.

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Resident Councillor, Malacca, two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed, under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

The Legislative Council is constituted by Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by the Standing Orders made by the Council. Under Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, its constitution was enlarged and for the first time contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for Signification of the Royal pleasure. The King has the right of veto on the Ordinances of the Colony.

The administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident. The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the Rural areas within the three Settlements.

The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

In estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements for the years 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935 the method of calculation adopted last year has been followed. This takes account of the excess of births over deaths and the excess of emigration over immigration, of *vice versa*, since the census.

This change of method was rendered necessary by the large exodus of labourers, chiefly Chinese, Tamils and Javanese, which took place during the years 1931, 1932 and 1933. Under normal conditions these non-Malayan units form such a large proportion of the total population that the excess of emigration over immigration during the three years immediately following the census of 1931 became the dominant factor in determining the resident population, but the losses due to emigration during the slump years 1932–1934 have been regained within the last three years.

The population of the Straits Settlements on June 30th, 1935, is estimated to be 1,117,023. This estimate is derived from the estimated total of 1,057,108 for 1934, adjusted in accordance with the following:—

(a) An excess of 15,139 births over the number of deaths.

(b) An emigrant surplus of 64,368.

(c) A loss of 19,592 persons resident in the territory of the Dindings ceded to the State of Perak since the last estimate was made.

The distribution of the population by race amongst the various Settlements as on 30th June, 1935, is estimated as follows:—

	Singapore	*Penang*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*	*Total*
European ..	9,118	1,764	369	26	11,277
Eurasians ..	7,311	2,437	2,161	38	11,947
Malaysians ..	68,972	113,615	101,963	5,067	289,617
Chinese ..	427,962	169,564	66,880	2,220	666,626
Indians ..	50,304	52,116	23,238	140	125,798
Others ..	8,643	2,408	646	61	11,758
	572,310	341,904	195,257	7,552	1,117,023

Births.—The number of births registered during the year amounted to 46,649 as compared with 42,974 in the previous year.

The birth-rate for the year was equal to 41.76 per thousand of the estimated population as against 40.65 in the preceding year.

The percentage of males born was 52.21 as compared with 51.97 during the year 1934.

Deaths.—The crude death-rate was 25.11 per thousand; that for 1934 was 26.54 and the average for the ten years 1926–1935, was 27.04 as recorded in the annual report of the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Infant Mortality.—The corrected infantile mortality rate, (which is the lowest yet recorded), was 165.25 per thousand as against 171.87 in 1934 and an average of 181.73 over the ten years 1926–1935.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

Measurements of migration are dealt with on a Malayan basis in the absence of any control between the various administrative units of the Straits Settlements and the Malay States. Migration is a subject of special interest in Malaya owing to the attraction of the country for foreign capital and for labour from India, China and the neighbouring countries of the Archipelago, and also to the situation of Singapore and Penang at the junction of ocean trade-routes. Until 1930 immigration was practically free, and one of the lucrative trades of Singapore was the importation of labourers from China. In that year a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China with the objects of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 the Aliens Ordinance which is administered by the Immigration Department extended this control, subject to certain temporary exceptions, to all adult male immigrants of other than British or British-protected nationality.

Statistics of migration between Malaya and foreign countries by land, sea and air are collected by the Statistics Department and published monthly in the *Gazette*. These include particulars as to race, sex, proportion of minors, country of original departure or ultimate destination, and the Malayan port of entry. Tables are also published to show arrivals and departures of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers, as indicating movements of labour. Copies of the summaries for the year are included in the Appendices.

Migration statistics are also, as already indicated, of importance as an aid to an estimation of the population in the periods between censuses.

The population of Malaya as ascertained by the census on the 1st April, 1931, was 4, 385,346, that of the Straits Settlements being 1,114,015 or approximately one quarter. The populations on the 30th June, 1935, were estimated as 4,529,228 and 1,119,186, respectively. A cause of the relatively small increase in the Straits Settlements population as compared with that of the rest of Malaya is to be found in the restrocession of the Dindings (population 1931, 19,592) to Perak in February, 1935. The immigration surplus for the year was 125,206 persons as compared with 142,089 in 1934. The total gain to the population for the two years was 267,295 persons. This gain does not, however, counterbalance the emigration surplus of 353,436 persons during the period from the 1931 Census to 31st December, 1933, the net loss to the population through migration from the census of 1931 to the end of 1935 being 86,141 persons. The dominant factor in Malayan migration statistices is the movement of Chinese and Southern Indian labourers which is largely dependent on the welfare of Malaya's two major industries, rubber and tin. Immigration increased rapidly during 1934 owing to the sudden demand for estate labour after the introduction of rubber control. The surplus of arrivals over departures, however, suddenly dropped from

29,969 in December, 1934, to 12,678 in January, 1935, remained at about this average during the first half year, and declined considerably during the second half year, the figure for December being 4,461. A further reference to movements of Southern Indian and Chinese labour is made in the following sections of this chapter.

The following table shows the racial composition of the migrational surplus or deficit during the last three years:—

MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

Race		*1933*		*1934*		*1935*
Europeans and Americans	+	301	+	1,599	+	1,674
Europeans	–	72	+	263	+	145
Japanese	–	130	+	423	+	365
Chinese	–	31,178	+	61,639	+	90,986
Malays	+	304	+	3,425	–	3,060
Northern Indians ..	+	3,757	+	7,132	+	3,848
Southern Indians ..	–	11,175	+	66,666	+	33,045
Others	–	256	+	942	–	1,797
Total ..	–	38,449	+	142,089	+	125,206

During the year 1935 the total number of arrivals (to the nearest thousand) was 548,000, an increase of 11 per cent. and of departures 423,000, an increase of 20 per cent.

The majority of passengers travelled by sea. Penang and Port Swettenham were the main ports of entry for Southern Indian labourers, but for other races Singapore was the main port of entry and departure. Migration by land hardly exists, except for the ebb and flow of Malays, Chinese and Siamese resident on either side of the border between Siam and Malaya, and over a period of years the population of Malaya is little affected by it. Passenger transport by air, though small, was double that in 1934. Most of the passengers travelling by air were Europeans but increasing numbers of Japanese, Chinese and Northern Indian passengers were recorded.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—INDIAN IMMIGRATION*

(a) The total number of immigrants from Southern India who arrived at Penang by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1935 was 65,191. This is a decrease of 24,637 over the figure for 1934, which was 89,828.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (labourers and dependants assisted to emigrate at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates etc., in Malaya)	20,771
Non-assisted immigrants (traders and others who paid their own passages)	44,420
Total ..	65,191

* The word immigrant, as used here in connection with Indian immigration, means a deck-passenger only, and does not include first or second class passengers.

Of the non-assisted immigrants 25,625, or approximately 58% were of the labouring classes, the remaining 18,795 being traders and others. It is estimated that about one-third of the non-assisted immigrants remained in the Colony, the remainder proceeding to the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States. Of the assisted immigrants, 1,861 arrived to work in the Colony.

The following table shows the number of assisted passages taken during the last five years, for labourers and their families from Southern India to Malaya, and paid for from the Indian Immigration Fund:—

1931	91
1932	12
1933	13
1934	36,712
1935	16,709

The fall in the number of assisted immigrants in 1935 as compared with 1934 was due to the decline in the demand for labour consequent on the working of the Rubber Restriction Scheme.

(b) In addition to the immigrants who arrived by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 1,159 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes line.

(ii).—Indian Emigration

(a) The number of deck passengers who left Penang for Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1935 was 38,392 (33,726 adults, 2,444 minors and 2,222 infants) as against 28,068 (24,965 adults, 1,600 minors and 1,503 infants) in 1934.

Of the above, 29,189 adults, accompanied by 1,404 minors and 1,614 infants, paid their own passages, while 4,537 adults, 1,040 minors and 608 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department.

Of those repatriated through the Labour Department 4,105 adults, accompanied by 930 minors and 558 infants, were unfit for work, while the remaining 432 adults, 110 minors and 50 infants were repatriated at the expense of private employers or Government Departments or on free passages granted by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

Repatriations from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
1. Sent at the expense of the Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund ..	588	92	48
2. Sent at the expense of estates and Government Departments ..	71	7	4
3. Carried free of charge by the British India Steam Navigation Company	19	4	2
	678	103	54

There was throughout the year a steadily maintained return traffic to India of labourers paying their own passages, traders and other deck passengers. The number of presumed labourers was 13,364 as against 8,196 in 1934, while the number of traders and other non-labourers was 15,825 as against 15,360 in 1934.

(b) In addition to the above, 477 deck passengers left for South India by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes.

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese aliens arriving in the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong) was restricted by Proclamation under the Aliens Ordinance, 1932. The quota was fixed at 4,000 a month throughout the year. This restriction applies to adult male Chinese arriving on the ships of the six quota companies. Other shipping companies are restricted to a total of 25 a month each.

Alien Chinese in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence issued under the Aliens Ordinance in the Colony or a corresponding Aliens Enactment in a Malay State are exempted from the provisions of Part I of the Aliens Ordinance and are therefore not counted against the quota.

The issue of permits to *bonâ fide* employers to import their own labour outside the quota was continued. One hundred and forty such permits were issued during the year.

The total number of Chinese entering the Colony under the quota during the year was 47,407.

The total number of Chinese who arrived on non-quota ships was 3,440.

The total number of Chinese who arrived in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence was 15,809.

The total number of Chinese who arrived on permits issued to employers of labour was 15,119.

The total number of male Chinese from China ports (including Hong Kong) who arrived during the year was therefore 81,775 compared with 52,023 in1934, 13,535 in 1933, 18,741 in 1932 and 50,120 in 1931.

No restriction is placed on the immigration of women and children. Thirty-eight thousand six hundred and twenty-one women and 21,496 children entered the Colony from China ports. The corresponding figures for the last four years were:—

	Women	*Children*
1931	17,042	11,923
1932	8,652	6,141
1933	8,199	6,062
1934	29,678	17,163

The number of women to a thousand men arriving from China ports during the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935 was 340, 462, 605, 570 and 472 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 69,025 as against 68,129 in 1934.

Fares for deck passengers to and from China were as follows:

The fares from Singapore to China ports at the end of the year were from $10 to $18 to Hong Kong and $12 to $22 to Amoy and Swatow (Straits currency).

For passengers counted against the quota from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong to Singapore the fares varied as follows: $55 to $56 (China currency) and $55 (China currency) and $45 to $55 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

For passengers not counted against the quota from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong to Singapore the fares were $30 to $46 (China currency) $40 (China currency) and $25 to $30 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

Fares for specially recruited labour (under permits to employers brought from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong to Singapore were $35 (China currency) from Amoy and Swatow and $25 (Hong Kong currency) from Hong Kong.

All the fares above quoted were subject to broker's commission

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM THE PRINCIPAL DISEASES

(i).—General

(1) *Malaria.*—One thousand six hundred and ninety-eight deaths were registered as caused by malaria and 3,787 deaths as due to fever unspecified, as compared with 814 and 4,503 respectively for the year 1934. The natural recession in the incidence of malaria fever during the past few years appears to have terminated and an upward trend is now evident.

(2) *Tuberculosis.*—Two thousand two hundred and sixty-seven deaths were attributed to tuberculosis as compared with 2,276 in the year 1934.

It is satisfactory to note that there is no increase in the number of deaths due to tuberculosis. The measures taken for prevention may be classified under four main headings:—

(*a*) *Education.*—Every endeavour is made by means of films, posters, leaflets, informal talks, etc., to educate the people in methods of cleanliness and personal hygiene with a view to avoiding infection and limiting its spread.

(*b*) *Improvement of housing and general sanitation.*—The Singapore Improvement Trust's policy of constructing backlanes in the congested areas, was energetically continued during the year. There are also schemes for the demolition of slums, the building of cottages and tenements and the establishment of open spaces.

(*c*) *Special measures of sanitation.*—Preventive and curative measures against malaria and ankylostomiasis are carried out on a large scale and have the effect of improving the general health and raising the natural resistance of the people against infection by tuberculosis.

(*d*) *Hospital treatment.*—Beds for tuberculous cases are available in Government hospitals and beds for the special treatment of tuberculosis exist in the General Hospitals in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and also in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore.

(3) *Pneumonia.*—Pneumonia accounted for 2,541 deaths as compared with 2,181 in 1934, giving a percentage of 91.0 per thousand deaths.

(4) *Beri-beri.*—Nine hundred and sixteen deaths were registered as being due to this disease as against 913 deaths recorded in 1934.

(5) *Dysentery.*—Dysentery caused 411 deaths. The disease is becoming less evident.

(ii).—Dangerous Infectious Diseases

(1) *Plague.*—No case occurred.

(2) *Cholera.*—One case occurred.

(3) *Small-pox.*—There were 65 cases with 21 deaths. This outbreak occurred in Singapore and was confined almost entirely to Malays.

(4) *Cerebro-spinal Fever.*—Eleven cases occurred of which nine were fatal.

(iii).—Venereal Diseases

The treatment of these diseases is undertaken by a special branch of the Medical Department known as the "Social Hygiene Branch", under the control of the Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene.

There are 30 treatment centres in the Straits Settlements as follows:—

Singapore	8
Penang (including Province Wellesley) ..	15
Malacca	7

Singapore.—The number of new cases treated shows a slight increase on the previous year:—

1933	11,961 cases
1934	9,796 „
1935	9,966 „

Penang.—The figures show a decrease in 1933 of 787 cases and a still larger decrease of 1,395 cases during the year under review, as follows:—

1932	8,546 cases
1933	7,759 „
1934	8,169 „
1935	6,774 „

Malacca.—The figures are higher in 1933 and again in 1935 as compared with the year 1934:—

1933	..	..	..	3,636 cases
1934	..	..	..	3,464 „
1935	..	..	..	3,601 „

Number of Seamen Treated.—There were 969 new admissions to the clinics for sailors of whom 242 were British and 123 non British Europeans. Of the remainder 479 were Chinese, 13 Malays, 64 Indians and 48 belonged to other races.

Serological Reactions.—Sixteen thousand five hundred and seventy specimens of blood were submitted to the Kahn Test, of which 7,808 gave positive results.

Propaganda.—Pamphlets and leaflets were freely distributed to the public, and posters calling attention to the dangers of venereal disease and the facilities for free treatment were displayed throughout the town of Singapore.

(iv).—Yaws

There was an increase in the number of cases of yaws treated during the year:—

Cases of yaws treated in 1934	..	6,477
Cases of yaws treated in 1935	..	8,222

Facilities exist in most of the rural areas for the treatment of yaws, and the travelling dispensaries which visit outlying villages attract numbers of Malays who are the chief sufferers. The treatment has firmly established itself in the confidence of the villagers and few cases now remain untreated for long in the areas served by Government hospitals and dispensaries. Epidemic foci of the disease however still appear in certain areas and these accounted for most of the 8,222 cases treated during 1935.

(v).—Buildings

The new General Hospital at Penang, was completed by the addition of a new administration block, containing also wards for first class patients. This building was opened for occupation in April.

B.—HOSPITALS, ETC.

(i).—Hospitals

Seventy-two thousand two hundred and twenty-two patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony as compared with 57,876 in the previous year. The malaria admissions numbered 12,478 as compared with 5,638 in 1934. Admissions for venereal disease totalled 3,020 with 156 deaths, as against 3,269 with 175 deaths in the previous year. Admissions for tuberculosis were 2,447 with 868 deaths compared with 2,303 and 881 deaths in 1934. There were 1,672 admissions for pneumonia with 934 deaths as against 1,429 with 813 in the previous year.

(ii).—Dispensaries

There was a slight decrease in the number of out-patients treated at government dispensaries and also in the number of attendances, the figures being:—

		1934	*1935*
Number of Out-patients	..	217,421	215,406
Number of Attendances	..	459,337	435,514

The number of people seeking advice at the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, increased from 39,218 to 45,404.

At a similar dispensary in Penang the attendances for 1935 were 21,728 compared with 19,128 in 1934.

At the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Malacca, the number of attendances was 13,706 for 1935, compared with 17,966 in 1934, whilst at Merlimau and Masjid Tanah, the numbers were 2,207 and 1,582 for 1935, compared with 1,158 and 1,384 for 1934, respectively.

(iii).—Motor Travelling Dispensaries

Motor Travelling Dispensaries are provided in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley. They visit the outlying districts of each Settlement and dispense treatment for minor ailments. Attendances for the whole of the Colony totalled 111,498 compared with 106,747 in 1934.

(iv).—Leper Settlements

Pulau Jerejak Settlement.—Modern treatment for leprosy is given to all curable cases at Pulau Jerejak with encouraging results. The success so far achieved has been reflected in the number of cases discharged as free from infection which numbered 5 in 1932, 45 in 1933, 30 in 1934, and 56 in 1935. The patients are encouraged to take an active part in the work of the Settlement and 123 patients are now employed as artisans, wood-cutters, dhobiès, etc. A few educated inmates serve as teachers, dressers and overseers. Many inmates interest themselves in vegetable and fruit gardening and in poultry farming. The dramatic troupes formed in the year 1933 gave several successful performances. Twenty boys attend the Chinese School and 13 attend the English School. The Boy Scouts muster 40 and have drilled regularly throughout the year while outdoor sports have been extended and have proved popular. The brass band has maintained its high standard and has given much pleasure to the inmates.

Singapore Settlement.—The Settlement at Singapore has accommodation for both males and females, but male patients are transferred to Pulau Jerejak, Penang, as early as possible. Members of the Church of England "Toc H", the Methodist Mission, and the Bethesda Mission have taken an active interest in the inmates and have regularly visited the Settlement and provided comforts and entertainment for the patients.

(v).—Mental Hospital

There were 1,397 patients in hospital at the beginning of the year, admissions numbered 597. Discharges, deaths and abscondings accounted for a like number. One thousand three hundred and ninety-seven patients remained at the end of the year. Compared with 1934, the admissions showed an increase of 174. The annual increase in the number of mental cases is an item of considerable expense, and one over which there appears to be no method of control. Eight thousand four hundred and fifty yards of cotton cloth were woven for use in the institution and seventy thousand seven hundred pounds of vegetables were grown for the use of the patients.

A small quantity of fruit and some coconuts were harvested.

C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i).—Quarantine

Seven hundred and fifty-six visits in Singapore and 423 visits in Penang (as against 783 and 299 respectively in 1934) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers. Four hundred and fifteen thousand five hundred and forty persons were examined during the year as compared with 391,982 in 1934.

Fifty-five thousand one hundred and forty-one persons were detained under observation in the Quarantine Stations at Singapore and Penang.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases at Singapore Quarantine Station was 19 for small-pox, 34 for chicken-pox, 14 for measles and 14 for leprosy. At the Penang Quarantine Station 18 were treated for chicken-pox, 9 for measles and 46 for leprosy.

(ii).—Rural Conservancy

Singapore.—In the more populous sections of the rural area in Singapore nightsoil removal was carried out by Chinese labour under the supervision of the Health Officer. The nightsoil of approximately one quarter of the houses in the rural area of Singapore was removed by this method. Disposal is either by trenching or septic tank treatment.

During the year 882 latrines were constructed or reconstructed, and 512 of an insanitary type were demolished.

Household refuse was collected by the Health Department and incinerated. The number of serviceable incinerators is 24.

Penang.—Extensions of conservancy measures in Penang and in Butterworth, Province Wellesley, have been continued during the year, the Rural Board employs a nightsoil contractor at a fixed monthly fee to collect the nightsoil. The Board provides a special lorry for collection of the collecting buckets and the nightsoil is dumped at sea. A disinfecting tank for cleansing the collecting buckets is in use.

The fees from the householders are collected by the Rural Board and a graduated charge is made according to the type of house.

A similar scheme was instituted in Bukit Mertajam, Province Wellesley, at the beginning of 1936, but here the nightsoil is disposed of at a trenching ground and a bucket-washing and disinfecting station is in use.

In other village areas in Province Wellesley and Penang Rural areas an authorised person collects the nightsoil and collects fees from the householders at a rate of $1 a latrine. The Rural Board enforces the use of a latrine.

Outside the village areas the use of properly constructed latrines is increasing, particularly among Malays and Tamils; but some of the Chinese houses have still only a shallow pit latrine, which is far from sanitary, while ancient horticultural practices still subsist which make the continued use of a bucket-latrine by certain vegetable-gardeners the reverse of a sanitary improvement and an offence to more senses than one. An unobjectionable bucket system is in use on most estates which house their own labour forces, though a few have adopted bore-hole latrines.

Malacca.—One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight new latrines were constructed and reconstructed during the year, and 664 insanitary latrines were demolished.

Fifty-eight of the new latrines were of the Yaeger bore-hole type. There are 33 village incinerators in use but many of them are very dilapidated. Four Horsfall incinerators were built during the year.

Labuan.—Conservancy was carried out by Rural Board coolies under the supervision of the Health Officer. Nightsoil was removed from all latrines of approved type in the urban and suburban areas of Victoria and disposed of by dumping in the sea half a mile from the shore during ebb tide. From 1st October, 1935, trenching of night soil was substituted.

During the year, 72 sanitary latrines were constructed and 12 insanitary ones demolished.

Household refuse was collected daily by Rural Board coolies under the supervision of the Health Department, and the method of disposal was to dump it in swamps and cover it with sand.

(iii).—Anti-Malarial Work

The protection of the population from malaria in towns and villages of the Straits Settlements is an important duty of the Government and Municipal Health Authorities in their respective areas.

Outside the Municipal Areas the Government's total expenditure made on anti-malarial measures undertaken during the year was $161,119.96.

Anti-mosquito drainage and oiling continue to prove effective weapons of defence against malaria, and it can be said with truth that in the principal towns and on large estates protection is as complete as human effort can make it, in evidence of which statement may be cited the fact that the prophylactic use of quinine is practically unknown among Europeans in this Colony.

The rural problem, however, is not the problem of the towns, large villages and estates, where effective and economic control of malaria has already been attained by older methods applied with thoroughness and skill. In rural areas much remains still to be done and in the future it will be necessary to extend anti-malarial activities in rural Singapore, and to some extent in Penang, owing to the extensive building in these areas. Breeding grounds of *Anopheles barbirostris* which recently have been found to be giving rise to malaria will also require to be dealt with as circumstances permit meanwhile.

The continued call for economy coupled with the increase in the rural population engaged in agriculture, has directed increasing attention to the means by which the inhabitants in country districts can best and most cheaply be freed from the havoc of malaria.

Amongst the experiments tried have been the spacing of the oiling period from seven to ten days and the use of "brush oiling", but these attempts at economy have proved disappointing and a return to the old established methods has frequently proved necessary.

Encouraging results have however been recorded in places where the design of rural anti-malarial drainage has been directed to establish an improved water supply or where drainage benefits the agricultural quality of the soil to an extent that justifies expenditure upon the work.

Investigations, similarly directed, have shown that many natural methods of Malaria Control, which rely upon the effect of materials obtainable everywhere free of cost throughout the country, are often suited to rural conditions. Amongst these may be mentioned "sluicing", "herbage cover", "stone-packing", "cultivation of shade trees", "subsoil drainage with bamboo" and "fascine drainage".

CHAPTER V

Housing

In the principal towns of the Colony the various types of housing may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) Houses with gardens occupied by the well-to-do residents,
(*b*) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by the less prosperous, or the less well-paid of the salaried classes,
(*c*) Terrace houses for clerks and people of similar standing,
(*d*) Shop-houses,
(*e*) Common lodging houses, which are frequently over-crowded,
(*f*) Tenements in closely built areas, and
(*g*) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses in the outskirts of the city.

The houses in the first category, occupied by the European residents and the wealthier Asiatics, vary greatly in type, from the old Colonial style mostly built of wood, with its wide open verandas and large and lofty rooms, to the most modern of villas and even flats which might have been imported ready-made from Hollywood or the Riviera. In the more modern types the rooms are generally less lofty and spacious

than in the older houses, which were built before the days when cost of construction was so important a consideration as it is now, and before the discovery that, with electric fans instead of the "thermantidotes" of Kipling's day, brick walls instead of wood in the upper storey, and a better appreciation of ventilation, the best way of keeping a house cool is not necessarily the exclusion of sun-light. All however, old and new, are comfortable, handsome and roomy, and one military officer, at least, whose previous tropical service had been exclusively Indian, when asked how he liked his quarters in Singapore, replied that he had been given a house that "Generals would fight for in 'Pindi". Nearly every house of this class stands in a compound, or garden, with lawns, tennis court and a wealth of flowering trees and shrubs, and is situated generally on the crest or side of a hill, which adds to the other amenities a good view and the advantage of a cool evening breeze. The smaller semi-detached houses and bungalows generally differ from the houses of the wealthier only in size, and nearly all in Singapore at least have the advantages of modern lighting and sanitation. The terrace houses occupied by the clerical classes are necessarily humbler in character than the "compound" and semi-detached houses. Facilities for tennis and gardening are not provided and the sites are chosen more for convenience than amenity. Even these, however, afford good accommodation, are well ventilated and in some areas in the larger towns at least have modern sanitation as well as lighting. An important development in the housing of the wealthier European classes noticed during the past year was the first introduction in Singapore of the "solo-air" system of ventilation which replaces fans by a system of fresh air delivered mechanically through ventilators into the bedrooms and living-rooms of the house. So far only a few private houses have been fitted, but it is only a matter of time until some such system of ventilation, or air-conditioning, will be common in the better class houses and the difference that this must make to the health of Europeans living in this climate is incalculable. One great disadvantage of the inevitable mosquito-net is that it keeps out air as well as the things that fly by night, and an electric fan in the bedroom is of little use except to cool one down after a bath and keep the skin dry while dressing. Under the mosquito-net the fan's breeze will only penetrate when it is too strong for health or comfort; but a solo-air outfit can be fitted to the bed, under the net, and will deliver a steady supply of fresh air the whole night long without dangerous or uncomfortable draughts. In a few years' time European residents in Singapore will probably look back and wonder how their predecessors of this generation bore the trials and discomforts of their day, much as we to-day look back with superior satisfaction to the brocaded and be-wigged days of Old John Company or even the "primitive" conditions of twenty-five years ago.

When we turn to the housing of the poorer classes, the picture is not so pleasant; and this Colony like many other parts of the world presents contrasts which the most callous cannot regard with complacency. The shop-houses built in rows or streets are generally of solid brick construction, two or more storeys in height, and in the newer districts are of satisfactory design, built to plans approved by the local health authorities. In the older parts of the towns, however, poor ventilation conduces to the spread of tuberculosis and

the absence of back-lanes hinders proper sanitation. The upper storeys of many of these houses are divided into small cubicles with temporary partitions, erected without regard to the need for light and air, and it is in these that the worst overcrowding is found. Unfortunately, too many of the labouring and artisan classes find their homes in such cubicles or in the common lodging houses of the most densely populated areas and the common lodging house frequently consists of just an overcrowded dormitory above a shop or store.

With such conditions prevailing it is not surprising that tuberculosis is prevalent in urban areas or that the infantile death rate is still high; but social workers and others who have studied the problem of slum-clearance and re-housing in the larger seaport towns at home will appreciate the extra difficulties that attend its solution in a country where the main areas affected are occupied by a transient Asiatic population inured for generations to a standard of living compared with which their present circumstances give little cause for complaint. The Government, however, and the educated elements of the population, European and Asiatic, are fully alive to the needs of the situation, and the first steps have already been taken to deal with the re-housing of the poorer classes of the population in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, the three principal towns of the Colony.

In Singapore such measures fall within the scope of operations of the Singapore Improvement Trust, a body especially incorporated for the purpose by an Ordinance passed in 1927.

The Improvement Trust has adopted a fixed programme for the driving of back lanes through congested areas, and expects that action will have been completed in all the worst areas within the next three years. It had already acquired several large blocks of slum-property before the end of 1934 and had demolished them for reconstruction or the establishment of open spaces. Further, about fifty acres of waste land at Tiong Bharu, adjoining a particularly crowded Chinese area, had been bought, filled in, provided with roads, and laid out in building lots for sale, with a view to relieving the prevailing congestion. During the year under review progress was steadily maintained in this most important work of social betterment. Fourteen new back-lanes were completed, enabling 320 more houses to be connected to the Municipal sewers, and 32 houses of unsatisfactory design were bought and demolished. At the same time plans were approved for the erection of 21 shop-houses, *i.e.* shops with tenements above, on the Trust's property at Tiong Bahru. These 21 houses of excellent modern design are to be built in two blocks, one of twelve and the other of nine houses; and work had begun on the first block of twelve houses before the end of the year. No less than 102 layouts for the development of private property on modern and sanitary lines were considered and approved, and a number of blocks of old property in the town were inspected and new layouts prepared with a view to action under the Singapore Improvement Ordinance for the compulsory demolition of the existing houses and the re-building of the areas in compliance with the requirements of the Health authorities. Unfortunately, litigation has arisen over certain of the Trust's proposals, and representations have been made to the Government in consequence that the Ordinance as at present in force

does not sufficiently regard the interests of the owner of property which is not in itself unfit for habitation but merely hampers proper development. Certain ambiguities have also been found in the Singapore Improvement Ordinance and the Municipal Ordinance which hinder action under them. The result of the legal difficulties met with has been to delay progress with some of the Trust's major schemes, but the question is engaging the attention of the Government and at, the time of writing, a representative committee has been appointed to go into the whole matter and to advise in what respects the laws require amendment to remove their ambiguities and make them more effective.

In Penang and Malacca, where the problems to be met and solved are neither so great nor so pressing as those of Singapore, all measures of town-improvement are undertaken by the Municipal Commissioners under the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance and, while development has not been possible on the same scale as the work undertaken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore, a great deal has been accomplished during the last ten years and the work is still progressing. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings, and strict control of common lodging houses is maintained to prevent overcrowding and preserve a decent standard of sanitation. Special schemes of slum clearance have also been prepared, in addition to the year-by-year activities of the Municipal Commissioners, and these are being put into operation as funds and circumstances permit. For the purpose of such approved schemes a grant of $300,000 was made to the Municipality of Penang in 1934 and the work is proceeding.

In rural districts though brick shop-houses with tiled roofs are found in the larger villages, the houses are generally of old Malay or Chinese types, built of planks with roofs of attap, a very efficient native type of thatching with dried palm fronds. The wood and attap houses are usually owned by the occupiers, and as a general rule are clean and well-ventilated, besides being admirably suited to the climate and cool and comfortable to live in. Those of the Malay small-holder or peasant are raised about four to six feet above the ground level, and are especially well-ventilated, cool and comfortable. The brick-and-tile shop-houses in the villages, like those in the towns, lend themselves to overcrowding, but the evils are less pronounced in rural areas. Planning schemes have been evolved for most gazetted villages, demolition notices are enforced against insanitary buildings whenever necessary, and the work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. For all new buildings, in Municipal and Rural Board areas, strict compliance with the building by-laws is now enforced, although it is impossible, and indeed unnecessary, to insist on the standards devised for the wealthier municipal areas in the rural areas where expense is a much greater consideration. There are no building societies in the Straits Settlements.

Labourers on rubber estates are usually housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. Nearly all of these buildings conform to an approved standard design and frequent inspections by the health authorities and the officers of the Labour Department prevent overcrowding and ensure decent upkeep and cleanliness.

CHAPTER VI

Production

A.—AGRICULTURE

GENERAL

The principal crops grown in the Colony are rubber, coconuts, rice and pineapples; the areas cultivated thereunder in each Settlement during the year 1935 are as follows:—

	Province Wellesley and Penang	*Malacca*	*Singapore*
	(acres)	*(acres)*	*(acres)*
Rubber ..	84,978	190,476	55,678
Coconuts ..	44,866	13,340	8,360
Rice ..	37,140	31,360	nil
Pineapples ..	866	562	7,000

Crops of secondary importance are fruit, vegetables, arecanuts, tobacco, derris, pepper, tapioca and cloves. Of these crops only two, namely rubber and coconuts, are cultivated on large estates owned both by Europeans and by Asiatics as well as by Asiatics on small-holdings. The remainder of the crops are cultivated exclusively by Asiatic small holders.

(i).—CROPS GROWN BY EUROPEANS AND ASIATICS

Rubber.—The total area under rubber in the Straits Settlements at the end of 1935 was estimated to be 331,132 acres made up as follows:—

	Estates of 100 acres and over	*Small Holdings of less than 100 acres*	*Total*
P.W. and Penang ..	48,158	36,820	84,978
Malacca ..	124,281	66,195	190,476
Singapore ..	35,087	20,591	55,678
Total ..	207,526	123,606	331,132

Of the area cultivated on estates 127,508 acres were grown on European-owned estates and 80,018 acres on Asiatic-owned estates.

The average price of standard smoked sheet in Singapore for the year was 20.25 cents a pound as against 20.63 cents in 1934. From January to April the price declined from 21.25 to 18.19 cents, and rose to 20.35 cents in June. It declined again to 18.89 cents until September, when it began to rise again reaching 21.18 cents in November.

Under the International Rubber Regulation Agreement which was in force throughout the year, Malaya received a quota of 7/12ths of 504,000 tons in 1934, and of 538,000 tons in 1935. The share of Malaya's quota allotted to the Straits Settlements by the Controller of Rubber for 1934 was 7/12ths of 50,250 tons, and for 1935 was 49,300 tons, giving a permissible export of 25,544 tons for the last 7 months of 1934 and of 33,277 tons for 1935.

The method of control adopted was an assessment of the productive capacity of individual rubber holdings and the granting of export rights on the basis of this assessment. Comparatively few assessments were completed by the 1st January, 1935, and the export rights given in 1934 were provisional only. By the middle of 1935 assessment was practically complete both for large and small holdings. In the islands of Singapore and Penang, which receive special treatment under the International Agreement, owners of rubber holdings are permitted to produce only up to the amount of export rights granted to them. In the mainland settlements of Malacca and Province Wellesley owners of large holdings are credited with their export rights in the ledgers of the Controller, and the owners of small-holdings receive coupons which permit the export of 5, 10 or 25 katis or 1 or 5 pikuls of dry rubber. These rights or coupons are used to cover either direct export or sales to rubber dealers, who are in their turn permitted to export rubber to the extent of the export rights so acquired by them. Export rights and coupons issued to owners of holdings and not made use of for the purpose of export or sale are cancelled at the end of each quarter. A steady export of rubber throughout the year is thus assured.

Under the International Agreement the planting of rubber on land which was not under rubber cultivation on the 1st June, 1934, is prohibited, except that a limited area may, with the approval of the Controller, be planted for experimental purposes. The total area so approved up to the 31st December, 1935, in the Colony was 65 acres.

The replanting of areas under rubber on the 1st June, 1934, is allowed to the extent of 10% of any holding in any one year and 20% during the regulation period. The area approved for replanting up to the end of 1935 in the Colony was 752 acres.

Singapore and Penang, as free ports and markets of rubber from producing countries other than Malaya, necessarily remained outside the normal restriction scheme. As holdings in Singapore and Penang are in close proximity to markets and there would be no means of differentiating between rubber brought in from outside and rubber produced on the Islands, it was decided that production figures for Singapore and Penang should be assessed separately. Thereafter, it was laid down that nobody was permitted to purchase or receive any rubber from any producer in the Islands except on transfer of credit or coupons.

Dealers in Singapore and Penang are closely controlled and an exact record kept of all rubber shipped into the Islands. Provided it is accompanied by a proper Certificate of Origin such rubber is admitted and the corresponding credit placed against the name of the importing dealer. Added to this, a small amount of Singapore's own production comes into the hands of dealers on transfer of credits or coupons surrendered to the Superintendent's Office in exchange for further credit. Rubber which leaves the Islands is debited against these accounts, as is also rubber made use of in the manufacturing of rubber articles in the factories on these Islands. The difference represents reasonably closely the stock of rubber in the hands of dealers.

The Regulation Scheme operated with smoothness and efficiency in Malacca and Province Wellesley as well as in Singapore and Penang throughout the year.

The declared production of rubber for the Straits Settlements was 35,807 tons of which 22,549 tons were produced on large estates and 13,258 tons from small holdings. Local consumption in Singapore remained at a negligible figure so that practically the whole production was exported. The greater part of the crop was produced in the form of standard smoked sheet, but there was an appreciable export of rubber in the form of latex; the total quantity exported from Malaya in this form during the year was estimated to amount to 13,150 tons on the basis of dry rubber content.

Notwithstanding the relatively low percentage of the quota allowed for export, practically all estates have been able to produce rubber at a profit; and cultivation and manufacturing conditions have undergone further improvement while labour and salary rates have risen appreciably.

The higher prices prevailing for rubber coupled with the refusal to issue coupons for neglected holdings resulted in the maintenance of a fairly high level of upkeep of small holdings throughout the Colony.

Intensive surveys made throughout the year of the areas out of tapping on small holdings indicated that there was a steady increase in the number of holdings untapped. Thus at the end of March it was estimated that 15.4 per cent. of the total area was untapped, in June it had risen to 18.9 per cent., in September to 20.6 per cent. and in December to 28.4 per cent. The principal reason for this is the relatively high prices which have prevailed for export coupons as compared with rubber. In consequence a steadily increasing number of small holders have preferred to sell their export rights in the shape of coupons rather than to tap their trees and sell rubber with coupons attached.

Diseases and pests of rubber were on the whole less in evidence this year than usual. Towards the end of the year with the advent of the wet weather the incidence of Mouldy Rot appreciably increased, but not to a serious extent, and it is satisfactory to record that, as a result of the methods of persuasion and demonstration that have been adopted of late years in the control of diseases on small holdings, conditions in this respect have materially improved. Leaf mildew due to *Oidium Heveae* appeared in Province Wellesley and Malacca, but the incidence of this disease was relatively slight and much less in evidence than in the previous year.

Further additions were made to the staff of Asiatic Rubber Instructors appointed by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, who are placed, for purposes of supervision, under the control of Agricultural Officers of the Field Branch of the Department of Agriculture. During the year Instructors were stationed in Province Wellesley and Malacca and the results of their work are already becoming apparent. The introduction of a small smoke-house which can readily be constructed by small holders at very little cost merits mention. By the end of the year a number of these had been erected on small holdings throughout the Colony, thus promoting the

production of rubber of low moisture content. The Instructors have continued their demonstrations and lectures on the correct maintenance of small holdings, disease control, tapping systems and preparation of good quality sheet, and reports show that in consequence the general standard of small holders' rubber is steadily improving. It is anticipated that the reduction in tapping, to which attention has already been called, will have a beneficial effect by providing a resting period which will favour bark renewal.

Coconuts and Coconut Products.—Coconuts are grown both as an estate crop and also on numerous small holdings in all three Settlements. The areas under cultivation are shown below:—

	Areas grown on Estates of over 100 acres	*Areas grown on Small holdings of less than 100 acres*	*Total*
P.W. & Penang ..	19,773	27,093	46,866
Malacca ..	—	13,340	13,340
Singapore ..	3,159	5,201	8,360
Total ..	22,932	45,634	68,566

On estates coconuts are almost exclusively grown for the production of copra for export. There is a considerable export trade in fresh nuts to Burma from Province Wellesley & Penang, while in addition large quantities of fresh nuts are sold for consumption in Penang and for transport and sale in inland markets. The total number of nuts exported amounted to 10,636,400 as compared with 10,143,900 in the previous year. Supplies of nuts for this trade are mainly derived from the Settlements of Penang and Province Wellesley and from South Kedah. Competition for the purchase of fresh nuts was sufficiently keen to produce some diminution in the output of copra on small holdings by Malay producers in Province Wellesley, and competition began between Malays and Chinese for the purchase of nuts for export. In Malacca a considerable proportion of the produce is sold as nuts for consumption in inland markets, while a small amount of copra of indifferent quality is produced. In Singapore practically the whole of the produce finds its market in the city as fresh nuts. In addition, throughout the Colony coconuts are largely used by the small holders themselves as a food and for the production of oil for domestic purposes, and there is a considerable sale for coconuts at all village fairs.

The total annual consumption of coconuts in Malaya is considerable, though far less than in Ceylon. It is estimated to be 100 nuts a head of the whole population annually, while it is estimated that in the coconut growing areas consumption of coconuts amounts to one nut a head of population daily.

It is noteworthy that in striking contrast with conditions on the Malabar Coast of India, for example, very little use is made in Malaya of the by-products of the coconut industry. Coconut charcoal is not made and the production of coconut coir as a small holders' industry is practically nonexistent, although a certain amount of coir is produced by prison labour.

There are nine oil mills in the Colony, two in Singapore one in Malacca and six in Penang, which extract oil from locally produced and imported copra. The total production of coconut oil from the oil mills of Malaya as a whole is estimated to be approximately 60,000 tons per annum of which 35,000 tons are exported. A further marked increase occurred in the factory production of coconut oil during the year. It is impossible to obtain exact figures of the total production of coconut oil on account of the considerable but unascertained production of oil on small holdings; it has, however, been estimated that the total production of coconuts for Malaya amounts to 900,000,000 while, on a similar basis, that of the Straits Settlements amounts to 101,000,000 nuts per annum.

Local prices for coconut products improved considerably during the year. The average price in Singapore for "sun-dried" copra was $4.53 a pikul as compared with $2.94 a pikul in 1934 and $3.89 a pikul in 1933. The corresponding price for Mixed copra was $4.15 as compared with $2.44 in 1933. The price for "sun-dried" opened at $4.21 in January and rose to $4.60 in February, thereafter it steadily declined until it reached $3.84 in August. Subsequently the price recovered and in December averaged $5.46 a pikul for "sun-dried" quality. The average price for coconut oil was $9.13 a pikul and that of copra cake was $1.55 a pikul as compared with $5.96 and $1.28 respectively in 1934.

As the result of the marked rise in price for coconut products which occurred during the year, conditions both on estates and small holdings improved considerably. On most properties production again became profitable, and a marked improvement in the standard of cultivation has followed.

Copra produced by estates in the Colony has always borne a good reputation, but that produced by smallholders of low quality had been for many years and was becoming even worse, when, in 1929, research work was undertaken to improve the quality of Malayan copra, and active propaganda started for the dissemination of information among small holders. Since that date a marked improvement has been noticed in the quality of Malayan copra, particularly on small holdings in Penang and Province Wellesley. The Association of Small Copra-Kiln Owners formed in that Settlement during the previous year functioned throughout 1935 with considerable benefit to its members. A new small copra-kiln of cheap construction, suitable for small holders, has been recently designed by the Officer in Charge of Copra Investigations, and efforts are now being made to popularise it.

Courses of training in the preparation of good quality copra were again given at the Experiment Station at Klang to Students of the School of Agriculture, to Agricultural Officers from various States and Settlements, and to Penghulus and Headmen from various parts of the country.

During 1935 further effect was given to a number of recommendations of the Vegetable Oils Committee. Among these may be mentioned the organisation of a special section of the Annual Malayan Exhibition at Kuala Lumpur dealing with coconuts and coconut products. The section was designed especially to encourage the production of high grade coconut products, to give an idea of the

possible range of production of the coconut industry and to show the opportunities existing for developing new products.

Coffee.—Coffee is grown to a small extent both on estates and on small holdings in the Settlement of Malacca. It is mainly grown as a catch-crop between young rubber but a small amount of pure stand exists. The produce is entirely consumed locally and it is for the most part manufactured under rather crude conditions by Chinese and Malay producers. Although it is better than might be expected, yet in quality and in appearance it is distinctly below the produce of the Netherlands Indies of which there is a considerable import into Malaya. The Asiatic population of Malaya are habitual coffee drinkers; no village is without its coffee shop, and there is room for a considerable increase in the local production of coffee.

Prices in Singapore averaged $9.78 a pikul for Palembang and $15.85 a pikul for Sourabaya coffee. The total imports of coffee into Malaya amounted to 7,867 tons. Nett imports of coffee amounted to 5,287 tons.

(ii).—Crops grown Exclusively by Asiatics

Rice.—Rice is extensively cultivated in Province Wellesley, Penang and Malacca; the total area under the crop being nearly 70,000 acres. It is grown exclusively by Asiatics on holdings the average size of which is about two acres and a half. It has been estimated that a holding of this size in Malaya will yield sufficient rice to support a family of six people and still leave some surplus available for sale.

The crop is cultivated both on coastal alluvial lands and in the bottoms of the shallow valleys which are frequently found inland in many parts of Malaya. The difference in the terrain gives rise to two sawah types of rice field, one forming the continued stretches of rice-land such as are seen in the coastal areas of Province Wellesley and Malacca, and the other a series of separate areas of sawah of varying size separated from one another by low hills extending over considerable distances as in the inland districts of Malacca.

Rice (padi) has been cultivated in Malaya since very early times, and its best rice-lands compare favourably with those of any other part of the world. It is a striking fact that, despite the much higher profits that have at times been offered by other crops, especially during the years of high prices for rubber and coconuts, padi cultivation has persisted.

The encouragement of rice cultivation has for long been sympathetically regarded by the Malayan Governments, but in 1930 the need for active steps to encourage the local production of rice received a greater measure of attention and a Committee was appointed to make recommendations for the extension and improvement of the rice industry. As a result various measures for the improvement of rice cultivation have been undertaken, including particularly, the establishment of a separate Irrigation Department for the construction of works and the improvement of water control in padi fields. Scientific services for the investigation and improvement of padi cultivation have been extended and more instruction has been given to the peasantry.

Consequently the padi (rice) production of the country has risen markedly since 1931. At present the total output of rice for the whole Peninsula is about 300,000 tons whereas in 1930 it amounted to only 150,000 tons. Contrary to the custom of half-yearly planting which prevails in many rice producing countries, the cultivation of one rice crop per annum is standard practice throughout the Malay Peninsula. Experiments in growing two rice crops per annum have been tried, but they do not show conclusively that the results give an adequate return for the additional labour involved, and the Malay never wastes labour.

A more important consideration however, is the fact that leaving the rice fields to lie fallow between two crops of rice undoubtedly helps to maintain their fertility and there are indications that the cost of production would be enhanced by the inevitable purchase of artificial fertilisers, if the Malay adopted a system of two harvests a year.

Practically everywhere in Malaya rice is grown by the transplanting system of wet cultivation, the grains being sown in seed beds and the plants transplanted into the fields when they are about six weeks old. The method of raising the seedlings varies in different parts of Malaya. In some places dry nurseries are sown, while in others wet nurseries are used. The preparation of the land for planting is done either by plough usually drawn by buffaloes, or with the use of hand-implements, either the shorthandled hoe, locally known as the "changkol", or the "tajak", scythe-like implement with a sharp cutting-edge. Transplanting is carried out by means of an implement known locally as "kuku kambing", (goat's hoof), while the padi is reaped either with the sickle or with the hand-knife known as the tuai or pisau menuai.

The area planted with rice in the Straits Settlements in the season 1934-35, and the total yields, are shown below:—

Territory	Wet		Dry		Total	
	Acres	Gantangs	Acres	Gantangs	Acres	Gantangs
Province Wellesley	32,500	13,598,000	570	112,000	33,070	13,710,000
Malacca ..	31,360	13,231,000	..	..	31,360	13,231,000
Penang ..	4,070	2,355,000	..	..	4,070	2,355,000
Total ..	67,930	29,184,000	570	112,000	68,500	29,296,000

The total area planted was 2,050 acres less than in the season 1933–34, while the total production of padi was 128,000 gantangs less.

Early in the season weather conditions, particularly in the north of Province Wellesley, gave rise to some anxiety but on the whole the season was an exceptionally favourable one and the return was decidedly satisfactory. The returns amounted to 414 gantangs per acre in Province Wellesley, 421 gantangs per acre in Malacca and 577

gantangs per acre in Penang. The mean yield for the whole Colony was 428 gantangs per acre which is little short of the record high yield obtained in the previous year.

The price of rice appreciated considerably during 1935. Production and stocks in rice-producing countries appear to have been normal and the increase is probably due less to the stock position than to the improved purchasing power of the consumer, coupled possibly with increased handling charges.

During the latter part of the year there was a sharp rise in price but this higher level was not maintained. The range of prices of padi was from 6–10 cents a gantang in Malacca and from 6–12 cents a gantang in the Penang Settlement. Complete statistics of planting for the 1935–36 season are not yet available, but there appears to have been some decrease in the area planted.

Manurial and cultivation experiments were continued during the year, but so far failed to throw any light on the remarkable bar which has been shown to exist in many areas of Malaya, *i.e.* that when the yield of padi amounts to about 480 gantangs per acre, further addition of artificial manures does not succeed in raising the yield. On the other hand certain areas exist, particularly in Penang, where yields of double this value are obtained. The question is still under investigation.

Pineapples.—Pineapples are grown for canning, on an extensive scale, in the Settlement of Singapore only, although small areas are cultivated in the other two Settlements for local consumption. In Singapore this industry operates in close association with the much larger industry in the adjoining State of Johore. Formerly pineapples were cultivated exclusively as a catch crop between rows of young rubber trees, but with the growth of the canning trade and the restriction on the planting of rubber this practice is less prevalent, and pineapples are being more and more cultivated as a principal crop.

In the pineapple-canning industry attention has been given to the improvement of manufacturing methods. Formerly, the conditions under which pineapples were canned left much to be desired, processes were crude and the factories were distinctly insanitary. Considerable progress however has now been made, and legislative powers to enforce improvement have been provided in the Pineapple Industry Ordinance, 1934, which requires the registration of pineapple factories and empowers the Registrar to refuse to register a insanitary factory. The same Ordinance provides for the marking of all tins and packages with a registered mark, to enable consignments to be traced back to the factory of origin, for the introduction of grading and inspection and for the general regulation of the industry. A start was made on these lines, during the year 1935, with the improvement of pineapple factories in Singapore, and it is anticipated that by the end of 1936 all the four pineapple factories on Singapore Island will have been completely reconstructed.

The present acreage under pineapples shows a decrease of 500 acres in 1935, being 7,000 acres of which 5,000 acres were planted as a sole crop, the remaining 2,000 acres being planted in mixed cultivation. At the end of the year four canneries were working, part of their supplies being drawn from Johore and a quantity of fruit also

being sent from the Klang District of Selangor. Prices for pineapples were fairly good throughout the year. A Co-operative Selling Agency among packers was started in the middle of the year. This Agency operates by fixing of figures of production and alloting a quota to each factory in proportion to the number of its shares in the combine. The Agency was registered for a period of six months, and during that time was successful in raising prices from $2.35 to $4 a case.

The Pineapple Experiment Station on Singapore Island, which is supported by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and the Federated Malay States, continued its investigations into the manurial and cultural requirements of the crop; and good work was done on the improvement of the pineapple by selection.

In September, 1935, a Canning Research Officer was appointed. The appointment is, in the first instance, for three years and half of the cost is borne by a grant from the Colonial Development Fund, the remaining half being contributed by the Straits Settlements, Johore and the Federated Malay States. From September until December, this officer underwent special training at the Fruit and Vegetable Canning Research Station at Campden, Gloucester. He arrived in Malaya early in 1936.

Fruit.—The large demand for fruit is by no means satisfied by local production, and there is considerable import from the Dutch East Indies and from China. The total value of the import of fresh fruit into Malaya for the year 1935 was $2,317,177.

Fruit is grown largely on Malay small holdings, and in most kampongs fruit trees are found. There are, however, some fruit orchards on Penang Island, and a few in Malacca, cultivated by Chinese. Apart from pineapples, the range of fruit cultivated is very extensive and includes mangosteens, pulasans, rambutans, durians, chikus, belimbings and langsats. It is estimated that in the Colony some 7,989 acres were planted with fruits of various kinds, excluding pineapples, but including 1,433 acres of bananas. The main fruit season was a good one in all three Settlements, although the secondary fruit season was rather late and distinctly poor. In Singapore a number of small holdings were cleared of rubber for fruit cultivation. A brisk demand exists for planting material of fruit trees of known good quality, arrangements for the propagation and distribution of fruit trees at the various Agricultural Stations were further extended during the year.

Vegetables.—The production of vegetables for sale in towns by Chinese market gardeners is an important minor agricultural industry, particularly in Singapore, where there are about 3,000 acres of vegetable land under cultivation consisting mostly of small holdings, and the output of fresh vegetables varies between 12 and 15 tons a day. The Department of Agriculture continued to maintain close touch with these activities in Singapore, Malacca and Penang through Chinese Sub-Inspectors of Agriculture.

Tobacco.—This crop is grown almost entirely by Chinese, usually in rotation with vegetables. The planted area varies considerably at different periods of the year, under the influences of season and prevailing prices. The tobacco grown is of a coarse type and is usually made up in primitive factories by Chinese into fine-cut leaf

suitable for pipe and cigarette smoking or into cheap cheroots for local consumption. It was estimated that the area under tobacco at the end of 1935 was 260 acres. Prices have ranged from $20 a pikul up to $50 a picul of leaf, according to quality and the condition of the market. Production was estimated at approximately 298,000 lbs. and valued at $75,000.

For a number of years experiments were carried out in Singapore on the production of flue-cured leaf, which yields the yellow Virginian type of tobacco suitable for making cigarettes. These experiments showed, however, that the climatic conditions in Singapore are unsuitable or its manufacture.

Tuba Root.—Increasing interest is being shown in the cultivation of tuba root (*Derris* spp.) for export. It is grown for use as an insecticide in spray washes for plants and in cattle and sheep dips. The plant from which derris is prepared is a native of the Malay Peninsula and its toxic properties have long been known to the Malay population, where its use as a fish poison is traditional. Its development as an article of commerce for the preparation of insecticides is, however, a matter of comparatively recent growth.

The area planted with derris root in Singapore increased to 750 acres, as against 650 acres last year; and the exceptionally high toxic content of the root from the Changi district of Singapore has resulted in a demand for cuttings with which the supply cannot keep pace. The reason for the high quality of the Changi derris is under investigation, while the unusual methods of cultivation practised in Singapore are being studied in a series of experiments which have been laid down at the Central Experiment Station at Serdang.

The price of Changi tuba reached the very high level of $85 a picul; and, with the sale of cuttings at $10 a thousand, it is a very profitable crop. The external demand for cuttings of *Derris elliptica* has continued to be high, and large consignments of planting material were shipped, principally to Japan and the Netherlands Indies.

Cloves.—Cloves are cultivated on an area of 378 acres in the Settlement of Penang. The crop is exclusively grown by Chinese and is sold partly for local consumption and partly for export. It is noteworthy that the quality of Penang cloves is considered to be equal to the highest grade of Zanzibar cloves.

During the year prices for dried cloves ranged between $30 and $35 a pikul according to quality, representing a further drop from the low price of the previous year. At such prices it is quite impossible to manure clove trees adequately; and unless the situation improves a considerable decline in production and export seems possible.

(iii).—Livestock

The Colony, unfortunately, depends largely on foreign sources for its supply of livestock for slaughter, and for its requirements in the way of animal products, such as milk, butter, eggs, and so forth. An endeavour, however, is being made to provide more grazing for buffaloes, for agricultural and other purposes, and this should improve the present position considerably. The local production of swine, too,

has markedly increased, but, although the Straits Settlements could if necessary produce all the pork needed for local consumption, Singapore at present depends largely on outside supplies, chiefly from the Netherlands Indies. Local swine, however, appear to be very healthy, and, as a result of careful inspection at the abattoirs, cysticercus infestation is almost non-existent in local animals. The existence of this parasite, which is frequently found in the carcases of imported swine, is very important from the point of view of public health, since one stage in its life cycle is passed in human beings.

Work has commenced in Singapore on the registration and licensing of all pig-styes, but it will be some time before the work is completed. Similar action will be taken, subsequently, in the remaining Settlements.

The Municipal Abattoirs in Singapore and Penang provide a very essential and efficient service, the animals being humanely handled and meat produced in a state fit for human consumption. Unfortunately, however, in all Settlements there are private slaughter houses over which there is little or no supervision. In Province Wellesley alone there are no less than 35 of these.

Dairies are principally owned and run by Northern Indians. The type of dairy animal used is frequently unsatisfactory, and the conditions under which the milk is produced and distributed leave a great deal to be desired. In Singapore, however, there are two dairy farms, the Singapore Dairy Farm and Malayan Farms Ltd., both under European management, which supply first-class produce. At the two farms about 150 imported European cows are milked, and at the same time an equal number of dry cows, bulls, and calves are kept. All fresh fodder is produced on the farms and other foods are imported from Europe, Australia and the United States of America. Altogether there are about 60 acres of land in grass yielding on an average about 28 tons an acre of cut grass. The dairy cattle include Ayrshire, Guernsey, Jersey, Illawarras and Friesians. At one farm the milking is done by hand, and at the other, by machine. All operations are under the closest European supervision and the milk produced is of high quality and meets all requirements of the health authorities.

Poultry farming in all Settlements is carried out more or less haphazardly, as a side-line to other occupations. The local production of poultry and eggs for food is on a far greater scale than is commonly realized, but there is reason to believe that so long as poultry and eggs can be easily imported, the local production will remain more or less stationary.

Prices—Cattle.—During the early part of the year, when there was an excessive importation of cattle from Siam, the price of Siamese animals in Singapore reached the lowest record for many years, *viz.* 5 to 6 cents per lb. live weight, as compared with 6½ to 7 cents in 1934. The price for cattle from Bali, however, varied continually between 6½ and 8 cents per lb. live weight, while 6¾ to 7 cents per lb. was paid for animals from Indo-China.

Sheep and Goats.—The price of Australian sheep remained reasonably constant during the year at rather less than the average

price for the previous year. Australian sheep vary between 70 and 100 lbs. live weight, and the average price was $8 a head. Calcutta sheep average 75 lbs. live weight and the price varied from $10 to $12 a head. Indian goats average 100 lbs. in weight and the price was usually between $14 and $17 a head.

Swine.—There was little if any variation in the price of pigs during the year. Pigs from Bali (Netherlands Indies) and Saigon (Indo-China) were bought for about 22 cents a kati, Singapore and Johore pigs for about 16 cents a kati, and pigs brought in junks from Chinese ports were sold for about 20 cents a kati. Local pigs average 80 katties, and Bali and Saigon pigs 90 katties, live weight.

Poultry.—The market prices of local poultry were as follows:—

Fowls.—Capons 47–59 cents, and chickens 33–41 cents a kati.

Ducks.—37–45 cents each.

Disease of livestock caused only small losses during the year. There was some mortality among swine in Singapore from swine-fever, which was probably introduced by imported animals. Occasional outbreaks of a disease in poultry due to a virus infection occasioned some loss. Other diseases introduced by imported animals *e.g.* rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease were controlled at the quarantine stations and at the abattoirs. During an outbreak of rinderpest in Singapore opportunity was taken to make detailed observations on the disease in local and imported cattle.

The following table gives the census of livestock in Singapore, Penang and Province Wellesley, and Malacca:—

	Cattle	*Buffaloes*	*Sheep and Goats*	*Swine*
Singapore	4,196	777	6,461	127,468
Penang and Province Wellesley ..	8,184	6,369	12,723	50,868
Malacca	5,367	10,537	10,146	20,402
Total ..	17,747	17,683	29,330	198,738

The following table gives the imports and exports of livestock during the year:—

IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

	Oxen	*Buffaloes*	*Sheep*	*Goats*	*Swine*
Singapore ..	14,552	181	42,234	2,889	116,235
Penang ..	1,381	2,305	8,205	5,184	18,918
Malacca ..	1,081	39	330	504	2,220
Total ..	17,014	2,525	50,769	8,577	137,373

EXPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

	Oxen	*Buffaloes*	*Sheep*	*Goats*	*Swine*
Singapore ..	626	77	4,906	359	1,125
Penang ..	20	229	1,718	599	582
Malacca ..	225	138	11	419	1,261
Total ..	871	444	6,635	1,377	2,968

(iv).—AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION

Preparations were begun in 1935 for the opening of a new Agricultural Station in Penang, and further progress was made with the development of the small Agricultural Station in Labuan. The Agricultural Stations at Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley, and at Sungei Udang in Malacca, as well as the Pineapple Station on Singapore Island continued operations during the year and served as centres for demonstration, instruction and experiment, as well as sources of supply of planting materials.

A Farm School in connection with the Sungei Udang Agricultural Station in Malacca was opened on the 2nd September with a full complement of twenty-five students. The school made an excellent start and the large number of crops grown on the Agricultural Station provides wide scope for practical instruction. At the Bukit Mertajam Station a "holiday course" was held in the month of April for seven pupils from the local High School.

There was a continued improvement in the general standard of work in school gardens, of which there were 105 in the Colony, and the "home-garden movement" to encourage pupils in elementary schools to make and keep gardens in their own homes, continued to meet with gratifying success. At the end of 1935, in fact, there were probably more than a thousand of these home-gardens in the Settlement of Malacca alone. An interesting new departure during the year was the holding of a show for school-gardens produce in Malacca in November.

Two successful District Agricultural Shows were held in Malacca, at Alor Gajah and Jasin respectively, and district competitions were held at two centres in Malacca and in Penang at seven centres and Province Wellesley as part of the All Malayan Padi and Rubber Competitions. The winning exhibits from the district competitions were despatched to Kuala Lumpur for display in the final stages of the competitions which took place at the Malayan Agricultural Exhibition in August.

Agricultural shows are now very firmly established institutions in Malaya and play an important part in the improvement of peasant agriculture.

The Rural Lecture Caravan of the Agricultural Department made tours in Malacca and Province Wellesley during the year. The lectures, film displays and exhibits as usual were much appreciated and drew large crowds at every centre visited.

The Malayan School of Agriculture, at Serdang, near Kuala Lumpur, which is supported jointly by the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements Governments had a very successful year. When the school year closed in April, there were seventy students on the books and at the opening of the next session in May the number had risen to seventy-five, this being only four short of the maximum capacity of the school. Six scholarships given by the Straits Settlements Government were held at the school throughout the year. Of forty-six students who left school in April, thirty-four have obtained employment either in the Government Service, the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya or in private companies.

(v).—Methods and Conditions of Recruiting South Indian Labour

The elaborate machinery which exists for the recruitment, in normal times, of South Indian labourers, required for work on rubber, coconut and oil-palm estates, is utilised also to supply labour required for the Railways, the Municipalities and such Government Departments as the Public Works Department.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, and the rules made thereunder. There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labourers for skilled work, but the recruiting of skilled labourers in British India for work in Malaya is practically non-existent.

The basis of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labourers is the Indian Immigration Fund. This fund is maintained by contributions from all employers of South Indian labourers including the several Governments of Malaya. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may be spent only for the purpose of assisting immigration or on measures designed for the welfare and protection of South Indian labourers, such as the maintenance of "choultries" (free lodging houses) and a home for decrepit Indian labourers, the repatriation of labourers to India and the assistance of those in need of relief. During the lean years from 1930 to 1933 the resources of the Fund were extensively used for the repatriation of labourers wishing to return to India.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being (*a*) cost of the train fares of recruited emigrants from their homes to the Depôts at Negapatam and Avadi, (*b*) care and feeding of all assisted emigrants in the Emigration Depôts at Negapatam and Avadi while awaiting shipment (*c*) steamer passages (from Madras or Negapatam) to the Straits, (*d*) expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang and Port Swettenham, (*e*) transport from ports of disembarkation to places of employment in Malaya and (*f*) payment of recruiting allowances to employers by whose agents the emigrants have been recruited.

Recruiting agents, known as kanganies, are sent over by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. A "recruiting allowance" is paid to the

employer in re-imbursement of this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

(i) he must be a South Indian of the labouring classes.

(ii) he must have been employed as a labourer for a period of not less than three months on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit.

Licences are issued by the Deputy Controller of Labour in Penang and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty and the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments with the approval of the Government of India to supervise emigration to Malaya, or to the Assistant Emigration Commissioner in Negapatam. Only on endorsement by one of these officials does the licence become valid The period of currency of the licence is usually six months and is limited, in any case, to one year.

After registration of his licence the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents, where he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) before leaving for his own village to inform his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate.

When the kangany finds people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and must obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Headman, whose duty it is to satisfy himself that there is no valid objection to their emigration. If so satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman, he takes them to the Emigration Depôt at or near the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Avadi or Negapatam, either himself pre-paying the train fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents employed at the charge of the Fund. These two depôts are maintained by the Fund and intending emigrants are housed and fed in them, free of charge, until they embark for Malaya.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government—the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped the kangany receives his commission, less the amount of his advance from the financial agents, unless he is himself returning to the Colony in which case he is paid the balance due to him on arrival at the estate.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charges and is purposely kept low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from $3 to $20 and is at present fixed at $10 for every female recruit or male recruit accompanied by his wife and $8 for every male recruit not accompanied by his wife. The amount of the allowance now fixed is designed to cover all legitimate out-of-pocket expenses leaving a margin just sufficient to induce employers to recruit up to their requirements.

Assisted emigration however is not confined to labourers recruited by kanganies for individual employers. An agricultural labourer who is physically fit can, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant and on production, where necessary, of a certificate from his Village Headman, obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing during recent years. They are usually labourers who have been in Malaya before and are returning to their old places of employment. As they are not recruited, neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable on their account, but each receives a gift of $2 and a free railway ticket to his destination on discharge from the immigration depôts in Malaya. This gift of $2 is made to ensure that each labourer will not suffer from lack of food while seeking employment.

Assisted immigration from India was suspended in August, 1930, but was resumed in May, 1934, since when recruiting licences have been issued only in a limited number of special cases, the great majority of assisted emigrants to Malaya being non-recruited labourers.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as *ex-officio* Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee which is composed partly of unofficial members, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited, are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no "contract" or indentured labour in the Colony.

There were 77 European-owned, and 249 Asiatic-owned estates in the Colony, employing 13,200 and 1,416 South Indian labourers respectively, on the 31st December, 1935. The retrocession of the Dindings to the State of Perak accounts for a reduction of 14 in the number of European-owned estates.

B.—FORESTRY

Territorial charge of the forests of Singapore continued under the Commissioner of Lands, the Forest Officer being fully occupied with the organization of supplies to, and the marketing of the output from, the local sawmills. The island carries no forest capable of producing raw material for the mills, which are peculiarly favourably situated for obtaining their log supplies from Sumatra *via* the sheltered waters of the Straits of Malacca. About 65 per cent. of the total import came from this source, as against 32 per cent.

from the Peninsula. The location of the mills is such that they cannot be served by the railways except with double handling and lorry transport through the streets of Singapore, an uneconomical and unsatisfactory method by comparison with direct shipment. The most obvious remedy would seem at first sight to be transference to sites where local supplies would not be handicapped, and the propriety of this step was considered when work on the Civil Aerodrome necessitated improvements to the Kallang Basin. But since action on these lines would have had the effect of driving the millers across the straits, where they would still have been able to dominate the Singapore timber market, it was thought preferable to interfere as little as possible with their present arrangements and to work for a better organization of local supplies.

Malayan exports of sawn timber and sleepers, which are shipped almost entirely from Singapore, declined in value from $564,221 to $469,462, a state of affairs that suggests a falling-off in trade, but is actually due to a very large increase in local demand supplemented by the requirements of the Admiralty and their contractors. There was a decline of over $45,000 in the value of shipments to British territories and of $54,851 to foreign countries, decreases being registered in the trade with China, Mauritius, Arabia, and the Netherlands Indies, offset to some extent by increases to South Africa, Hong Kong, Persia, Aden, and the United Kingdom. The last named market is still extremely selective and not very remunerative, but prices improved towards the latter half of the year as a result of which the rate of shipment was doubled and the total of 19,707 cubic feet exceeded the 1934 figure by 1235. The outlook for 1936 is considered to be very promising.

The only other Settlement participating in the export trade was Malacca, whence an experimental shipment of *meranti* logs was shipped to Europe. The forests of Malacca are amongst the most highly organized in the country, but they have suffered hitherto from lack of enterprise on the part of the inhabitants, who have been content to import much of their sawn timber from Singapore or the Netherlands Indies. Negotiations were proceeding towards the end of the year as a result of which it is hoped that a sawmill, capable of supplying the bulk of the Settlement's requirements, and of absorbing the regulated output of the surrounding forests, will be started in Malacca at an early date. The forests of Penang and Province Wellesley are mainly hilly, and the former are largely in the nature of amenity reserves, though they contain superior hardwoods in fair quantity, which form a useful source of local supply.

The forest reserves of the Straits Settlements at present occupy 128 square miles, or 10 per cent. of the area of the Colony. The Singapore reserves amount to 23 square miles, but, as they contain little valuable forest, they will probably be gradually revoked.

Revenue showed an increase from $32,083 in 1934 to $34,595 in 1935, if from the 1934 figures is excluded the revenue then collected in the Dindings which in 1935 was paid to the State of Perak. Expenditure rose from $68,676 to $74,358, the cost of the new Singapore forest organization outweighing the saving on account of the retrocession of the Dindings.

The Federated Malay States organizations for forest research and education, forest engineering and marketing also serve the needs of the Colony. The main research organization deals with forest botany, œcology, silviculture, wood technology, timber testing and investigation of forest products generally, and a school for training forest subordinates is attached to it. The Forest Engineer is concerned with the improvement of methods of extraction, conversion and transport of timber and other forest produce. The Timber Purchase Section serves as an agency for direct purchases of timber on behalf of government departments, but with the appointment of a forest officer in Singapore it has been possible to put an increasing number of purchasers in direct touch with the mills and to simplify to some extent the transactions involved.

C.—FISHERIES

At present the supply of fresh fish for the Singapore market is not altogether satisfactory. Japanese fishermen land approximately 50% of the supplies, and another 30% is taken in the waters of the Rhio Archipelago and imported on ice by local dealers. Local fishermen cannot face this competition, and it is therefore desirable that some constructive scheme should be put into operation to assist them. Steps are therefore being taken to provide a vessel fitted with refrigerating equipment to remain in attendance on the fishing fleets at sea; and it is hoped that, if the experiment proves successful, private enterprise will commission more vessels similarly equipped.

A continuous weekly examination was made during the year of the catches taken by seine net or fishing-stakes off Singapore, to ascertain whether any excessive destruction of young fish of economic importance was taking place, particular attention being given to those of the larger kinds such as Parang (Chirocentrus), Tenggiri (Cybium), and Kerapu (Epinephelus).

The investigation is incomplete but there are already indications that relatively few immature fish of the larger varieties are destroyed. The small fish are usually a heterogeneous assortment of mature fish which may, or may not, be valuable as food.

A considerable amount of work was undertaken to increase the period of storage of dried bilis (Stolephorous). These fish are sometimes caught in large quantities, but they cannot be handled in some of the remoter parts and consequently are wasted.

The best method of preservation is storage in a vacuum, but for this method power and air-tight metal containers are required, the cost of which is beyond the means of the average fish-dealer. It has been necessary, therefore, to find an alternative method and storage in carbon dioxide (CO^2), and mixtures of air and CO^2, has been tried. Although it is not so effective as storage *in vacuo*, this method may prove a good substitute for the more expensive one. The containers need not be so well made and CO^2 is cheap and easily obtainable in cylinders.

An attempt was made to market locally-grown sponges, but the results were not encouraging. The quality is poor and supplies are neither abundant nor regular. Some sponge cuttings which were planted out are living but growing very slowly.

The introduction of a simple diving apparatus has proved very acceptable to the builders of fishing-stakes, and a number of equipments have been made locally. Usually all tying and lacing of the large fishing-stakes is done by hand under water in depths up to forty feet by divers without equipment of any kind. The work cannot be done properly and in many cases bleeding from the nose and ears results from working in this crude way. The equipment simply consists of a helmet of galvanised iron fitted with a window, which is slipped over the head. A supply of air is delivered through a stout rubber tube by a large motor-tyre foot-pump. This enables the work to be done in comfort and safety, as the wearer can easily remain under water for half an hour at a time.

The experimental fish-cultivation station in Singapore was closed at the end of the year and another opened in Perak, where indigenous carp will be tried as objects for fish culture. As an experiment an attempt is being made in Malacca to convert an area of fresh water near Jasin into a fish-producing area, which it is hoped will ultimately be run on co-operative lines by local Malays. The preliminary snagging has begun. The area is Crown land at present held by the Fisheries Department under a temporary occupation licence, but as soon as it is ready, and the waters have been stocked with carp and gourami, it will be handed over to the Malay co-operators entirely. Meanwhile, however, it is proving no easy task to persuade the future beneficiaries to give any gratuitous assistance in the shape of labour.

The trout ova which arrived in Penang last April and were transferred to the Cameron Highlands have done well. Over 5,000 well-grown fish were liberated in the highland streams and appear to enjoy their new surroundings. There is every likelihood that trout fishing will shortly be established as the major attraction of Malaya's principal holiday resort.

Revenue in 1935 amounted to $12,373 an increase of $916 over that of 1934. There were 11,356 fishermen employed of whom 6,113 were Malays, 3,865 Chinese and 1,063 Japanese.

Statement showing quantity of fresh fish landed in the Colony during the year 1935:—

Penang	4,093	tons.
Province Wellesley	3,071	„
Malacca	2,729	„
Singapore	12,672	„
Labuan	132	„
Total ..	22,637	„

D.—MINERALS

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca, where tin is mined and to Christmas Island, where deposits of phosphate of lime are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. There are coal deposits in Labuan but these are not at present being worked. On the 1st April, 1934, the tin mines of Malacca were brought formally within the scope of the

International Tin-Restriction Scheme by the coming into operation of Ordinance No. 10 of 1934. By agreement with the Government of the Federated Malay States a fixed exportable allowance not exceeding 58.24 tons of tin per annum was allocated to the Settlement. This figure represents 1,296 pikuls of tin-ore, and the actual production during 1935 was 1,152.27 pikuls. At the end of the year there were only four producers. Royalty amounting to $9,343 was paid.

The smelting of tin at Singapore and Penang is one of the principal industries of the Straits Settlements. The year's production, as declared by tin smelters, amounted to 61,923 tons, as compared with 49,637 tons in 1934, an increase of 24.7 per cent.

Imports into Singapore and Penang of tin-in-ore, assessed at 75.5 per cent. by weight of ore imported amounted to 16,634 tons from countries outside Malaya as compared with 16,587 tons in 1934, and to 42,327 tons from the Malay States and Malacca as compared with 37,786 tons in 1934, a total of 58,961 tons as compared with 54,373 tons in the previous year. Exports of smelted tin amounted to 62,248 tons. The price of tin was £228 a ton at the beginning and £217 a ton at the end of the year. The highest and lowest prices during the year were £245 and £208, and the annual average was £225. The average price in 1934 was £230.

The production of phosphates of lime, as shown by exports from Christmas Island was 147,929 tons. Of this, 116,678 tons were exported to Japan, 23,050 tons to Sweden, 5,170 tons to the Union of South Africa, 2,084 tons to Java, 647 tons to Singapore, and 300 tons to Port Swettenham. The labour force consisted of Chinese recruited in Singapore for work on the Island.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The foreign (external) trade of Malaya, representing the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the Federated and the Unfederated Malay States, in merchandise, bullion and specie and Parcel Post, amounted in value to $1,063 (£124) millions, as compared with $1,040 (£121) millions in 1934, an increase of 2.2 per cent. Imports increased by $8 millions or 1.7 per cent. and exports by $15 millions or 2.6 per cent. The increase in both imports and exports was spread over the majority of the principal products, the largest increases being in the imports of rice, copra, kerosene, motor cars, dredges and dredging materials, and in the exports of tin, copra, motor spirit, coconut oil, rice, kerosene, palm oil, pineapples, arecanuts, iron ore, and sago flour. There were, as a counterpoise, considerable decreases in the imports of pepper, cotton and artificial-silk piece-goods (due to textile quota regulation), rubber, sticklac and cycle parts and a decline was also noted in the exports of rubber (due to Rubber Regulation), sticklac and cotton piece-goods. Exports of rubber decreased by approximately $20,546,000 in value, but the value of tin exported increased by about the same amount ($20,570,000), and on the whole a general improvement was noticeable both in the entrepôt trade and the trade in domestic products.

The trade of the Straits Settlements is not recorded separately but the greater part of Malaya's trade passes through the ports of Singapore or Penang, and the large transhipment traffic, which comprises so valuable a part of Malayan commerce passes almost entirely through these ports which are nodal points for the collection, grading and distribution of goods for the whole of Malaysia, especially the neighbouring territories of the Netherlands Indies. The $1,063 millions of external trade consisted of $479 millions of imports and $584 millions of exports, the corresponding figures for 1934 being respectively $471 millions and $569 millions. The value of bunker coal, oil fuel and stores taken on board ships on foreign trade routes for their own consumption amounted to $12 millions and if this is added to the excess of exports there was a favourable trade balance of $117 millions, as compared with a favourable balance on the same basis of $108 millions in 1934.

There is need for some caution in the use of statistics for measuring Malayan trade, because a considerable portion of the declared trade values for Malaya, and for the Colony, represents the import and export of mineral oils. Singapore by virtue of its geographical position and proximity to the oil fields is a natural storage and distributing centre for this commodity, and distribution is effected as far as Africa on one side and Australia on the other. The following figures show the trade in mineral oils in 1935 and its relationship in value to the gross trade of Malaya:—

TRADE: MINERAL OILS, 1935

VALUES IN $,000

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
Lubricating Oil ..	1,926	400	2,326
Kerosene	11,887	8,076	19,963
Liquid Fuel	11,913	3,473	15,386
Motor Spirit	47,710	40,338	88,048
A.—Total	73,436	52,287	125,723
B.—Malaya	479,000	584,000	1,063,000
C.—Percentage *A* and *B*	15	9	12

Of the $1,063 millions, representing the external trade of Malaya, $909 millions or 86 per cent. indicate the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements. The value of imports was $435 millions and of exports $474 millions. The figures indicate an increase in gross Colony trade and in the proportion of Malayan trade carried by Colony merchants, since 1934 when the Colony's $428 millions of imports and $459 millions of exports amounted to 85 per cent. of Malaya's external trade.

Of Malayan trade, and the same can be said of that of the Colony, the percentage with the United Kingdom decreased from 16.8 to 15.9 but with British Possessions it increased from 13.4 to 15.4; there was, therefore, a net increase with all British countries of 1.1 per cent.

The following is a table of the trade values geographically apportioned:—

		Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
			$ in millions	
1.	United Kingdom ..	75	94	169
2.	British Possessions ..	82	81	163
3.	Continent of Europe ..	23	74	97
4.	United States of America	9	214	223
5.	Japan	30	53	83
6.	Netherlands Indies ..	151	39	190
7.	Other Countries (principally Siam) ..	106	27	133
	Total ..	476	582	1,058
	Parcel Post, all countries ..	3	2	5
	Total from Trade ..	479	584	1,063
	Favourable Balance ..	105	—	—
		584	584	—

Detailed information regarding the trade of Malaya is contained in the regular periodical publications of the Department of Statistics.

The Regulations made in 1934 for the control, under a quota system, of imports for Malayan consumption of cotton and rayon piece-goods manufactured in foreign countries, continued in force throughout the year, and further restrictions on trade were imposed in connection with the sanctions ordained against Italy under the Covenant of the League of Nations. Notwithstanding these restrictions, however, and the continued operation of the tin and rubber control schemes, it can be said that on the whole the Colony's tradition of free-trade was maintained. Apart from excise duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imposed solely for revenue purposes, there are no import duties in the Straits Settlements, and commerce and passenger traffic flow with a freedom that in these days is remarkable.

CHAPTER VIII

Wages and the Cost of living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for Southern Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts in Malaya and these rates tend in practice to regulate the rates of wages earned in other districts and by labourers of other races. There was no change in standard rates during the year.

In the Colony, the only key district in which standard wages were in force was Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates were 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer, 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female, and 16 cents for children of 10 years and

over. No Indian child of under 10 years of age may be allowed to work.

The average retail price in Penang per gantang (8 lbs.) of Rangoon No. 1 Rice which is the variety most commonly used by South Indian labourers in Malaya, rose from 20 cents in January to 21 cents in February, and from May gradually climbed to 25 cents in August at which price it remained steady for the remainder of the year. The wholesale price averaged $3.56 per pikul (133 1/3 lbs.) in Singapore as compared with $2.76 in 1934, the highest figure being $3.86 (*i.e.* 23 cents per gantang) in October, and the lowest $2.89 (17 cents per gantang) in January. (Estate managers buy rice wholesale and retail it—without profit—to their labourers). The rise in the price of rice was offset by falls in other items, in the standard budget of a South Indian labourer, which showed only a slight increase in Penang (2.9%) and Singapore (3.6%) while on the other hand it fell in Malacca by 2.1%.

In the island of Penang daily rates for South Indian agricultural labourers ranged from 35 to 68 cents a day for a male adult, and from 28 to 32 cents a day for a female adult, while children received 16 to 35 cents a day. Normal rates ranged about 40 cents for a male and 30 cents for a female.

In Singapore the daily earnings of South Indian labourers on estates ranged from 32 to 55 cents a day for adult males, from 28 to 32 cents a day for adult females and from 20 to 25 cents a day for children, the great majority of tappers being paid by results. Chinese tappers were paid by results, at rates varying from 2½ to 3½ cents a lb., and their earnings ranged from 42 to 55 cents a day. In Government Departments and under public bodies the minimum rate for unskilled South Indian adult males was 40 cents a day, 45 to 50 cents a day being normal rates.

In Malacca on estates adult South Indian males earned 30 to 50 cents a day, adult females 25 to 45 cents a day and children 10 to 20 cents a day, the lower rates being found in the third quarter of the year on Asiatic properties. The higher rates were paid to store and factory workers.

In Government Departments the rates ranged from 40 to 90 cents a day for adult unskilled males, 40 to 50 cents a day being normal.

The figures given above do not refer to skilled labour which commanded higher rates. Earnings of Javanese on estates were about the same as those of South Indians. In Province Wellesley the labour forces are very settled, for on the older properties where South Indian labour has been employed for many years, the majority are locally born. Many of the estate labourers in Province Wellesley are not entirely dependent on their check-roll wages, and the same position is frequently met with in Penang and is increasingly common in Singapore.

Every employer is bound by law to provide at least 24 days' work in every month to each male or female labourer employed by him. There is no indentured labour.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 9 of 1932) is administered by Commissioners, one in each centre (Singapore, Malacca, Penang and Province Wellesley) who is assisted by the Labour Department. Health and Labour Departments are invested with powers under the Labour Ordinance, to enforce proper conditions of health and work and protection from machinery is secured under Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery). For further particulars, reference is invited to the Blue Book, Section 23.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living, reference is invited to the separate report on this subject (No. S. 4) published annually by the Statistics Department. The average weighted index of commodity prices in Singapore, represented by 17 principal commodities (15 wholesale and 2 retail) increased by .8 per cent. as compared with 1934, due principally to increases in the prices of coconut oil, copra, palm oil and rice. There were increases also in the prices of areca nuts, damar, gambier, pineapples, sago flour, tapioca and tea. The prices of rubber, tin, pepper and rattans declined. The price of tin was £228 per ton at the beginning and £217 at the end of the year, the highest and lowest prices being £245 and £208, respectively. The price of rubber was 6⅜ pence per lb. at the beginning and 6 7/16 pence at the end of the year, the highest and lowest being 6 11/16 pence and 5 3/16 pence, respectively. The following index numbers show changes in commodity values during the last five years:—

1931	*1932*	*1933*	*1934*	*1935*
41	37	45	63	64

The tendency for retail values was to rise, as shown by an increase of 3.1 per cent. in the index of food prices, representing the mean of the differences of the average of the two years in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

Municipal assessment values increased by 0.6 per cent. in Singapore, but declined by 1.1 per cent. in Penang and 2.5 per cent. in Malacca, as compared with those of 1934.

There was a general increase in the cost of living for all communities and the index numbers for the Asiatic, Eurasian and European standards given below show that costs were higher, in respect of all three standards, than in 1914.

Standard	1914	1934	1935	Percentage increase + or decrease – in 1935 as compared with 1934
Asiatic	100	103.2	108.1	+ 4.7
Eurasian ..	100	108.5	109.0	+ 0.5
European ..	100	124.4	124.7	+ 0.2

CHAPTER IX

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools, (other than those in which the teaching is of an exclusively religious nature) in which fifteen or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance, 1926. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher of an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is insanitary or that is likely to be used for the purpose of propaganda detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director of Education may also, in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board receives, in addition to the school fees, the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas.

B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The "English Schools" are those in which English is the medium of instruction. Few of the pupils are English-speaking when they join. The lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and are given an education which ends as a rule with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though a few stay on and prepare for the London Matriculation Examination.

The fees for pupils enrolled before the 1st January, 1934, are $30 (£3. 10*s.*) a year for boys and $24 (£2. 16*s.*) a year for girls for the first six years (*i.e.* for the years spent in the two Primary Classes and in Standards I to IV inclusive) and $48 (£5. 12*s.*) a year for boys and $36 (£4. 4*s.*) a year for girls for the remaining period. The rates for boys and girls enrolled on or after the 1st January, 1934, are $36 (£4. 4*s.*) a year for the first eight years (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and thereafter $72 (£8. 8*s.*) or $108 (£12. 12*s.*) a year, according to the results of an examination, the successful pupils up to 50% of the available places paying the lower fee and the remainder paying the higher one.

Attendance is not compulsory.

In 1935 there were 24 Government and 33 Aided Schools in the Colony, 28 in Singapore, 20 in Penang, eight in Malacca and one in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 25,254 pupils (9,557 in Government and 15,697 in Aided Schools).

Of the 25,254 pupils in English Schools, 21,709 were receiving elementary education (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and 3,545 secondary education (*i.e.* above Standard VI).

Two thousand four hundred and sixty seven (or 11.28%) of those receiving elementary education and 1,008 (or 28.43%) of those receiving secondary education were enjoying free education. Of these free scholars 607 were Europeans and Eurasians, 1,107 Malays, 1,515 Chinese, and 206 Indians, while 40 belonged to other races.

The Aided English Schools are managed by various missionary bodies—the Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, the Portuguese Catholic Church, and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of European Missionary teachers at the rate of $3,000 (£350) a year for men missionaries and $1,800 (£210) a year for women missionaries. Allowances at these rates, however, are payable only to 16 per cent. of the total authorised staff in boys' schools and 25 per cent. of that in girls' schools. The other missionary teachers, European and Asiatic, are paid at the rate of $1,440 (£168) a year for men and $1,200 (£140) a year for women. In Christian Brothers' Schools and Convent Schools no distinction is made between European and Asiatic Missionary teachers who are paid at a flat rate of $2,400 (£280) a year for men and $1,500 (£175) a year for women. Under certain conditions capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government.

The Government Afternoon Schools in Singapore continued the useful work that they have carried out since their initiation in 1930. These schools accommodate pupils who are unable to gain admission to Government or Aided morning schools: some, but by no means all, of the pupils are over-age for the morning schools. The afternoon schools are staffed by qualified and trained teachers for whom

employment cannot be found in the regular Government or Aided Schools. During 1935, the schools were re-organised so as to ensure liaison and co-operation with the morning schools. In one of the schools special attention was paid to manual work of value to the over-age boy unsuited to literary studies. The workshop was erected by the boys themselves under the direction of the instructor. The enrolment of the afternoon schools in 1935 was 844 pupils as compared with 737 in 1934. The total expenditure was $31,924.95 and the total revenue $28,056.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—

(a) those controlled by religious bodies and accommodated in proper school buildings;

(b) those carried on by individuals for profit and accommodated in any sort of building—shop-house or private house, office or godown.

In 1935 there were 5,856 pupils in private schools in Singapore and 46 in Labuan. With a view to improving the staffs of these schools the minimum scholastic qualifications for registration as a teacher was prescribed as the Junior Certificate Examination. Selected teachers from private schools in Singapore were also permitted to join Physical Training classes for Government and Aided School Teachers.

In January, 1935, a Conference of the Heads of Singapore Government and Aided English Schools was held under the presidency of the Inspector of Schools and proved a useful channel for the exchange of ideas on school organisation and method.

In May, 1935, one of the European masters on the Singapore staff of the Education Department was appointed Group Supervisor in charge of a group of schools with locally-trained headmasters, and one of the European mistresses was appointed a Primary Supervisor in charge of the Primary classes in the same schools. The main duty of the Supervisors is to improve methods of teaching, particularly in the English subjects. The arrangement was experimental and its effects cannot yet be judged.

There is no central College for the training of teachers for English Schools. Such training was until recently supplied at Normal Classes held at one centre in each of the three Settlements but these classes have been suspended temporarily, as the supply of teachers has overtaken the demand. A Normal Class for Primary teachers will however be opened in 1936.

Nine men and six women were allowed to present themselves at a final Normal Class Examination held in 1935, and of these five men and six women passed.

There were Post Normal Classes in Singapore in 1935, for which certificates of attendance and achievement were awarded. These classes provided courses for Games Masters, and courses in Physical Training (Elementary and Advanced), and Speech Training. A notable and successful innovation was a course in Malayan Plant Life, conducted by the Assistant Director of Gardens. The interest shown in all these classes and the keenness with which they were attended were exceedingly gratifying. The Singapore Teachers'

Association had a varied and valuable programme of professional, social and athletic activities in 1935, and its annual Journal ("Chorus") formed a valuable record of educational thought and progress in Malaya.

Secondary teachers are recruited mainly from Raffles College. In 1935 ten Raffles College graduates were appointed to Government and Aided Schools in Singapore and six to schools in Penang. In addition ten Normal trained teachers were also appointed to Singapore schools.

C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School at Kuala Lumpur in the Federated Malay States where courses of training are given for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, and accommodation provided also for a class conducted by the Survey Department for its own subordinates.

In the Government Evening Classes in Singapore, courses were provided in Plumbing (including practical plumbing), Electrical Engineering, Machine Design, Surveying, Quantity Surveying, Structural Engineering and Chemistry. The classes with the highest average attendance were those in Electrical Engineering (39) and Quantity Surveying (25). In all classes, those with small as well as those with high enrolments, the interest and the diligence of the students were most commendable.

The Government Evening Classes in Singapore continued to provide Nautical courses which were attended by men who came from all over the Peninsula. The numbers in these classes were limited in accordance with the requirements of the Port. The standard of work is being gradually raised but this is found to stimulate rather than to diminish enthusiasm. In 1935 men from the Marine Police were admitted to qualify to take charge of Police launches. The local nautical examinations were taken: twenty-three qualified, eleven as helmsmen, ten as gunners and one as local-trade master.

A new class in Radio Engineering was started in the Government Evening Classes in Penang. There were 46 students in the class.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils may proceed to the School of Agriculture at Serdang, near Kuala Lumpur, in the Federated Malay States, where one-year and two-year courses of study are followed. Government provided a number of scholarships to this school in 1935.

Three Singapore English schools maintained vegetable gardens during the year and received help and advice from the Agricultural Department which reported favourably on the work done. In addition, eight Malay schools had gardens.

As in 1934, a six day Agricultural Course was run at Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley. The number of boys attending the course was 28, of whom 13 were Malays. One of these students obtained a Major Scholarship at the School of Agriculture later. A start was made also with a poultry farm at Bukit Mertajam, with cross bred Rhode Island Reds.

Practical and theoretical gardening is a subject on the curriculum of the higher standards in Malay schools at Penang where land suitable for gardening is available. There were 46 schools with vegetable gardens, which were regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department. Three schools had rice plots, seven schools had orchards and 2,432 pupils had home gardens.

Gardening continues to be of a high standard in the vernacular schools at Malacca. One thousand one hundred and ninety-eight boys had home gardens. In addition to the annual inter-school Garden competition, 1935 was noteworthy for the holding in Malacca town on 16th November of the first Malay Schools' Agricultural Show. No fewer than 400 exhibits were received for this show which attracted great attention and was highly praised by the Director of Agriculture, who presented the prizes. The exhibits were sold for the benefit of the Poppy Day Fund.

Poultry keeping was commenced as an experiment at Pengkalan Balak School in Malacca, with the advice and co-operation of the Agricultural Officer. It is too early to say whether it can be brought to the necessary stage of showing a profit on working, but the increase in the production of chickens has so far been very satisfactory.

Commercial Education.—Courses of study covering two years are provided by the Commercial Department of Raffles Institution in Singapore, and the Government Commercial Day School in Penang, and in the Government Evening Classes in Singapore courses were given in Shorthand, Typewriting and Book-keeping. The examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce were taken by the pupils in these courses and the attendance and interest were well maintained though enrolments were not high.

The Government Evening Classes at Penang provided courses in Secretarial Practice, Book-keeping and Accountancy, Shorthand and Typewriting, and one hundred and twelve students took the examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce. The total expenditure on these classes was $4,545 and the total revenue $2,430.

Evening Classes were also held regularly at Malacca, but Shorthand and Typewriting were the only subjects taught. Thirteen candidates sat for the London Chamber of Commerce Autumn Examinations. These classes fill a definite need in Malacca, where there exists no other means of obtaining commercial education.

Industrial Education.—(a) The Singapore Trade School continued to do good work. A three year course is provided. There were 80 students in the general mechanics training course (which includes machine shop practice, general fitting and bench work, blacksmith's work and motor mechanics), namely 37 in the first year, 20 in the second year and 23 in the third and final year. The electrical course (which includes electric wiring and fitting) was taken by 20 students, 13 in the first year and seven in the second year class. Of the total number of students 18 were taking the plumbing course, ten in the first year and eight in the second year course.

As in past years, outside work was undertaken in order to give students practical training. Altogether 66 cars were repaired or overhauled and nine other outside jobs were undertaken. The total sum collected for the outside work amounted to $3,055.

Expert engineers have expressed the opinion that the standard of work of the students at the school is comparable with that of an apprentice in England with the same length of training and that the scope of the instruction is wider than that obtaining in most workshops. The work of the plumbing section, both the first and second year class, is regarded as being of a very high standard. All the students who completed the third year course in general mechanics obtained posts, and out of 76 students who have now completed the Trade School course 72 have subsequently found employment. The services of the Advisory Committee, which includes several prominent local engineers among its members, have been of the greatest value to the school.

During the year a donation of $10,000 was received from the Ho Ho Biscuit Company to endow Scholarships tenable at the Singapore Trade School in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of H. M. King George V. Two of these scholarships of the value of $12 a month each are offered for award in 1936. The Singapore Urban Co-operative Societies Union and the Jaffnese Co-operative Society have also offered scholarships for sons of their members who go to the school.

Fees, $36 (£4. 4*s.*) a year, were introduced in 1935 and did not reduce the number of applicants for admission. Exemption from payment of fees is granted to a limited number of poor students: 16 were exempted in 1935.

(b) The enrolment at the Penang Trade School reached 120 in May including 35 new students. Of these twenty-two had free places. The general level of the work in this school was satisfactory but it was found that some boys who had only passed Standard IV were not up to the general standard.

A new open blacksmith's shop was built and the garage extended in 1935. A 6½″ and a 4″ lathe were installed. Maintenance Contracts for Excise, Posts and Telegraphs, Police and Medical Departments were undertaken. The General Hospital was supplied with trollies, operating table and 100 steel beds and the Penang Swimming Club with 24 steel chairs. The gross revenue from outside work was $7,500, of which $2,060 was profit and paid into revenue. Fees amounted to $2,367.

Twenty-eight third year students left of whom 27 obtained a certificate. Thanks to the help of members of the Advisory Committee, all were found satisfactory employment in the Municipality, Harbour Board, Borneo Company, and other commercial firms. Ten of the 76 students at the end of the year were Malays.

(c) The Malacca Trade School opened in February, 1935 with 18 students taking the 1st year course in carpentry. Twenty-one boys were on the roll at the end of the year, eighteen of these being Malays and three Eurasians. The absence of Chinese applicants for admission was noticeable. The preponderance of Malays creates difficulties, for the reason they have generally had only a vernacular education, and usually suffer financial disabilities, but the progress of the school was satisfactory

The adaptation of the old Hospital buildings at Durian Daun to house the Trade School, was carried a stage further by the renovation of quarters for subordinates, levelling of a football field, and construction of a road round the whole area.

D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine and Raffles College, both in Singapore. The course at the College of Medicine covers six years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial List of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

There is also a fully organised dental school in which a five years' course of training is given, the Diploma in Dental Surgery entitling its holder to practise in Malaya.

A four years' course for a diploma in Pharmacy, entitling the holder to register under the Registration of Pharmacists Ordinance and to hold a licence under the Poisons and Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, thereby enabling him to practise as a dispenser in Malaya, was started in June, 1935.

Raffles College was opened in 1928 in order to place education of a University standard within the reach of all youths in British Malaya who were capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three-year courses in Arts and Science, and Diplomas are awarded to successful students.

The College awards annually ten Entrance Scholarships of a value of $720 per annum tenable for three years, and a limited number of Second and Third Year Exhibitions, not exceeding $500 per annum, are available for students who show exceptional ability during their first or second years at College.

Two scholarships, known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 for the first year and £400 for any subsequent year, up to six years in all, are awarded every year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential college at Oxford or Cambridge.

The annual examination for these scholarships, the twelfth since they were restored by Government in 1923, was held in October. The successful candidates were NOEL L'ANGELLIER of the Raffles Institution and AHMAD BIN MOHAMED IBRAHIM of Raffles College. The former is taking Law and the latter Law and Economics, both at Cambridge University. Fifteen candidates competed at the examination.

E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay vernacular education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give a general and practical education to those boys who have no desire for an education in English, and who will find employment either in agriculture or in appointments in which a knowledge of the vernacular is all that is required, and (ii) to provide a sound foundation in the vernacular on which an education in English can be superimposed for boys who desire to proceed eventually to an English School.

The school course normally lasts five years, during which period the pupils pass through five standards. The subjects of the curriculum are Reading and Writing (in the Arabic and Romanised script), Composition, Arithmetic, Geography, Malay History, Hygiene, Drawing and Physical Training. Boys do Basketry and Gardening in addition, and girls do Needlework and Domestic Science.

In 1935 there were 211 Malay vernacular schools with an average enrolment of 24,110 pupils. The figures for 1934 were 219 schools and 23,946 pupils, but nine boys' schools and one girls' school were handed over to the Perak Government on the retrocession of the Dindings. There is also an aided Malay school at Pulau Bukom, near Singapore, at which the number of pupils increased from 51 in 1934 to 63 in 1935.

Those who are to become teachers in the Malay vernacular boys' schools are selected from the pupils who have shown promise. As pupil teachers they both teach and study till they attain their sixteenth birthdays about which time they sit for an examination qualifying for admission to the Sultan Idris Training College at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States. If they do sufficiently well they are accepted into the College and put through a three-year course. Graduates of the College are designated "Trained Teachers".

A Malay Women Teachers' Training College was opened at Malacca in February, 1935, with an enrolment of 24 students drawn from the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States. One student from Pahang was asked to discontinue her studies because of poor scholarship and lack of promise of improvement. During the first term and during the first month of the second term many cases of fever occurred, but for the last six weeks of the year the College was free from illness of any sort. The students submitted to medical examination and carried out the treatment prescribed without undue coercion, but personal cleanliness was still rather unsatisfactory at the end of the year though much had been achieved by strict supervision and individual attention. There was no trouble over discipline and behaviour, which were excellent. Generally speaking the only capacity shewn by the students on admission was some aptitude for careful workmanship in crafts. Otherwise they had little ability and their mental activity was not of a high order. It was not surprising therefore that, while industrial subjects progressed satisfactorily, only fair improvement was shown in the others. Great keenness was exhibited at the start over badminton, netball and

tennikoit (deck tennis) and there was soon marked improvement in skill, alertness and sense of play; but it was found that enthusiasm waned rapidly if the students were not helped in the organisation of their games by the European staff. Badminton tournaments were held at the College and at two of the other girls' schools in Malacca and the College players advanced from third place to second place in the course of them. At an open day for European ladies and English School teachers the students acted as hostesses and gave a performance of "Cinderella" in Malay. Visits were paid to places of historic interest and to such centres of activity as the Post Office, an Aerated Water Factory, etc.. The students were also taken to see suitable films. The Principal considers that the experiment is justifying itself in the happiness shown by the students, in their adaptability to their new life and in their improved health, but that the personal interest and strict supervision of a devoted staff is necessary if progress in mental, domestic and leisure-time activities is to continue.

In Singapore there were special classes for teachers in the Malay schools in practical teaching, Art, Physical Training, and tropical diet, the last being conducted by the Professor of Biochemistry of the King Edward VII College of Medicine. There were also needlework classes for women teachers.

The special class in Domestic Science for selected girls from the Malay schools, which was started in 1934, was converted into a special school (Rochore Girls' School) in 1935. A two-year course is provided in which emphasis is placed on handwork, art, nursing, needlework and cookery and homecraft generally. English is also taught, and in the teaching of nursing and hygiene valuable assistance was obtained from the Government Health Department.

Carpentry, fretwork, chick-making, cotton-printing, net-making and book-binding were taught in a number of vernacular schools.

The Singapore Malay Teachers' Association had a very full and successful programme of professional, social and athletic activities and like the sister Association of the English schools published its annual journal ("Saujana").

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1935 was 10 in Singapore, 22 in Penang and three in Malacca and the total grants paid to these schools was $49,308.

The grants to Chinese vernacular schools are in two grades, $10 a year or $5 a year for each pupil in average attendance. In order to qualify for the higher grade schools must teach English for a certain number of hours each day with reasonable efficiency and must employ for that purpose a teacher who holds the minimum qualification of a Junior Cambridge Certificate or a certificate recognised by the Director of Education as of equal value.

There are three types of schools:—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.* schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members";

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on the school fees for his livelihood, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1*s.* 2*d.*) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s.* 8*d.*) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of a Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The Primary course in Chinese schools normally occupies six years. The Government has little if any control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance, or the length of holidays in any except the Aided Schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curriculum.

The Chinese High School at Singapore, continued its first year secondary course and also started a second year one. It is hoped to start a third year secondary course in 1936. In Penang there were two schools for boys which provided a secondary education together with a primary course. In Malacca there was one, but the course of study there was not complete. Four girls' schools in Singapore and two in Penang provided a Normal Class. One girls' school in Singapore provided a Physical Training course.

An Inter-School Sports Meeting and a Children's Fair were held in Singapore as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. The Fair, which was attended by 11,000 boys and girls from 180 Chinese schools, proved a great success.

An Inter-School Examination, the first of its kind, for Chinese Schools in the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States was organised by the Department of Education and was held simultaneously in all three Settlements on December 2nd and 3rd. In the three Settlements, 896 pupils (595 from aided schools) representing 39 schools, of which 21 are aided, took part in the examination. A total of 193 pupils, 122 from aided schools, attained the pass mark. It is intended to make this examination an annual event, and though the result for this year may be considered unsatisfactory, it is fully expected that results will show a great improvement in the future. The examination is looked upon with favour by the Chinese community.

At the close of 1935 there were 430 registered schools with 1,518 registered teachers and 32,486 pupils (of whom 8,308 were girls). The figures for 1934 were 403 schools with 1,323 registered teachers and 28,874 pupils.

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There were no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil schools in Penang and Province Wellesley, and all those in Malacca, were estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder were private schools run by mission bodies or committees.

Education is entirely free in estate schools; in some of these the children also receive free uniforms (from toddy-shop profits) and the parents a gift of rice if attendance is satisfactory. The schools run by Christian Missions or Indian Associations usually give free education to the poor. In proprietary schools the fees seldom exceed $1 (2*s.* 4*d.*) a month.

No Singapore schools were in receipt of grants-in-aid. In the five private Tamil schools there were 156 pupils, 57 girls and 99 boys.

As in 1934, 21 schools in Penang received grants-in-aid early in 1935. Three of these are estate schools in the Dindings, which are now administered by the Perak Education Department. There remain eighteen grants-in-aid schools in this Settlement, 14 on estates, two run by Indian Associations, and two by the Roman Catholics. At the end of the year there were in all 29 Tamil schools in Penang with 54 teachers and 1,603 pupils (of whom 636 were girls).

The general standard of the schools has substantially improved during the last twelve months. In most cases suggestions and criticisms made in 1934 have been carefully acted upon. School gardens have increased in numbers and efficiency, and the custom of providing uniforms is spreading. Septic tank latrines have been provided for several estate Tamil schools. Caledonia Estate School continues to maintain its excellent standard. Only two schools, Caledonia and the Convent, possessed trained head teachers.

The results of the Annual Examination of Tamil vernacular schools in Malacca, show that there has been an appreciable improvement generally. Managers have carried out many, in some cases all, of the recommendations, made by the Education Department concerning accommodation, equipment and teaching conditions. Eight schools with a total enrolment of 253 pupils received grants-in-aid, and the number of schools seeking registration and endeavouring to earn a grant is increasing.

The grant has been raised from $6 to $8 a pupil per annum as from 1st July, 1935.

There is no provision in Malaya for the training of Tamil teachers. Though there is no policy of co-education, a number of girls attend boys' schools. There is only one Tamil vernacular school for girls in the Colony, the Convent Tamil School at Penang, and even this has a few boys in its lower classes.

F.—MUSIC, ART, DRAMA AND RECREATION

Music.—Lessons in musical appreciation were as in past years given in many schools. Part-singing and sight-singing of a high standard were continued at several schools. The wireless was used in three Singapore schools, and several schools maintained school orchestras.

Children's Concerts as in many years past were arranged, and the Singapore Children's Orchestra formed in 1933 gave a successful concert in aid of the Unemployment Fund. The Orchestra and the Children's Concerts are under the direction of a Committee that receives a small grant from Government funds. Major E. A. BROWN, O.B.E., was again the Chairman and the moving spirit until his

departure on furlough towards the end of the year when Mr. R. A. WADDLE, another enthusiastic worker for these causes, took his place.

Art.—This subject has been given a great deal of attention in all English schools in Singapore and Penang and the standard of work is high. In Singapore, during the year, special attention was paid to the Primary classes in English schools and as a result the work in these classes showed a notable improvement in teaching, execution, taste and general usefulness. In the elementary classes, observational drawing was further supplemented by more extensive creative work. From Standard IV upwards, and in some schools in even lower standards water-colour was in general use as the medium of expression. Plant study was particularly successful in schools where the work was correlated with nature study. Applied design was given a practical bias even in the lowest classes and was largely adapted to various book-crafts in the form of stick-printing, paper-cutting and applique-marbling, stencilling, book-binding, block-printing, lettering, manuscript-writing and simple illumination. Other crafts practised in elementary classes were basketry, the decoration of soft fabrics by means of stitching or stencilling, wood staining and fretwork in wood. In the girls' schools, special attention was given to plant study and the correlation of design with needlecraft.

In the Singapore Malay Schools there was further improvement in art and handwork due chiefly to the work of the teachers' classes. The 1935 classes for teachers provided courses in pastel drawing and simple handicrafts and in object and plant drawing in pencil and pastel.

The classes in Singapore for teachers in English schools included the concluding lessons of the course in school handicrafts begun in 1934 and also a special class for advanced students and for teachers seeking help and advice in problems of school work. In order that the general public might have some idea of the work done in these classes an exhibition of work that included all the finished work of the students was held. There was a very large attendance of the public and the exhibition was also visited by conducted classes of children from the upper and middle classes of the schools.

Carpentry is now established in all the Government English schools in Penang, where 286 boys were regularly instructed. Little progress has yet been made in the Aided Schools, but a beginning has been made in the Anglo-Chinese School at Nibong Tebal in Province Wellesley.

Drama.—This very important aid to self-expression and to language teaching was much used in all schools, English and vernacular. The lowest classes of the English and Malay schools act simple plays and dramatize stories. In the higher classes more ambitious presentations, such as scenes from Shakespeare, are attempted.

The Singapore Teachers' Association had a very active dramatic branch that produced scenes from King Henry V (the set play for the 1935 School Certificate Examination) and two short modern

plays; and parts of well known Tamil dramas are frequently acted in Tamil schools.

Recreation.—Adequate provision was made in all schools, English and Malay, for recreation. The more popular games, football, cricket, and hockey, were played in all boys' schools. Provision was made in some schools for badminton, tennis, volley ball and basket ball. Malay schools are particularly keen on association football and have football leagues of their own.

All English schools held annual sports meetings, while Malay schools ran district and central competitions in physical training and games. Facilities for indoor games, such as ping-pong and badminton, were often to be found, and a number of schools possess see-saws, swings, slides, etc., for the younger children.

Organised games were conducted in most of the girls' schools in the time allotted for physical training. In Malay girls' schools folk games were included in the Physical Training as part of the curriculum.

Special courses in the new Physical Training Syllabus of the Board of Education were arranged in Singapore for teachers in English schools, for which 144 teachers entered, the practical tests following the courses being conducted by the Inspector of Schools.

The various boys' and girls' organisations continued to exercise a beneficial effect on the character and activities of their members. The Cadet Corps provided valuable training in leadership, the Scout and Guide movements with their junior organisations, the Cubs and Brownies, laid emphasis on service to the community, and the Boys' Brigade and the parallel girls' organisation, the Life Brigade, increased in numbers and in influence. Training camps for Scout and Guide officers increased efficiency in these movements, particularly in the Malay Schools.

The celebrations in connection with the Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V left an indelible impression on the children of the Colony. The girls and boys were given an important part in the celebrations and enjoyed to the full all the festivities of the Jubilee week.

G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas Home (a Church of England institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children, without restriction as to race or religion, from all over Malaya. There was an average of 16 boys and girls in the Home during 1935. This Home is at Penang. It gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor.

There are fourteen orphanages in the Colony (four in Singapore, five in Penang and five in Malacca), with 1,461 orphans in 1935, maintained by various religious bodies. Most of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and, in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught housekeeping and needlework. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as mui tsai who complain of ill-treatment, are detained in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300.

CHAPTER X

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

Communications by sea between the various Settlements are frequent and regular.

A weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan is maintained by ships belonging to the Straits Steamship Company. Vessels belonging to this Company also ply regularly from Malacca to Penang and Singapore, and there are Chinese-owned vessels engaged in coastal trade. Most of the mail and passenger ships which call at Singapore call at Penang also. Christmas Island is served by the s.s. *"Islander"* which belongs to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company and maintains a five-weekly service.

The Colony is very favourably situated for communication by sea with other countries, as Singapore is a nodal point for traffic between Europe, the Netherlands Indies, British India and the Far East.

The tonnage of all vessels entered and cleared at the five ports of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island) during the year 1935 was 47,410,813 tons, being 711,405 tons more than in 1934. Particulars are shown in Appendix *"C"*. The increase at Singapore was 174,626 tons, and at Christmas Island 21,363 tons. Penang, Malacca and Labuan combined showed an increase of 515,416 tons.

The figure for merchant vessels above 75 tons net register increased by 953,379 tons.

In the last six years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1930	46,588,856	tons
1931	*43,632,445	,,
1932	43,424,295	,,
1933	43,056,128	,,
1934	44,006,480	,,
1935	44,959,859	,,

B.—ROADS

At the end of the year the total mileage of metalled roads in the Colony was 963½. The Public Works Department maintain 718½ miles of this total, and the remainder, 245 miles, is maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca. In addition the Public Works Department maintains 94 miles of natural roads and hill paths.

The mileage in the various Settlements is given below:—

Settlement	Municipal	Government Roads			Total Roads Mileage
	Roads and Streets	Metalled	Unmetalled and Natural	Total	
Singapore	159.99	141.01	2.63	143.64	303.63
Penang	67.81	74.02	35.55	109.57	177.38
P. Wellesley ..	..	178.47	26.87	205.34	205.34
Malacca	17.19	305.19	7.46	312.65	329.84
Labuan	..	19.78	21.20	40.98	40.98
Total ..	244.99	718.47	93.71	812.18	1,057.17

Expenditure.—On the 812 miles of road entrusted to their charge the Public Works Department spent $705,060.88, of which $452,705.62 was for maintenance and the remainder, $252,355.26, for reconstruction and remetalling.

The cost of maintenance was $557.40 a mile compared with $553 for the previous year. The Singapore Municipality spent $134,290.75 on maintenance and $32,330.69 on reconstruction, making a total of $166,621.44 for the year compared with $210,175.00 for 1934.

The Penang and Malacca Municipalities spent $97,205.96 and $49,392.46 respectively compared with $93,358.00 and $33,616.00 for the previous year.

The principal road reconstruction work in the Colony was carried out on the Singapore–Johore main road, where 3½ miles were widened and reconstructed, asphaltic concrete surfacing being laid down for 3 miles of this distance.

A number of bullock carts still exists in rural areas but more lorries are being used for the transport of goods, and hired cars and seven-seater buses for passengers are increasing in numbers. In

* The decrease is partly due to the change in classification from "under 50 tons" in 1930 to "75 tons and under" in 1931.

Singapore, Penang and Malacca 7,204 rickshaws were licensed at the end of the year.

The numbers of cars and motor lorries licensed at the end of the year show increases for Singapore and Penang and a decrease for Malacca as follows:—

	1935		1934	
	Cars	Lorries	Cars	Lorries
Singapore	7,765	2,246	7,246	2,111
Penang	2,277	489	2,087	385
Malacca	1,061	236	1,171	244
	11,103	2,971	10,504	2,740

In Singapore public transport is provided by the Traction Company which operates a fleet of 108 electric trolley buses and 102 omnibuses on routes 25 and 35 miles long respectively.

In Penang there is a service of electric tramcars and trolley buses: the former carried 3,313,107 passengers on a route 5¾ miles long and the latter 6,295,897 over a route of 8 miles. The Penang Hill Railway, owned by the Municipality, serves the Hotel and Hill bungalows and carried 137,550 passengers to and from this Hill Station 2,250 feet above sea level.

C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Singapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, but communication between Prai and the island of Penang is by ferry. Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Province Wellesley a line runs North to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant or buffet parlour cars and sleeping saloons. The journey of 488 miles takes approximately 22 hours allowing for a break of approximately 3 hours at Kuala Lumpur which is situated 246 miles from Singapore

D.—AIRWAYS

Imperial Airways and the Royal Netherlands Airways each provide fast, regular and reliable bi-weekly services, the former plying between Singapore and London and the latter between Singapore and Amsterdam and between Singapore and the Netherlands Indies. The aircraft of both companies call at Penang and/or Alor Star (Kedah) en route.

Combining with the Royal Netherlands Airways (K.L.M.) is the Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.), operating between Medan and Batavia *viâ* Singapore on a bi-weekly schedule. A weekly service between Batavia and Singapore *viâ* Palembang is also in operation.

Qantas Empire Airways came into operation in December, 1934, linking up Singapore and Australia and thus completing the England–Australia Air Service. The service is at present a weekly one but the Company is making arrangements for its duplication on a twice weekly basis. The usual time in transit between Australia and Singapore is 4 days.

A number of experimental flights have been made by Imperial Airways between Penang and Hong Kong (*viâ* Saigon) but no regular service has yet been established.

There are as yet no internal Colony services in Malaya.

Singapore Civil Aerodrome.—It is expected that this Aerodrome will be ready for use early in 1937.

The aerodrome, situated some two miles only from the centre of Singapore, lies between the business area and the residential area on the eastern outskirts of the city. Approximately 259 acres of tidal swamp are being reclaimed and 7,000,000 cubic yards of filling will be required. When the work is completed, Singapore will possess a landing ground 1,000 yards in diameter, and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes.

Pending the completion of the Civil Aerodrome commercial aircraft are allowed to use the R.A.F. ground at Seletar.

Penang Civil Aerodrome.—This aerodrome was opened to air traffic on the 29th September, 1935.

The landing area comprises—

N.E.—S.W. Landing strip 950 yards × 200 yards with asphalt macadam runway 60 yards wide down centre. (Macadamised turning and parking areas available at both ends 133 yards wide); and a

N.W.—S.E. Landing strip 800 yards × 200 yards. Grass surfaced.

Since the opening of the aerodrome to air traffic there have been 145 arrivals and departures including 41 by Service aircraft, in addition to daily use by the Penang Flying Club.

Flying Clubs.—"Taxi-flights" can be made by arrangement with the Malayan Flying Clubs who own 14 light aircraft.

The Royal Singapore Flying Club has completed its seventh successful year. It owns three Moth seaplanes and two Moth landplanes.

The Penang Flying Club at the end of the year added a Leopard Moth to its fleet of three Major Moths and continues to operate from the Penang Aerodrome.

Administration.—A Directorate of Civil Aviation was established towards the close of the year, the Director of Public Works being appointed for the time being to carry out the duties of Director of Civil Aviation in addition.

E.—POSTS, MONEY ORDERS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(i).—Posts

The multifarious activities of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are at the constant service of the community, not only in the larger townships of the Straits Settlements, but also in the more remote villages.

The primary function of the Post Office may be regarded as that of public letter carrier but its other services, such as the telegraph, telephone, wireless, money order and savings bank play a large part in the everyday life of the mercantile community and the private individual.

There are now 42 Post Offices in the Straits Settlements providing full postal facilities and 15 Agencies at which limited services are provided. In addition there are 95 persons licensed to sell stamps. The number of letter-posting boxes exclusive of those at post offices and agencies, was 201 on the 31st December, 1935.

During the year under review the continued improvement in general trade conditions had its effect on the volume and value of business transacted by the Department. The estimated number of postal articles dealt with during the year was 47,690,578 representing an increase of 6.3 per cent. over the estimated number dealt with during 1934. These figures include official, ordinary, registered and insured articles, printed papers, commercial papers, sample packets and parcels.

Weekly sea-borne mails to and from Europe were conveyed alternately by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and by the British India Steam Navigation Company *viâ* India. The average time taken in transit in each direction was 22 days. In addition to these regular services, mails containing correspondence specially superscribed for conveyance by other lines were also despatched and received.

The most interesting development in the air mail services of Malaya during 1935 was the introduction on the 3rd October of an additional service by Imperial Airways to and from Great Britain and intermediate countries. This afforded a regular twice-weekly service leaving Singapore and Penang each Sunday and Thursday morning.

The twice-weekly service for specially superscribed correspondence for the Netherlands air service to Amsterdam and London continued to operate but the times of despatch from Singapore *i.e.* Wednesday and Saturday afternoons clash to some extent with the departures of the Imperial Airways services.

Air mail services as follows are now in regular operation:—

(i) Imperial Airways to Siam, India, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Europe generally and Great Britain with connection at Alexandria to the Sudan, Kenya, Tanganyika, Northern and Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. Twice-weekly.

(ii) Qantas Empire Airways service (in connection with above service) to Java and Australia. Once-weekly.

(iii) Netherlands (K.L.M. and K.N.I.L.M.) air service to Java. Thrice-weekly.

(iv) Netherlands (K.L.M.) air service to Northern Sumatra (Medan), Persia, Holland and Great Britain conveying only specially superscribed correspondence to the latter two countries. Twice-weekly.

The air-mail habit in Malaya is steadily growing and far greater use is being made of the facilities provided.

The biggest air-mail despatched from this country is that to London by Imperial Airways and the following particulars regarding that mail will give some indication of the general growth in air-mail traffic. The average weekly weight which in January was about 210 lbs. steadily increased until by the end of November it reached 332 lbs. The exceptionally heavy Christmas and New Year air-mails despatched to London during the three weeks ending the 21st December totalled 1,536 lbs. compared with 869 lbs. during the corresponding three weeks of 1934.

(ii).—Money Orders

Money Order business showed a very satisfactory increase and during the year the value of issued and paid orders amounted to $7,990,913 as compared with $6,195,142 in 1934.

(iii).—Telegraphs

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, owns and operates ten submarine cables radiating from Singapore:—

To Penang 4, thence to Madras	.. ..	2
to Colombo	.. ..	2
to Deli	.. ..	1
To Batavia 2, thence to Cocos	.. ..	1
To Banjoewangi 1, thence to Port Darwin	..	1
To Hongkong 1, thence to Manila	.. ..	1
thence to North China	..	1
thence to Macao	.. ..	1
To Cochin China 1, thence to Hongkong	..	1
To Labuan 1, thence to Hongkong	.. ..	1

The Postal Telegraph System connects the three Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca and is also interconnected with the corresponding systems in the Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Johore, Kelantan, Trengganu and Perlis, the whole forming the Malayan Telegraph System. The rates for telegrams are uniform at all offices in the Malayan Telegraph System. Communication with the International Telegraphic Cable System is *viâ* Singapore and Penang.

Teleprinter working on all main telegraph circuits has been very satisfactory.

The total length of wire in use for telegraph lines in the Straits Settlements at the 31st December, 1935, was 463 miles consisting of 345 miles in overhead lines, 83 miles in underground cables and 35 miles in submarine cables.

At the end of the year there were 41 telegraph offices in the Straits Settlements and during the year 674,728 telegrams were dealt with, representing a decrease of approximately .5 per cent. compared with 1934.

(iv).—TELEPHONES

The number of direct exchange lines connected to the Straits Settlements Telephone System on the 31st December, 1935, was 1,670, an increase of 65 compared with 1934. These figures do not include lines in Singapore, where the telephone system is operated by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, under licence.

The total number of telephone instruments installed was 2,635 and other miscellaneous circuits numbered 138.

The revenue derived from telephones was $376,209, an increase of $17,961 compared with 1934. Of this revenue $133,929 was derived from trunk and junction services.

The total length of wire in use for telephone lines in the Straits Settlements was 6,617 miles consisting of 2,851 miles of overhead wire, 3,636 miles of wire in underground cables and 130 miles of wire in submarine cables.

Eighteen telephone exchanges were in operation at the end of the year. The semi-automatic exchanges at Bayan Lepas and Batu Ferringhi opened last year were converted to full automatic to provide greater capacity for development. The number of junctions connecting Bayan Lepas with Penang was also increased.

On 1st July, 1935, the rates for trunk calls booked after 9 P.M. were reduced from one half to one quarter of the full fees chargeable during the day.

Additional Radio-Telephone services between Malaya and North Sumatra, Macassar (Isle of Celebes) and Bangkok (Siam) were inaugurated during the year.

The new Penang Hospital has been equipped with a large Private Branch Exchange staffed by operators of this Department.

(v).—WIRELESS

The two Government Wireless Stations at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Province Wellesley) operated satisfactorily throughout the year.

A remote control receiving station was opened at Telok Ayer Tawar in Province Wellesley to work in conjunction with the Penaga transmitting station. A similar receiving station is in course of construction at Toa Payoh (Singapore) to work in conjunction with the Paya Lebar transmitting station.

Ship to shore services are carried out at Paya Lebar and Penaga on both medium and short waves.

Short wave fixed services are carried out between Paya Lebar, Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island and between Penaga and Bangkok (Siam) during landline interruptions.

British Official Wireless Press is received at Penaga.

The Penaga Station also communicates with aircraft.

The third annual Wireless Exhibition held in Penang in December under the auspices of the Penang Wireless Society was opened by His Excellency the Governor and High Commissioner speaking from Singapore by means of the ordinary telephone circuits on the 5th December.

His Excellency's speech was heard at the Exhibition by means of loud-speakers and was also radiated by a special broadcast arranged by the Penang Wireless Society.

CHAPTER XI

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures

A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary 20 cent, 10 cent and 5 cent silver coins and a 5 cent nickel coin, which are legal tender up to two dollars. There are also copper cents, half-cents and quarter-cents, but the quarter-cent has practically disappeared from circulation. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued in denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5 and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.

During the War, and for some years after, notes for 25 cents and 10 cents were issued.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony, and when Great Britain abandoned the Gold Standard during the War and again in September, 1931, the local currency automatically followed sterling, to which it is linked at 2*s.* 4*d.* to the dollar.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2*s.* 4 3/16*d.* to the dollar, and *vice versa,* may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2s. 3¾*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits. Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $77,122,486.25 in notes and $3,035,919 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $135,795, compared with $135,965 at the end of 1934.

At the beginning of the year the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $75,786,490.20. There was a demand by the public for currency during the year and the consequent expansion in the note issue amounted to $1,191,900. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for silver current coin during the period under review, the result over the whole year being that on 31st December, 1935, the note circulation stood at $77,122,486.25.

It is a requirement of the law that a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund, being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation, shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.* in current silver coin in the Colony and in Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment Portion of the Fund.

The liquid portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $42,486,648.64, consisting of $10,344,109.32 in silver and $2,306,798.18 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £3,480,836.9*s*.4*d*. in sterling and short-dated investments in London.

The investment portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year consisted of investments valued at $103,487,499.96 and cash awaiting investment amounting to $1,229,895.64.

The excess value of the Fund, including cash at Bank $31,806.43, over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $70,114,981.42, compared with an excess of $72,652,450.84 at the end of 1934.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of $261,899.60 in subsidiary silver coins during the year.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury, $10,365,505.60 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $722,824.50 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1933 was $724,075.95 and at the end of 1934 $723,459.20.

Fifteen million six hundred and fifty-five thousand nine hundred and forty-five and a quarter notes to the value of $46,700,053.95 were destroyed during the year as against 15,014,899½ notes to the value of $64,057,047.75 in 1934.

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
„ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
„ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
„ Eastern Bank, Limited.
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited.
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
„ Banque de L'Indo-Chine.
„ National City Bank of New York.

The Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsche Indische Handelsbank).
„ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
„ Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
„ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
„ Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Limited.
„ China and Southern Bank Limited.
„ Kwong Lee Banking Company.
„ Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
„ United Chinese Bank, Limited.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4⅛ and 2/3 11/32. The higher rate was obtainable only in January.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December was 41,467 as compared with 37,339 on the 31st December, 1934, an increase of 4,128. During the year 9,818 new accounts were opened while 5,690 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was $9,072,069 as compared with $7,711,658 on the 31st December, 1934. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $207 and $219 at the end of 1934 and 1935 respectively.

The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December was $10,847,366 and the market value of these investments according to the Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $10,792,135.

The Savings Bank Fixed Deposit Scheme was discontinued from 1st October, 1935 and no new Fixed Deposits were accepted after this date. The number of depositors on 31st December, 1935 was 480 and the amount standing to their credit was $371,860 an average amount to the credit of each depositor of $775 compared with $676 at the end of 1934. During the year 228 accounts were opened while 42 accounts were closed.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(a) Standard of Length, the Imperial yard.
(b) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.
(c) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes Chinese steelyards (called "daching") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The following are the principal local measures used with their English equivalents:—

The chupak	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	„	1 gallon.
The tahil	„	1⅓ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils) ..	„	1⅓ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis) ..	„	133⅓ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls) ..	„	5,333⅓ lbs.

CHAPTER XII

A.—PUBLIC WORKS

Public works in the Straits Settlements are administered by the Director of Public Works, who is stationed in Singapore and is assisted by the Deputy Director and Head Office Staff, and the Government Architect and Staff. Work in each of the other Settlements is controlled by a local head, or Settlement Engineer who corresponds with, and takes his instructions from, headquarters in Singapore in all matters of major importance. The approved establishment of the department includes twenty-six fully qualified European Engineers and four Architects.

During 1935 the total expenditure for Public Works in the Straits Settlements was $6,271,656.39 compared with $5,950,594.53 for the previous year. The details are shewn in the following table:—

Head of Estimate	Expenditure	Settlement	Total Expenditure	Expenditure Extraordinary
	$ c.		$ c.	$ c.
Personal Emoluments	566,915.43	Singapore ..	4,004,419.81	2,658,159.08
Other Charges ..	151,454.51	Penang ..	1,171,799.69	769,958.41
Public Works Annually Recurrent ..	1,729,515.85	Province Wellesley	409,930.27	118,847.31
Public Works Extraordinary	3,781,849.12	Malacca ..	650,876.60	227,660.01
Work for other Depts.	41,921.48	Labuan ..	34,630.02	7,224.31
Total ..	6,271,656.39	Total ..	6,271,656.39	3,781,849.12

Annually Recurrent expenditure was as follows:—

	1934	*1935*
	$	$ c.
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals	709,459	537,539 07
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works (including Sea and River Works) ..	940,409	1,191,976 78
	1,649,868	1,729,515 85

Expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary on reconstruction and special works under the heading Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was $341,800.87 in addition to the maintenance expenditure. The maintenance of 812 miles of road outside the Municipal areas cost $452,705.62 or $557.40 a mile.

Buildings and Miscellaneous Works.—The extraordinary expenditure under this heading amounted to $3,653,048.25 and the following important works were completed:—

Penang.— General Hospital—Technical Block and First Class Wards.
Civil Aerodrome.

Malacca.— Sea Wall for New Reclamation.
Relaying Two Groynes at Portuguese Settlement.

The following major works were in hand but not completed at the close of the year.

Singapore.—New Convict Prison.
Civil Aerodrome.
Beach Road Reclamation.
Penang.— New Leper Camp—Pulau Jerejak.
Malacca.— Extension of Southern Groyne.

Waterworks.—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are up-to-date and excellent. Water can be drunk from the tap as safely here as in the leading towns in England. The various installations in the rest of the Straits Settlements are controlled by the Public Works Department and were well maintained throughout the year.

Electric Light and Power.—In Singapore and Penang, the Municipalities own and operate their own power stations. In Singapore an additional power station is owned by the Singapore Harbour Board. The Penang Municipality supplies current for Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley, on contract. In Malacca, a private company supplies electricity in the Municipal area. Outside these areas the Public Works Department maintains small supplies and the total expenditure on these and the maintenance of the installations in Government buildings in 1935 was $222,774.

Reclamation.—An area of 47 acres is being reclaimed near Beach Road in Singapore by dumping mud obtained from dredging the Singapore River, Seaplane Channel, and other places of a similar nature. In the course of the year 191,000 cubic yards of mud were shifted in this way.

The dredging fleet of five dredges was partly employed on the conservancy of the Singapore River, but for the greater part of the year work was concentrated on the seaplane channel for the civil aerodrome.

Sewage.—In Singapore, pumping plants, disposal works and sewers are owned and controlled by the Municipality but there still remains a considerable portion of the town in which sewers have not yet been installed. Where possible Government buildings and quarters are connected to the sewers but in other parts septic tank installations are relied on for water borne sewage. Departmental labour was used for the maintenance of all sanitary installations in Government buildings.

General.—At the beginning of the year the Public Works Department had 38 contracts in hand 249 were entered into during the year and 247 finished leaving 40 to be completed in 1936.

B.—DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

Penang Settlement.—The total area of land under cultivation with rice (padi) in the Settlement of Penang, including Province Wellesley, is about 40,000 acres, and of this area about 87% has now been brought under the control of the Department of Drainage and Irrigation by the declaration of Irrigation Areas under the provisions of the Irrigation Areas Ordinance.

Penang and Province Wellesley consist largely of old settled districts in which the cultivation of rice has been carried on for many generations and forms the main economic support of the Malay population. The "sawahs", or rice fields, are subdivided into a number of small plots, each of which is separated from its neighbours, and entirely surrounded, by a low bund of earth. When the young shoots, raised in a nursery, have been planted out each plot is flooded and the plants grow in water until the ear is full and the time comes for ripening the grain before harvesting it. The land is then drained and the water returned to the neighbouring stream from which it was taken. The work of the department, since it first began operations in this Settlement in 1933, has been mostly concerned with the restoration and improvement of existing sawahs within the framework of already constructed roads and drainage systems; and the need for such work was very great, particularly in Province Wellesley, where the rice sawahs are mostly situated in the flat coastal plains and the opening up of the hinterland had resulted in serious deterioration of the rivers by silting which was beyond the capacity of the peasant-cultivators to remedy.

Province Wellesley.—One of the first duties of the Drainage and Irrigation Engineer, who was appointed in 1933, was to open up and regrade a number of old drains and water-courses which had already been noted by the Agricultural Officer as urgently in need of reconstruction.

The work thus begun in 1933 was continued through the next two years and by the end of 1935 one hundred and fifty-two miles of drainage channels in Province Wellesley had been cleared and regraded. The object of this work was the prevention of untimely flooding and the regulation of the water supply, and in the principal sawahs, now declared to be Irrigation Areas, this object has been largely attained. Flooding has been reduced, in duration and magnitude, and fields which three years ago were standing always under water can now be drained as required so that the soil may be aerated, water levels reduced to make easier the ploughing of the land with buffaloes, and the earth dried in due season for the ripening of the grain and the harvest of the crop.

The following is a very brief account of the work done on these lines in the principal irrigation areas of the Province. For more detailed information those who are interested should consult the "Annual Report on the Drainage and Irrigation Department of the Colony of the Straits Settlements for the year 1935", by the Director of Drainage and Irrigation, which is published separately.

The principal sawahs in Province Wellesley are:—

Northern District—	Penaga Area	.. 6,800	acres
	—Sungei Dua Area	.. 9,000	„
Central District—	Sungei Kulim Area	.. 3,500	„
	—Kubang Semang Area	6,200	„
Southern District—	Sungei Acheh Area	.. 4,550	„

Penaga Area.—A sum of $39,000 ($5.75 an acre) has been spent on controlled drainage of this area. At one place a small bund, 53 chains long, was constructed in 1935 to give protection from sea water to some 300 acres drained by a stream known as the Sungei

Kedah, which at the same time was cleared of snags and secondary forest. The yield from some 40 acres of this area had fallen as low as 80 gantangs* (bushels) an acre in recent years owing to destruction of crops by sea water, but now that sea water has been excluded the crop is reported to be promising. To the south and east of this area the Tembus River, which forms the southern boundary of about 2,240 acres of rice land, has been desilted and regraded and the spoil used to form bunds on both banks, which serve to retain water on the land and to exclude sea water therefrom in the tidal portion of the river. Further south again the similar treatment of two streams, the Sungei Lahar Endin and the Sungei Megat Dris, has already brought some seventy acres of new rice-land into cultivation and has made 230 acres more available for planting.

Sungei Dua area.—Eleven channels have been cleared of snags and vegetation and seven of these have been desilted and regraded throughout, during the last three years. This work has entailed the excavation of 48,000 cubic yards of earth and silt, and the clearing of a great variety of vegetation, from grass and water-weeds to forest trees, along a total length of more than eighteen miles of channel. The cost of the work to date is $7,730. ($1 an acre).

Sungei Kulim area.—The total cost of drainage and control carried out in this area over a length of some 25 miles of channel amounts to $11,115, ($3.20 an acre). From the principal stream, the Sungei To'Tongkat, well over 1,000 tons of timber were removed.

Kubang Semang area.—This is the third largest rice-growing area in the Settlement, and has about 6,200 acres of sawah. The main streams on which it depends for water and drainage had become so overgrown, as the result of silting from the large quantities of sand washed down from the cultivated sides of the hills, which at this point approach closely to the coast, that their courses had become almost indistinguishable from the prevailing swamp, and some of the smaller drains had silted up completely and been planted as part of the adjoining fields. Clearing and regrading began in 1933 and to date $7,250 have been spent in restoring some twenty miles of drains. Control gates have also been constructed in the streams and drains and already the restoration has had a marked effect on the area. Throughout a long period of drought in the 1935–1936 planting season the necessary water level was maintained in the fields, a thing that would have been impossible in similar circumstances before the department's improvement of the area.

Sungei Acheh area.—Of the 4,550 acres in this area 375 acres are new land awaiting development. The latter is part of the revoked Sungei Acheh Forest Reserve and has been reclaimed from inundation by sea water by the construction of a bund, 2½ miles long, constructed by the Malay peasants themselves from Sungei Acheh to the Perak boundary, where connection is made with the new coastal bund on that side. Clearing of the revoked Forest Reserve was begun in 1935 and it was possible to plant 20 acres with rice during the current season. The whole of the Sungei Acheh area is served by a system of 29 miles of drainage channels which have all been cleared and regraded during the past three years at a cost of $7,596.

* A gantang of unhusked padi weighs about 5½lbs.

The year 1935 was marked by an important advance in the economic progress of Province Wellesley when irrigation waters were brought for the first time to the Acheh area from the Krian Irrigation Works in Perak. This was accomplished by the reconstruction and extension of the Krian Works and the enlargement of the main canals to carry the extra water which is delivered to the Acheh area through a syphon under the boundary road between the Settlement and the State of Perak. The cost of the extension and reconstruction of the Krian Irrigation Works is estimated at $375,000 and is being borne in equal shares by the Straits Settlements and Perak Governments. The distribution system within the Acheh area comprises some 6½ miles of canals which have been constructed during the year largely by local Malay labour.

Muda Bund.—Apart from the work of reconstruction in the sawahs, the department completed during the year a major engineering work in the construction of a new bund along the southern bank of the Muda River, which forms the boundary of the Province, dividing it from the State of Kedah to the north. This bund replaces an old one, built many years ago by private enterprise, which had been maintained by the Government for half a century. The purpose of the bund is to confine the flood waters of the Muda River to its own course and prevent flooding of the northern part of the Province lying below the flood levels of the river.

In 1934 the river, which drains an area of some 1,600 square miles of Kedah territory, extending to the Siamese and Perak boundaries, and is subject to heavy annual flooding, was found to be eroding its banks dangerously near to the bund at three places, and at one of these the position was viewed with grave concern for the reason that it appeared to be the site of a breach in an older bund the ends of which are still visible. The construction of a new bund on a retired line 3,000 feet long was decided upon immediately. The work began in September, 1934 and was completed early in 1935 at a cost of $25,000, including the cost of a secondary bund 1,000 feet long built as a first line of defence, and of the further strengthening of the bund for one mile of its length.

Penang Island.—The Sungei Pinang Irrigation Area of 1,450 acres stretches southward from the Pinang river for about 3½ miles and is reputed to contain some of the best padi land in Malaya. The northern third is severed from the rest of the area by a stream called the Sungei Rusa, which brings down from the cleared slopes of Penang Hill large quantities of sand and gravel that have raised its bed and banks above the surrounding rice lands which it no longer drains. In times of flood, the banks are breached and the silt of the river is spread over the adjacent village with its orchards and rice-fields. Severe damage was done to this area by the Sungei Pinang in the torrential flood of 1932, when 120 acres of agricultural land were buried in three feet of sand as the result of a landslide. The channel of the Sungei Pinang was completely silted and, when the flood subsided, no definite course remained. The upper half of the valley floor lay deep in silt, houses were buried and trees stood stark and dying, while in the lower half the rice fields became a lake of stagnant water. During the past two years, the work of

restoring the channel of the Sungei Pinang by training-fences has been in hand, and the village is slowly coming to life again. The villagers are beginning once more to plant coconut and betel on the flats reclaimed by the silt deposit and to restore their forsaken homes; and after three years the rice land has again been planted. The irrigation headworks, destroyed by the flood, have now been restored and during 1935 the intake and the first section of the canal, carried in a sunken pipe across the devastated area, were constructed.

Malacca.—In the Settlement of Malacca, 31,350 acres of padi (rice) were planted during the 1934–35 season and the average yield, calculated by the Agricultural Department, at 419 gantangs (bushels) an acre, compares favourably with that of previous years.

The main padi areas of Malacca are in the low-lying flat areas along the Coast, extending in patches from the Linggi River on the Negri Sembilan Boundary to the Kesang River on the Johore Boundary, and in the valleys of the Malacca River, Parit China, Sungei Duyong, Sungei Siput, Sungei Bahru and Kesang River. There are innumerable small inland areas of padi scattered throughout the Settlement occupying the bottoms of the valleys and receiving drainage water in addition to direct rainfall for irrigation.

Out of an area of 1,500 acres made available for new padi-planting by the scheme for the drainage of the Bachang Area, about 3 miles from Malacca town, which was completed during 1934, only 185 acres had been taken up and planted in 1935. This is a disappointing result, but these newly-planted areas attracted much attention by the contrast they presented with the adjoining waste land, and the result has been a promising increase in enquiries for irrigable land in those parts. The population of Malacca is predominantly Malay and in view of its natural increase at a rate of about 1,000 a year, and the essentially agricultural character of the Settlement, there is little doubt that all this land will gradually be taken up.

In the Tanjong Minyak area over seven miles of main drains and bunds, and thirteen miles of irrigation channels, were constructed for the benefit of 2,700 acres, of which about 1,600 acres were in cultivation already before the inception of the scheme. A further 560 acres have since been cultivated and the area is altogether a very promising one.

During the year new headworks were constructed for the irrigation of the river-valley of the Sungei Putat. The river was deepened and canalised for a distance of three miles and a quarter from the headworks, and a control gate and a bund 3,532 feet long were constructed at its outlet into the Malacca River. Five miles of irrigation channels were provided and the water supply can be further augmented at the headworks by a pipe line supply from the Ayer Keroh Reservoir—the old water-supply for Malacca town, now disused. The total area thus benefitted is 960 acres. There is a long established Malay settlement covering about 160 acres along the fringe of the valley and the restoration of their rice lands is certain to help considerably in raising the standard of living of the cultivators.

Malacca River Conservancy.—It had become manifest by 1934 that the deterioration of the Malacca River by silting was becoming steadily worse and that if the problem were not resolutely tackled the destruction of all the agricultural lands in the valley would be merely a matter of time. A sum of $200,000 was allocated for a scheme of dredging and provision was made in the 1935 estimates for the expenditure of a first instalment of $50,000. It was not, however, possible during the year to do more than provide and test the machinery for carrying out the dredging. The total area affected by the scheme is 5,300 acres, of which 3,864 acres are alienated land. Although nearly all the area was at one time cultivated with rice, it has gone out of cultivation steadily during the last 30 years and most of it is now an impenetrable swamp. But once the drainage of this valley has been restored there should be no difficulty about bringing the whole of it into cultivation again.

A Committee has been appointed to investigate also the silting of the lower reaches of the Malacca River, particularly where it passes through the municipal area of Malacca town. Investigations were in hand at the close of the year.

A scheme of controlled drainage was undertaken in the valley of a stream called the Parit China to provide better drainage and irrigation for 800 acres of existing rice-land; to protect 470 acres of existing rice-land from inundation by tidal waters; and to reclaim 770 acres of swamp and abandoned rice-land. The scheme involved the deepening, widening and bunding of the Parit China for a distance of four miles; the construction of a tidal gate and regulator; the cutting of four miles of subsidiary drains and the erection of a coastal bund a mile and a half long. Work was completed in time for the 1935 padi season and the scheme functioned satisfactorily.

The schemes mentioned above were the principal undertakings of the department in Malacca during the year, but do not exhaust the list of its activities. Many smaller schemes, and improvements in older irrigation works, were carried out. In one place by the employment of fifty local Malays a small bund was erected which successfully brought back into cultivation some thirty acres of old rice-land that had been abandoned as useless; and, for another area of two hundred acres which was formerly dependent entirely on rain-fall for its cultivation, an experimental pumping scheme was introduced. This scheme started working on the 20th September and water was delivered daily to the rice fields until the 12th October, after which there was abundant rainfall and it was only necessary to run the pump for an hour or so in four or five days.

The space given in this general report to the activities of one department reflects the importance attached to the work now being done by the Irrigation Engineers in collaboration with the Agricultural Officers for the reconstruction of the rural areas. Besides the economic gain of an increased internal food-production, this work has also great social and ethnological importance to justify the interest taken in it; a fact which is fully appreciated in the neighbouring states by the Malay Rulers, who realise how closely the progress, even the survival, of Malay civilisation depends upon the economic security of the "raiat", the peasant owning and tilling

his own land. The real Malay is a peasant-cultivator by heredity and tradition. He does not take kindly to the life of the town or to regular work for wages in the employment of another person. The typical Malay settlement or "kampong" is a cluster of houses standing in a grove of palms and fruit trees, generally on slightly rising ground above and adjoining the flat valley bottom in which are laid out, like a gigantic chess-board, the individually-owned, but of necessity co-operatively worked, rice plots of the villagers. Thirty or forty years ago, life in one of these small communities must have seemed to the Malay kampong-dweller as nearly elysian as mortal lot can be. Secure in the possession of his goods, his simple needs amply satisfied with the produce of his own land—fish from the sea or stream, rice from the sawah and fruit, fowls and eggs in plenty—he led a life of contentment and leisure and regarded doubtless with philosophical indifference, as an affliction from God beyond human remedy, the malaria that racked his bones and sapped his energy and slew so many of his children. This indifference, of course, was not shared by the Government, whose officers, as the country developed and the public services expanded, devoted more and more time and money to the improvement of education and medical services in the rural areas, without observing in the general prosperity which flooded the country during the second decade of this century, how far the very development which was providing the funds for their fight against such scourges as malaria and ignorance was effecting at the same time a revolution in the countryside. The Malay peasant was not slow to realise how easily money could be made by planting rubber. Indigenous fruit trees and palms were cut down to make way for the planting of the imported rubber tree, frequently even on land little suited to its cultivation. In some places even sawah land was drained for the same purpose, and the change in rural economic conditions was reflected in social changes which to some observers seemed to indicate a deterioration of character. The Malay's instinctive love of leisure became a real dislike of effort and labour and a taste for luxury and display replaced the simpler ideals of an earlier generation. The slump in rubber in 1921 first opened the eyes of the authorities to the implications of this change, and every effort was then made to persuade the Malay peasant of the danger that was threatening his economic and social welfare. These efforts, however, were quickly negatived by the rapid recovery, as it seemed, of the rubber-planting industry under the Stevenson Restriction Scheme; and it was not until the great slump occurred in 1931 and 1932 that the Malay realised the wisdom of those who had been trying for the last ten years to impress upon him the importance of his ancient husbandry. The distress throughout the peninsula was great at that time, but none suffered less than the Malays of those country districts in which old habit and the instinct of the race had preserved the sawahs from encroachment or neglect. The Malay was quick to learn the obvious lesson, and this prompt appreciation of realities on the part of the simple peasant affords perhaps the best vindication of the policy which the Malayan Governments have followed so long and so persistently and is a most encouraging augury for the future.

CHAPTER XII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

By a new Courts Ordinance passed in 1934, which replaced the former Ordinance No. 101 (Courts), the following Courts are constituted for the administration of civil and criminal law in the Colony:—

(*a*) The Supreme Court;
(*b*) District Courts;
(*c*) Police Courts;
(*d*) Coroners' Courts.

In addition to these a Court of Criminal Appeal, was created under the provisions of an Ordinance passed in 1931 which was brought into force on 1st September, 1934.

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and consists of—

(*a*) the High Court which exercises original criminal and civil jurisdiction, and appellate criminal and civil jurisdiction in cases tried in District and Police Courts; and
(*b*) the Court of Appeal which exercises appellate civil jurisdiction in cases tried in the High Court.

The original criminal jurisdiction of the High Court is exercised in sessions called Assizes at which trials are heard by a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons. From a conviction in a trial at the Assizes of the High Court an appeal now lies to the Court of Criminal Appeal, mentioned above. An appeal in civil cases may lie from the Court of Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

A District Court, presided over by a District Judge and having both civil and criminal jurisdiction is constituted in each of the three Settlements of Penang, Malacca and Labuan. In Singapore, however, where the work of the courts is much heavier, there are two District Courts, one for civil and the other for criminal cases. The civil jurisdiction of a District Court is limited to suits involving not more than $500, when a District Judge presides and $100 when an Assistant District Judge presides.

Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is, in the main, criminal, and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

The Courts Ordinance also provides for the appointment of Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are not Courts and have no power to try cases.

The Criminal Procedure of the Colony is governed by the Criminal Procedure Code while Civil Procedure is governed by Rules of Court made under the Courts Ordinance of 1934. Civil Procedure in District Courts is governed by certain portions of the Civil Procedure Code which was repealed by the Courts Ordinance with a proviso that certain of its provisions relating to proceedings in the District Courts should continue to apply to such proceedings until superseded by District Court Rules under the Courts Ordinance, which have still to be framed.

B.—POLICE

(i).—ORGANISATION

The Straits Settlements Police Force is organised on a territorial basis. Each Settlement is in the charge of a Chief Police Officer, whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended, in most cases, by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties, but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

(*a*) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned with the investigation of any crime that is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(*b*) The Depôt, at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men for the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

(*c*) The Financial Branch.

Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, officers of the Attorney-General's department who are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts. The Deputy Public Prosecutor at Singapore includes the Settlement of Malacca in his jurisdiction.

(ii).—CRIME

Seizable offences during 1935 numbered 5,538, a slight increase over the previous year. In 1934, however, the crime wave was abnormally low and the number of offences recorded in 1935 though higher is still well below the yearly average. The number of arrests effected was 2,485, of which 1968 resulted in convictions.

This increase in seizable crime, for which Singapore and Penang were entirely responsible, was spread over all types of offences, slight increases being recorded in murders, robberies and the various types of theft. In Province Wellesley and Malacca there was a slight improvement.

The numbers of prosecutions under the Merchant Shipping, Municipal and Minor Offences ordinances and under the gambling and chandu-revenue laws remained much the same as in the previous year. There was a slight increase in the number of prosecutions under the traffic laws.

Reports of non-seizable offences totalled 113,004 as compared with 103,754 in 1934, the greater portion of the increase being accounted for by minor prosecutions instituted by the police, which numbered 85,498.

The total value of property reported lost through crime during the year was $389,623.62. By far the greater part of this loss was due to criminal breach of trust, which accounted for $139,902.13. The value of property recovered by the Police was $50,338.54.

The activities of illegal secret societies were responsible for three deaths, only half the number arising from similar causes that occurred in 1934; but the figure for 1934 was a high one. Hokkien societies were responsible for one of these murders, while the other two were the work of Cantonese gangs. Societies of other Chinese clans showed no activity during the year. Crimes of this sort were confined almost exclusively to Singapore, society and faction troubles in Penang and Malacca being negligible.

The permanently resident population of this Colony is extremely well-behaved and law-abiding, but Singapore is one of the seven largest sea-ports in the world and its population of nearly half a million includes a large floating population which comprises many dangerous elements. The anti-social proclivities of these are kept in restraint only by unceasing vigilance on the part of our local "Scotland Yard", whose task is made much harder, in small as well as greater matters, by the reluctance of an Asiatic public, however law-abiding itself, to volunteer information to the Police, probably the result of an atavistic fear of the lawless man, and generations of experience of the wisdom of minding one's own business, rather than of any conscious bias against the forces of law and order. In such circumstances another year of comparative freedom from lawless outbreaks and serious crimes of violence reflects the greatest credit on the officers and men of the Straits Settlements Police, a force of whose smartness, efficiency and intrepidity the Colony is justly proud. The picture however was not always so bright. Ten years ago Singapore was in a fair way to earning a most unenviable reputation as the Chicago of the Far East and it was not until 1930 that the Inspector General of Police was able to report that the reorganisation of the criminal intelligence service to meet the gangster menace had at last secured victory for the Police in their incessant was against organised crime. The work of succeeding years has consolidated that victory and after the grim records of ten years ago the police reports of to-day make satisfactory but dull reading.

Occasionally, however, even to-day, some startling crime occurs to check complacency and shew how far are the victors from being able yet to rest on their laurels. One such instance was the murder in 1934 of Inspector POPEJOY by a Cantonese gun-man who, meeting him in broad daylight at the door of a pawn-shop in a populous street in the centre of the town, imagined quite mistakenly that the Inspector knew him and was going to arrest him. No such tragedy, fortunately, marred the records of 1935, but one major incident, known as the Al-Junied Road murder or "Crooked-Mouth" Khing case, is worth recording. The story is this. Sometime in 1935 a horde of bandits led by "Crooked-Mouth" Khing raided the home of a Chinese politician in Southern China, murdered the owner, and carried off into captivity a son, a grandson and a young and pretty daughter-in-law. Four days later this girl, who had been raped and brutally ill-treated returned to the village to die. News of this outrage was sent to the politician's elder son, who lived in Singapore and he immediately went to China, ransomed his brother and son, and brought them back to this Colony. Shortly afterwards, the bandit Khing had trouble with his own friends and, knowing himself in mortal danger, escaped from China to Singapore. Here presumably he hoped to make his life anew with the proceeds of his past misdeeds, but on the 4th November he was found lying dead in Aljunied Road. He had been strangled, thrown on the road and run over by a motor-car. The dead man was a stranger in Singapore and unknown to the police; but the fresh wheel marks of a car were found on the verge of the road about fifty yards from the corpse, which shewed that a car had been turned at that spot and that each of its four wheels had a tyre with a different tread. From this, the car was traced to a place in Johore, many miles from Singapore, and inside forty-eight hours the deceased had been identified and the three men who had "taken him for a ride and bumped him off" were under arrest. These three proved to be hired assassins, who had no personal grudge whatever against the dead bandit; and in due course they paid the supreme penalty in Singapore gaol. The alleged instigators of the crime, the son and nephew of Crooked-Mouth Khing's victim, escaped from the Colony in a junk, and in the circumstances the sternest moralist might forgive a hope that they will never be brought to book.

Apart however from such exceptional cases, crime here, as in other parts of the civilised world, is for the most part sordid or petty. In the long procession of unfortunate victims of their own passions or despair, who pass daily through the courts, the master-criminal of popular fiction is seldom met with, and premeditated offences against property are usually the work of silly knaves whose lack of education or intelligence makes the fight between them and society a very one-sided affair. Typical of such was the case of the Chinese who burned down his house in order to collect an insurance of $3,000, and succeeded in the process in burning down no less than ten shop-houses. He was arrested but released on bail of $2,000, whereupon he promptly absconded leaving his friend and bailor to pay the forfeit. Six years later, in January 1935, he calmly returned to the neighbourhood, believing that by this time his misdemeanour of 1929 would be forgotten and that in any case the $2,000 bail estreated had compounded at his neighbour's expense the peccadillo of arson. His

distress was great when he discovered that the law, which he had written down an ass, had at least the memory of the elephant; and he is now serving a sentence of five years rigorous imprisonment.

More amusing was the case of a rickshaw-puller in Singapore who with his friends had been making a tidy living for over a year by a swindle that had a positively Cockney air about it. Having found their pigeon they shewed him some glass "diamonds" which, they said, had been left in the rickshaw by a passenger. These "diamonds" were wrapped in a forged bill, bearing the name of a Chinese jeweller's shop in Ipoh, on which the value of the stones appeared as $75. Usually they managed to sell the stones, for $3 or less; but the trick was played once too often and the puller whose rickshaw was so frequently the repository of mislaid wealth, now learns, it is hoped, a more useful trade in Singapore Prison. It is, perhaps, a matter for regret that some of the innocent victims of his knavery could not join him in the same school.

C.—PRISONS

At the beginning of the year, there were 1,196 prisoners in the five prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island). Admissions during the year numbered 13,828, as compared with 12,000 during 1934 and 14,063 prisoners were discharged, leaving 961 in the prisons at the end of the year. There were 66 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year, and during the year 682 more were admitted, but 666 vagrants were discharged leaving only 82 under detention when the year closed. The health of the prisoners was maintained in a satisfactory state throughout the year.

"Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men are mainly employed at husk-beating and on fatigue duties. "Lower-grade" prisoners are usually employed on husk-beating during the first six months of their sentence but thereafter join the "Middle-grade" and "Upper-grade" prisoners in industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making or mat and basket-making. Cooks, orderlies, clerks and such are selected from among the "Upper-grade" prisoners when possible. Remission of sentence may be earned by good behaviour by prisoners sentenced to penal servitude, rigorous imprisonment or simple imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile offenders are kept separate from adult prisoners so far as accommodation will permit and, under Section 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Courts may, in their discretion, release on probation any offender convicted of trivial offences.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory at Singapore, is the only institution in Malaya specially organised for the reception of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and is not in any way connected with the Prisons Administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of seven and sixteen are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of eighteen.

At the end of 1934 the inmates numbered 83. Forty-eight were released and sixty-four admitted during 1935. At the end of 1935 there were 99 inmates.

Of the 64 boys admitted during the year, 45 were from the Straits Settlements, 15 from the Federated Malay States and 4 from the Unfederated Malay States. There were 50 Chinese, 2 Malays, 9 Indians, 1 Arab and 2 Eurasians. Thirty-six were committed for criminal offences including fraudulent possession of property, housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 16 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 20 were committed for vagrancy, 2 as being uncontrollable, 5 for hawking without a licence and 1 for disorderly conduct.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, grass-cutters, gardeners, washermen, cooks, orderlies and general coolies. They were all taught Malay in the Romanised script for two hours daily, with the exception of ten who continued their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

So far as was possible work was found on their release for boys who had no parents, relatives or friends to look after them, or arrangements were made for their adoption by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Sixty-four Ordinances were passed during the year 1935. Of these, two were Supply Ordinances and fifty-three were Amending Ordinances.

The following are the more important:—

(1) The Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinances (Nos. 1 and 16) introduce the English law as to infanticide by a recently delivered mother, and make the law as to intoxication in its relation to intention accord more closely with the principles of Beard's case 1920 A.C. p. 479.

(2) The Moneylenders Ordinance and the Moneylenders (Amendment) Ordinance (Nos. 6 and 57) regulate this business. Licences and registration are not required but memoranda of loans must be given and the Court has power to open up transactions which are harsh and unconscionable.

(3) The Cinematograph Films Ordinance consolidates and amends the law relating to the censoring and exhibition of films.

(4) The Chandu Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance prohibits the smoking of chandu by persons under twenty-one years of age, and imposes penalties for inducing a person under twenty-one years of age to smoke or procure chandu.

Powers of entry and arrest without warrant similar to those possessed by the police under Section 23 of the Criminal Procedure Code are conferred upon senior revenue officers to enable them to arrest offenders against the Ordinance. Similar powers are conferred by the Liquor Revenue (Amendment) and Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinances, 1935.

(5) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance implements the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea.

(6) The Children (Amendment) Ordinance prohibits children from taking part in any entertainment to which the public is admitted on payment or at which a collection is made up unless the Protector of Chinese or Controller of Labour has issued a licence permitting the child to take part in such entertainment.

(7) The Official Secrets Ordinance follows closely the Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920. Its purpose is the prevention of Espionage.

(8) The Women and Girls Protection (Amendment) Ordinance permits the removal of a girl from a rescue home in the Colony to a similar place of safety in the Federated Malay States when such removal is in the interests of the girl.

(9) The Bankruptcy (Amendment) Ordinance provides for Wage Earners Administration Orders. These are simpler than ordinary bankruptcy. They dispense with public examination; the Registrar can make the order on the certificate of the Official Assignee that the debts were not contracted in any trade or business. "Wage Earner" is defined as a debtor whose only source of income is a salary or wage not exceeding $350 per mensem, provided that for the purpose of the definition income arising out of land or shares in an incorporated company (in the management whereof the debtor takes no part) or from any other source not being a trade or business not exceeding in all $50 per month shall be deemed to be part of the debtor's salary or wage.

(10) The Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance provides for the preparation of a new Revised Edition of the Ordinances of the Colony in force on 31st December, 1935. It is expected that the new Revised Edition will be published about the middle of 1936.

(11) The Statute Law Revision Ordinance makes a number of minor amendments which it is desired to include in the new Revised Edition. These amendments, being

alterations of substance, are beyond the powers of the Reviser to make, and express legislative sanction for them had therefore to be obtained.

(12) Penang and Province Wellesley Jubilee Fund Ordinance provides for the administration of a Fund raised by public subscription. The Fund is to be devoted to the relief of the poor and Needy in the Settlement of Penang and for the establishment and maintenance of a home or settlement for poor people.

The Fund was raised as a permanent memorial of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V.

(13) The Air Navigation Ordinance provides for the declaration of protected areas over which explosives and photographic apparatus may not be carried in an aircraft.

The Ordinance enables the Governor in Council to make rules relating to aerial navigation (not inconsistent with any Convention or Treaty applicable to the Colony) and providing for the safety of the public, the defence of the Colony and its revenue.

(14) The Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance empowers the Colonial Secretary to allow annual rent for Crown land to be paid by quarterly instalments.

(15) The Volunteer Air Force Ordinance provides for the raising of the Straits Settlements Volunteer Air Force.

(16) The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance enables the Colonial Secretary to authorize banks to compound for the duty on unstamped cheques.

The bank pays half yearly the duty on unstamped cheques issued by it. Certain other amendments are made to implement the International Conventions on Stamp Laws in connection with Cheques, and on Stamp Law in connection with Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes.

(17) The Deleterious Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance regulates and controls the import, export, transit and diversion of narcotic drugs.

(18) The Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance gives greater control over hawkers. It empowers the Municipal Commissioners to require bicycles to carry identification marks and to be registered. The Ordinance also provides for the issue of licences for omnibus services restricted to routes mentioned in the licences. On the issue of a licence no motor-omnibus may ply for hire along the route to which the licence refers except one belonging to the licensee, or to the Singapore Traction Company if the route is one over which that Company has rights under the Singapore Traction Ordinance.

CHAPTER XV

Public Finance and Taxation

The Revenue for the year 1935 amounted to $35,040,380.22 which was $3,361,175.22 more than the original estimate of $31,679,205 and $676,999.22 in excess of the revised estimate of $34,363,381.

The Expenditure was $34,764,640.25, being $363,319.25 more than the original estimate.

The year's working resulted therefore in a surplus of $275,739.97.

(i).—REVENUE

The Revenue was $795,776.91 more than that of 1934. Details are shewn in the following table:—

Heads of Revenue	1934	1935	Increase	Decrease
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ..	2,459.58	2,494.98	35.40	..
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	21,566,219.13	23,367,218.55	1,800,999.42	..
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimburments-in-Aid ..	1,349,709.12	1,390,589.75	40,880.63	..
4. Posts and Telegraphs ..	2,101,431.11	2,200,135.16	98,704.05	..
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,592,981.05	1,765,439.32	172,458.27	..
6. Interest ..	5,316,504.04	5,442,377.04	125,873.00	..
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ..	2,190,096.28	766,598.77	..	1,423,497.51
Total exclusive of Land Sales and Grants-in-Aid	34,119,400.31	34,934,853.57	2,238,950.77	1,423,497.51
8. Land Sales and Premia on Grants ..	124,045.86	96,475.22	..	27,570.64
9. Grants-in-Aid, Colonial Development Fund ..	1,157.14	9,051.43	7,894.29	..
TOTAL REVENUE ..	34,244,603.31	35,040,380.22	2,246,845.06	1,451,068.15

The increase under the heading "Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" is chiefly attributable to increases under the following sub-heads:—

	$ c.
District and Police Courts	33,979 46
Liquors	254,823 68
Motor Car Duty	18,537 47
Opium	17,184 89
Pawnbrokers Ordinance	229,026 00
Petroleum Revenue	231,303 00
Stamp Duties (various revenue services)	30,517 91
Estate Duties	590,506 92
Tobacco Duties	385,250 47
	$1,791,129 80

The increase in Fees of Court, etc., arises mainly from the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Contribution by Federated Malay States on account of Joint Services ..	59,359	80
Contribution from Immigration Fund ..	19,266	04
District and Police Courts	11,693	19
Cost of Subsistence of Prisoners recoverable	14,008	53
Seconded Officers Pensions Contributions	23,549	54
Survey Fees	8,188	41
	$136,065	51

There are decreases under the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Bankruptcy Estates, Commission on ..	13,107	11
Contribution from Rubber Fund ..	84,211	32
	$97,318	43

The increase under Posts and Telegraphs is distributed between:—

	$	c.
Sale of Stamps	78,389	30
Telegrams	9,724	42
Telephones	17,961	40
	$106,075	12

	$	c.
There is a decrease under services to Post Office Savings Bank	10,466	00

The increase under Rents, etc., is thus apportionable:—

	$	c.
Lands	147,457	99
Telok Ayer Reclamation Rents ..	38,002	00
	$185,459	99

	$	c.
There is a decrease under Forest Revenue ..	12,177	17

The increase under Interest is due to the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Interest on Investments	75,268	91
Interest on Opium Purchase Money Outstanding	159,664	00
	$234,932	91

On the other hand the following items under this head showed a decrease:—

	$	c.
Interest on Bank Accounts	63,791	90
Interest on Loans and Advances ..	33,824	36
Interest from Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	13,967	84
	$111,584	10

The incidence of the decrease under Miscellaneous Receipts is as follows:—

	$	c.
Excess interest received from Harbour Boards and Municipalities	17,276	93
Overpayments Recovered	119,030	63
Miscellaneous	59,586	43
Investment Adjustment Account (Revaluation of Investments as on 31st December, 1934)	1,256,142	16
	$1,452,036	15

On the other hand the following sub-heads under this head showed an increase:—

	$	c.
Royalty on Phosphate Christmas Island	21,170	40
Profits on Exchange	14,342	55
	$35,512	95

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of Expenditure are set out below:—

Head of Expenditure	1934	1935	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	37,083.40	37,083.40	..	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc. ..	2,183,027.67	2,380,901.86	197,874.19	..
3. Charitable Allowances ..	69,158.98	70,793.78	1,634.80	..
4. The Governor ..	114,639.66	114,283.51	..	356.15
5. Malayan Civil Service ..	646,264.89	523,571.33	..	122,693.56
6. Straits Settlements Civil Service	..	15,022.42	15,022.42	..
7. General Clerical Service ..	1,150,179.16	1,154,074.50	3,895.34	..
8. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Residents ..	114,709.92	120,741.70	6,031.78	..
9. Secretary to High Commissioner	10,423.75	10,947.10	523.35	..
10. Malayan Establishment Office	31,094.66	* 10.25	..	31,104.91
11. Agricultural Department ..	81,695.68	83 307.42	1,611.74	..
12. Analyst	63,354.18	49,114.49	..	14,239.69
13. Audit	50,052.30	41,042.74	..	9,009.56
14. Chinese Secretariat ..	64,231.24	67,711.31	3,480.07	..
15. Co-operative Societies ..	23,587.01	26,009.87	2,422.86	..
16. Drainage and Irrigation ..	196,601.90	312,613.89	116,011.99	..
17. Education	2,005,134.73	2,002,648.12	..	2,486.61
18. Fisheries	33,987.06	34,267.61	280.55	..
19. Forests	48,163.18	60,655.46	12,492.28	..
20. Gardens, Botanical ..	112,240.62	118,834.42	6,593.80	..
21. Immigration, Passports and Registration of Aliens ..	22,474.83	56,450.58	33,975.75	..
22. Labour Department ..	15,733.33	18,668.17	2,934.84	..
23. Land and District Offices ..	261,104.09	249,596.73	..	11,507.36
24. Legal	366,851.51	407,717.77	40,866.26	..
25. Marine	520,420.07	543,219.01	22,798.94	..
26. Marine Surveys	72,886.63	77,140.08	4,253.45	..
27. Medical	371,183.22	369,730.95	..	1,452.27
28. Medical, Health Branch ..	504,157.40	539,752.81	35,595.41	..
29. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	92,940.78	91,658.13	..	1,282.65
30. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries	2,141,655.33	2,241,750.78	100,095.45	..
31. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution ..	4,020,948.57	4,000,000.00	..	20,948.57
II. Local Forces ..	330,522.00	431,002.59	100,480.59	..
32. Miscellaneous Services ..	3,347,341.71	6,285,218.90	2,937,877.19	..
33. Monopolies	1,052,832.69	1,137,021.39	84,188.70	..
34. Museum and Library, Raffles ..	42,684.08	49,448.97	6,764.89	..
35. Police	2,828,393.90	2,779,143.86	..	49,250.04
36. Post Office	1,553,411.01	1,723,651.80	170,240.79	..
37. Printing Office	216,954.79	218,092.94	1,138.15	..
38. Prisons	470,330.46	431,971.24	..	38,359.22
39. Public Works Department ..	667,914.26	632,864.57	..	35,049.69
40. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure	983,778.70	1,140,701.32	156,922.62	..
41. Public Works, Extraordinary	3,283,572.15	3,443,384.91	159,812.76	..
42. Statistics	76,975.79	95,987.39	19,011.60	..
43. Survey Department ..	372,120.19	364,577.62	..	7,542.57
44. Transport	90,598.59	18,318.69	..	72,279.90
45. Treasury	124,857.17	128,943.32	4,086.15	..
46. Veterinary	61,276.80	60,081.50	..	1,195.30
47. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund	7,711.57	4,929.55	..	2,782.02
TOTAL ..	30,937,261.61	34,764,640.25	4,248,918.71	421,540.07

* Expenditure Credit.

The increase in "Pensions Retired Allowances, Gratuities etc.," is due to increased provisions in the votes "Superannuation Allowances", "Police Pensions" and "Commutations of Pensions to officers who have exercised their option, etc."

The decrease in "Malayan Civil Service" is attributable to the arrangements whereby leave salaries of European officers are now defrayed by the Malayan Establishment Office.

"Straits Settlements Civil Service" appears in the 1935 Estimates for the first time, and provision for four Probationers was entered in the first instance.

The increase under "Colonial Secretary", "Resident Councillors" and "Residents" is mainly due to increases in the Other Charges, Annually Recurrent vote.

The decrease under "Malayan Establishment Office" is mainly due to the whole departmental expenditure being adjusted to a Suspense Account, Malayan Establishment Office, for apportionment amongst the various administrations.

The decrease under "Analyst" is due to the retirement and furlough of two Assistant Analysts who were replaced by officers on a leave scale of salary.

The decrease under "Audit" is mainly due to the increased Expenditure credits and adjustments thereof under the revised cost of audit.

The increase under "Drainage and Irrigation" reflects additions to personnel and expenditure on the various drainage Schemes and other improvements.

The increase under "Forests" is due mainly:—

(i) to the Singapore forest organisation out-weighing the saving on account of the retrocession of the Dindings;

(ii) to improvements to forest reserve in Malacca.

The increase under "Gardens Botanical" is due to the difference of duty salaries provided for duty posts and normal increments to staff.

The increase under "Immigration, Passports and Registration of Aliens" is mainly due to a vote "Reimbursement of Passport Revenue to Immigration Fund" being provided under Other Charges, Annually Recurrent, in the 1935 Estimates.

The decrease in "Land and District Offices" is due to a decrease in Personal Emoluments on the retrocession of the Dindings to Perak and in Special Expenditure votes.

The increase in "Legal" is due to the increase of personnel in the Supreme Court and Bankruptcy Office and also due to the increases in the Special Expenditure votes.

The increase under "Marine" is due to the increased maintenance costs and major repairs to Government launches.

The increase under "Medical Health Branch" is due to the increase in Personal Emoluments, Other Charges Annually Recurrent and Special Expenditure and also due to unprovided expenditure in 1935.

The increase under "Hospitals and Dispensaries" is mainly due to increases in the Governments contributions to the Hospital Boards and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

The decrease in the "Military Expenditure Defence Contribution" is due to a final adjustment with the Military Authorities in respect of the years 1927–1933.

The increase in the "Military Expenditure Local Forces" is mainly due to the increased expenditure in 1935 on account of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

The large increase under "Miscellaneous Services" is due mainly to the unprovided expenditure of the following:—

	$
Cost of Hotel Europe Site	1,315,000
Gift towards the Imperial Government ..	500,000
Singapore and Penang Silver Jubilee Fund	1,050,000
Deficit in Colony's Securities	625,000

The increase under "Excise" is due to normal increments and promotion, purchase of larger quantities of materials required for an increased production of chandu and also due to the operation of the Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance, 1928.

The increases under "Museum and Library, Raffles" are due to the normal increase in Personal Emoluments.

The decrease under "Police" is mainly due to retirement, termination of services and substitution of Asiatic Inspectors in place of European Inspectors.

The increase under "Post Office" is due mainly to the inclusion of the Straits Settlements contribution to Posts and Telegraphs Headquarters expenditure. In previous years the Straits Settlements' share of Joint Expenditure was not shewn as Posts and Telegraphs Expenditure, but was settled directly between the Treasuries.

The decrease under "Prisons" is mainly due to vacancies on the European Warders Establishment not being filled, and also leave salaries of European Officers being met from Malayan Establishment Funds.

The decrease under "Public Works Department" is due to the fact that certain Civil Engineering posts have been left vacant for

part of the year and also in some measure due to the retrocession of the Dindings.

The increase under "Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure" is due mainly to the increased expenditure in wiping off the arrears of maintenance caused by economies during the Trade Depression.

The increase under "Public Works Extraordinary" is due to the fact that work in connection with two large votes "Civil Aerodrome, Singapore", and "New Convict Prison" was in full swing and payments were naturally larger than in the previous year.

The increase under "Statistics" is mainly due to the purchase of a set of mechanised accounting machinery during 1935.

The decrease under "Survey" is mainly accounted for by the smaller amount chargeable for leave salaries during 1935.

The decrease under "Transport" is due to the cost of passages of European Officers being taken over by the Malayan Establishment Office.

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½% Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted on the 31st December, 1935, to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised is as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ..	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ..	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
	$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and cost of conversion (1907) less interest received ..	3,388,205
	$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of this loan was $2,079,891 in 1935. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been allotted. The value of the Investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1935, was $21,211,048.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provision of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 2) amounted to $44,185,714 (£5,155,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the loan and of the Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish it.

A part of the Sterling Loan *i.e.*, Straits Settlements 4½% Inscribed Stock 1935/45 amounting to $36,000,000 (£4,200,000) was converted from 15th June, 1935, into Federated Malay States 3% Stock 1960/70.

(v).—Taxation

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony, and from the profits on the Government opium monopoly. The other main items are Stamp Duties, Estate (Death) Duties and Pawnbrokers' Licenses which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years.

The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from "Licences".

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licenses for the year 1935 was $23,367,218.55 forming the greater portion of the Colony's Revenue and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$	c.
Liquor Duties	3,373,786	70
Opium Revenue	8,740,612	65
Pawnbrokers' Licences	716,214	00
Petroleum Revenue	3,179,704	14
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services)	963,961	99
Estate (Death) Duties	1,234,687	05
Tobacco Duties	4,371,449	11

The only fiscal measure approximating to a custom's tariff is the imposition of duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony.

Excise revenue is comprised principally of the revenue from the Opium Monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of a similar brand. The only liquor manufactured locally which is subject to this duty is samsu and beer. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy, but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance, 1929. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only ..	25 cents
Bill of Exchange including Promissory Note ..	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof
Cheque	4 cents
Conveyance	$1.50 for every $250 or part thereof
Mortgage	$1 for every $500 or part thereof
Receipt	4 cents

A Betting Tax was introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932, and the amount collected in 1935 was Singapore $255,066.45 and Penang 107,942.30.

(iii).—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December,

	$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities		
Deposits:—		
Accountant-General (Court)	2,050,035.07	
Accountant-General (Other)	2,034,049.00	
Bankruptcy	742,680.51	
Mercantile Marine Fund	785,667.78	
Police Reward Fund	3,180.41	
Savings Certificates Fund	147,240.00	
Companies Liquidation Account	244,434.84	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund	81,567.59	
Miscellaneous Singapore (including Labuan and Christmas Island)	2,793,627.56	
Miscellaneous Penang and Districts ..	437,163.83	
Miscellaneous Malacca and Districts ..	110,581.48	
F.M.S. Agency	31,192.37	
		9,461,426.44
Drafts and Remittances	..	35,749.00
Suspense Account: Coins for reminting, etc. ..	2,263,584.85	
Suspense Account: Interest, Currency Commissioners ..	..	
Suspense Account: Other items	5,580,167.51	
		7,843,752.36
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ..	..	61,111,266.89
Loans:—		
S.S. and F.M.S. Victory Loan 5% 1920–1934	..	50.00
Surplus	..	71,229,370.61
TOTAL ..	..	149,681,609.30

The Surplus on 31st December, 1935, amounted to $71,229,370.61 of which approximately $50.37 millions were liquid. Against this, commitments on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other Administrations amounted to $6,936,451 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounting to $10,381,252. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1936 amounting to $2,447,207 and further commitments amounting to $3,198,839 had to be met. The total commitments and contingent liabilities on 1st January, 1936, against the Surplus thus amounted to $22,963,749.

LIABILITIES

1935 were as follows:—

Assets	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Cash:—			
	$ c.		
Cash in Treasuries	4,830,539.92		
Cash in Banks	5,164,417.16		
Cash with Crown Agents	25,808.47		
		10,020,765.55	
Cash held in Kuala Lumpur		48,100.00	
Cash in Transit		17,897.52	
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents) ..		942,857.15	
Fixed deposits (Colony)		7,250,000.00	
Fixed deposits (Accountant-General) ..		508,900.00	
			18,788,520.22
Suspense Account Other items		..	5,616,702.56
Suspense Stores Account, P.W.D.		..	104,170.00
Investments (Surplus Funds):—			
Sterling Securities		37,466,605.35	
Dollar and Rupee Securities		334,344.61	
			37,800,949.96
Investments (Specific Funds):—			
Accountant-General (Court)		889,158.94	
Accountant-General (Other)		1,491,100.00	
Bankruptcy		816,205.80	
Mercantile Marine Fund		731,686.46	
Savings Certificates Fund		210,630.00	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		74,182.00	
Miscellaneous		1,195,353.20	
			5,408,316.40
Investments Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		..	61,111,266.89
Advances:—			
Boards,			
Education		8,129.26	
Hospital		19,635.62	
Rural		1,123.11	
Building Loans		689,367.77	
Other Governments		70,443.58	
Postal Stores		300,000.00	
Sinking Fund, Singapore Harbour Board ..		1,522,022.20	
Miscellaneous		325,382.73	
			2,936,104.27
Imprests		..	1.717.01
Loans:—			
	$ c.		
Municipality, Singapore	284,231.31		
Municipality, Penang	100,000.00		
Municipality, Malacca	391,670.69		
		775,902.00	
Kelantan Government		5,223,133.98	
Trengganu Government		3,800,000.00	
Singapore Harbour Board		5,294,959.99	
Penang Harbour Board		2,649,621.56	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		53,250.00	
Tanglin School at Cameron Highlands ..		17,100.00	
Stadium Association		2,000.00	
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ..		97,894.46	
			17,913,861.99
TOTAL ..		..	149,681,609.30

CHAPTER XVI

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of many of the other settlers, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet, but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the South of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigrant Chinese population is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be:—

> Hokkien, 43.2%; Cantonese, 21.4%; Tiu Chiu, 17.4%; Hakka (Kheh), 7.9%, Hailam, 5.4%, Hok Chhia, 1.5%; Hok Chiu, 1.3%; and other dialects, 1.9%.

Nine-tenths of the Indian population are Southern Indians practically all of whom speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu, or Malayalam. Of these the vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil.

The rest of the Indian population consists mainly of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani. There are also a few hundred natives of the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

B.—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the leases for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first lease issued for a period of ninety-nine years, for land in the town, dates back to 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of grants in fee simple was issued for land outside the limits of the town though for town lands the issue of leases for ninety-nine years still continued. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally acquired for agricultural purposes.

After the transfer of the Settlements to the control of the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were leases for terms of 99 or 999 years, but Ordinance No. II of 1886, now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands), introduced a statutory form of Crown Title, the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and to various implied conditions and covenants which before the passing of the Ordinance had to be expressly provided for in the document of title itself. This Statutory Grant became then, and until recently continued to be the usual form of title issued but the policy now is to restrict the issue of grants in perpetuity substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding ninety-nine years.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown under Grant in fee simple, Statutory Grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. Unoccupied Crown land is now ordinarily alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. The remainder of the land in the Town is mostly held under Crown leases for 99 years, but there are a few leases for 999 years and a few Statutory Grants. Alienated land in the country is generally held under Statutory Grants or leases from the Crown for 99 years, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Customary Rights Ordinance. There is a small number of grants in fee-simple, both in town and country areas.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 127 (Labuan) and is alienated ordinarily by public auction. The titles existing are all leases, for the term of 999 years or less; and, since 1919, leases for 30 years only have been granted. There are some titles which are redemptions of titles issued under a former system.

Throughout the Colony.—Temporary occupation of Crown Land is possible under licence for periods not exceeding a year at a time, and similar temporary occupation licences, as well as leases, may be issued for foreshore and sea bed under the provisions of Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

C.—CO-OPERATION

The organisation of thrift on a co-operative basis has progressed steadily, the total savings in Co-operative Societies in the Straits Settlements having increased by over three hundred thousand dollars since 1934. While most of this increase is due to the savings of

salary earners, Indian labourers added nearly $60,000 to their previous accumulation.

The year was somewhat brighter for agriculturists and the membership of Rural Credit Societies increased in Penang and decreased only slightly in Malacca. Capital dropped a little, but more favourable prices were beginning to affect the societies when the "time-lag" had been overtaken. Small holders, who were perpetually urged to save and who found that prevailing prices allowed only a small margin above expenditure, actively supported the three Better Living Societies which discourage extravagance on ceremonies. Co-operative Fairs and Shops have been established but are unlikely to last for long. The trading experience gained therein is perhaps their most valuable feature.

The salary-earners societies amongst Government servants have almost completed their task of implementing the Government policy of clearing up the indebtedness of its servants. Many private firms have adopted a similar policy and the mercantile societies have been fully occupied.

Investments of surplus funds in local trustee securities were, as last year, difficult to obtain even at the high premia quoted.

Singapore.—In Singapore among the salary-earners, the number of societies fell from 22 to 21, capital rose from $741,600 to $857,900, membership from 6,373 to 6,717, gilt-edged securities from $568,800 to $585,100.

Societies among Indian labourers increased by 2 to 11, with a membership of 2,347 and a capital of $77,077 as compared with 1,771 and $54,900 at the end of 1934.

Malacca.—In Malacca the number of salary-earners societies remained unchanged. The four existing societies decreased in membership from 1,508 to 1,219 but increased in capital from $188,800 to $211,700. Investments and cash in the banks amounted to $169,800.

Membership of the 8 Rural Societies dwindled from 294 to 258 and their capital from $7,586 to $6,764. The holdings of the societies in cash and in deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank amounted to $4,696.

Indian Labourers Societies increased from 16 to 21. Their membership is 4,427 and capital $59,432 as compared with 3,395 and $34,247 at the end of 1934.

Penang.—In Penang, the registration of the Harbour Board Employees Society brought the number of salary earners societies to 9. These societies have a membership of 3,834 and a capital of $452,300, the corresponding figures for last year being 3,670 and $371,200.

The number of Indian Labourers Societies is 14, an increase of one over last year. Membership is 1,713 and capital $38,951 as compared with 1,740 and $29,816 at the end of 1934.

The Rural Societies remained unchanged. Membership increased from 114 to 116, though capital decreased from $3,517 to $3,466.

D.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The outstanding event of 1935 was the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty KING GEORGE V, celebrated on the 6th May, and following days. A full record of the celebrations has been published as Council Paper No. 75 of 1935.—The occasion was marked by manifestations of loyalty and affection so spontaneous and obviously sincere, on the part of the people of every race and creed, and many even of foreign nationality residing in the Colony, that those who witnessed it are not likely to forget the noble tribute paid to a great and well-loved King.

It was further, the general feeling of the public that the memory of such an event should not be allowed to pass with the generation that had taken part in its celebration, and at a public meeting in Singapore on the 25th April it was decided that as a permanent memorial of the Silver Jubilee a fund should be raised by public subscription for the relief of distress among persons of all races all creeds, all classes and all ages living in the Settlement. Public subscriptions amounted to $154,870, to which the Legislative Council added a grant of $750,000 from the general revenue of the Colony and the Singapore Municipality contributed a sum of $500,000.

The management of this fund is regulated by statute and is vested in a body of Trustees and a Committee of Management. A sum of £164,472 has been invested by the Crown Agents on behalf of the Trustees, and the income from these investments, amounting to $3,500 a month is handed over monthly by the Trustees to the Committee of Management, which disburses the money at its discretion in the relief of the poor or destitute.

A similar fund had already been opened in Penang, and about $150,000 was collected by public subscription, to which the Legislative Council added a grant of $300,000 and the Penang Municipality one of $150,000.

The Penang Fund is managed by a statutory body of Trustees and a General Committee, and is to be used primarily for the establishment and maintenance of a home for the aged and needy of Penang and Province Wellesley.

Sir THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief was on duty throughout the year.

Sir ANDREW CALDECOTT, C.M.G., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary left the Colony on promotion to the Governorship of Hong Kong on the 7th December, when he was succeeded by Mr. A. S. SMALL.

Major-General E. O. LEWIN, C.B., C.M.G., General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, relinquished his command on the 8th November, and was succeeded on the 6th December by Major-General W. G. S. DOBBIE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. In the interval between Major-General LEWIN'S departure and the arrival of Major-General DOBBIE the command of the troops devolved upon Brigadier A. T. SHAKESPEAR, D.S.O., M.C.

Commodore W. P. MARK-WARDLAW, D.S.O., R.N., Commodore-in-Charge of His Majesty's Naval Establishments, and Air-Commodore Sydney W. SMITH, O.B.E., Officer Commanding the Royal Air Force, Far East, remained on duty throughout the year.

A Training Squadron of the Japanese Imperial Navy under Rear-Admiral Nakamura visited Singapore on the 28th March and remained in the roads for several days. On the 26th October, Admiral MURFIN of the United States Navy visited the port in U.S.S. "Augusta".

The New Year Honours List contained the following awards:—

Knight Bachelor—Mr. ANDREW CALDECOTT, C.M.G., C.B.E.

C.M.G.—Mr. HAROLD FAIRBURN.

O.B.E.—(Civil Division).—Mr. WEE SWEE TEOW.

Honorary O.B.E. (Civil Division)—Dr. PIETER VAN STEIN CALLENFELS.

The Birthday Honours List contained the following awards:—

C.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. C. J. SMITH, O.B.E., F.R.C.S.

O.B.E. (Civil Division)—The Rev. W. MURRAY, M.A.

J. A. HUNTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, 31*st July*, 1936.

APPENDIX "A"

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Dominions Office and Colonial Office List	35/-	Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London.
Blue Book (Straits Settlements)	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Annual Departmental Reports (Straits Settlements) ..	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Census Report, British Malaya, 1931	$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies; and The Malayan Information Agency, London
Malayan Year Book, 1935 ..	$1.50, 3/6	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore. The Malay States Agency London
Report by the Rt. Hon'ble W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit to Malaya, Ceylon and Java, 1928 ..	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 20th December, 1934 (Hartland)	2/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London
A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula (I. H. Burkill) 2 Vols. ..	30/-	The Crown Agents for the Colonies
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50*cts.*	Dept. of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S., Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ..	Various prices	Forest Department, F.M.S. and The Malayan Information Agency, London
The Geology of Malaya, 1931 (J. B. Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, 1925, 5 Vols. (H. N. Ridley) ..	£11-11-0	L. Reeve & Co., London
The Birds of Singapore Island, 1927. (Sir John A. S. Bucknill and F. N. Chasen) ..	$5	Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Singapore
Malayan Fishes, 1921 (C. N. Maxwell)	$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, and Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Oxford Survey of the British Empire, 1924. Vol. 2 (Editors: A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth)	15/-	Oxford University Press, London
One Hundred Years of Singapore, 1921, 2 Vols. (General Editors: W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke, and R. St. J. Braddell) ..	out of print	John Murray, London
One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore, 1923. (Sir Ong Siang Song)	30/-	John Murray, London
Handbook to British Malaya, 1930 (Ed. by R. L. German) ..	5/-	J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London

APPENDIX *"A"—continued*

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—*continued*

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Historical Geography of British Dominions, Vol. 1. (C. P. Lucas)	not sold separately	Oxford University Press, London
A History of Malaya (Sir Richard Winstedt)	$7.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore and Luzac & Co., London
British Malaya, 1824-1867. 1925. (L. A. Mills)	$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London
British Malaya, 1929. (Sir F. A. Swettenham)	12/6	J. Lane, London
Papers on Malay Subjects. (Incidents of Malay life, Law, etc. Ed. by R. J. Wilkinson) ..	$1 each	Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Singapore, S. S.
Malaya. The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, 1923. (Sir Richard Winstedt)	12/6	Constable & Co., London
Report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya, 1932, 3 vols. ..	$12	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to Malaya, 1932	50 *cts.*	H. M. Stationery Office, London
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933–1934, Vol. I	$5	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933–1934, Vol. IV. (Appendices)	$10	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.

APPENDIX "B"

TABLE I

EXCESS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, DURING THE YEAR, 1935

RACE	BY SEA							BY AIR			BY RAIL		BY ROAD		TOTAL
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
Europeans ...	1,043	811	− 3	22	8	...	0	− 38	2	− 13	−240	0	0	82	1,674
Eurasians ...	163	13	...	11	5	− 1	...	...	...	...	− 31	− 2	0	− 13	145
Japanese ...	302	29	...	10	...	...	...	5	...	...	9	3	− 1	8	365
Chinese ...	85,748	4,312	1	323	− 1,450	0	− 1	3	...	...	1,492	− 1,493	537	1,514	90,986
Malays ...	2,382	14	...	62	− 21	43	− 2	...	...	...	127	− 6,325	527	133	− 3,060
Northern Indians ...	1,693	1,720	5	− 4	264	...	− 1	− 2	...	...	299	− 180	− 44	98	3,848
Southern Indians ...	4,662	14,639	...	3	13,557	...	− 1	3	...	...	59	156	− 61	28	33,045
Others ...	141	− 67	...	106	0	...	..	1	...	...	−269	− 2,076	5	362	− 1,797
TOTAL ...	96,134	21,471	3	533	12,363	42	− 5	− 28	2	− 13	1,446	− 9,917	963	2,212	125,206

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1934 AND FOR THE YEAR, 1935 ARE:—

	By Sea							By Air			By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
1934	70,721	30,740	17	347	37,616	19	– 21	– 1	...	...	954	– 1,348	695	2,379	142,089
1935:—															
January ...	10,541	1,462	1	131	1,323	...	...	0	...	...	534	– 1,457	– 404	547	12,678
February ...	7,508	2,721	– 6	– 112	1,948	2	...	– 1	...	...	85	– 1,569	– 9	193	10,760
March ...	15,760	1,562	2	95	2,346	...	0	– 15	...	...	98	– 3,232	116	141	16,873
April ...	11,822	2,775	– 2	– 44	2,146	8	...	15	...	...	258	– 2,599	361	118	14,858
May ...	11,344	3,661	...	139	2,427	13	...	– 9	...	– 1	– 46	– 26	194	71	17,767
June ...	7,148	2,287	– 3	81	953	...	– 1	6	...	– 3	– 58	353	212	– 22	10,953
July ...	6,904	2,034	5	88	848	...	...	– 6	...	0	147	– 2,261	137	266	8,162
August ...	3,847	– 338	...	– 55	– 126	...	0	– 7	...	– 1	13	3,118	– 52	143	6,542
September ...	7,065	2,192	1	81	656	...	– 1	– 6	– 1	– 5	63	752	32	99	10,928
October ...	6,256	1,723	1	95	485	6	2	– 2	1	– 1	145	– 2,689	217	128	6,367
November ...	3,195	1,058	4	68	– 142	...	...	– 7	1	...	251	250	34	145	4,857
December ...	4,744	334	0	– 34	– 501	13	– 5	4	1	– 2	– 44	– 557	125	383	4,461
TOTAL ...	96,134	21,471	3	533	12,363	42	– 5	– 28	2	– 13	1,446	– 9,917	963	2,212	125,206

TABLE III

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1935

ARRIVALS FROM

Race	BY SEA														
	The Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1)		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans (4) ...	4,203	2,359	522	505	7,589	1,039	757	66	60	1,922	999	632	65	39	1,735
Eurasians ...	232	249	11	9	501	10	10	4	5	29	49	48	5	11	113
Japanese ...	611	140	91	51	893	82	29	2	5	118	108	18	7	6	139
Chinese ...	47,115	8,023	3,857	2,589	61,584	87,007	40,921	13,235	9,716	150,879	516	161	68	54	799
Malays (5) ...	18,011	6,857	3,296	2,417	30,581	88	37	2	4	131	211	19	4	1	235
Northern Indians ...	2,468	151	132	77	2,828	231	6	5	4	246	11,105	1,390	691	443	13,629
Southern Indians (6)	1,898	89	84	44	2,115	42	2	1	...	45	49,855	11,209	7,470	5,188	73,722
Others ...	656	59	77	35	827	43	15	2	...	60	342	101	20	19	482
Total ...	75,194	17,927	8,070	5,727	106,918	88,542	41,777	13,317	9,794	153,430	63,185	13,578	8,330	5,761	90,854

Race	BY SEA														
	Siam					Other Countries					Total				
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans ...	454	158	22	11	645	7,881	4,889	659	584	14,013	14,576	8,795	1,334	1,199	25,904
Eurasians ...	14	15	3	11	43	88	32	11	11	142	393	354	34	47	828
Japanese ...	17	3	...	...	20	992	342	74	89	1,497	1,810	532	174	151	2,667
Chinese ...	2,126	487	350	206	3,169	7,239	1,566	498	386	9,689	144,003	51,158	18,008	12,951	226,120
Malays ...	77	13	7	5	102	2,013	761	266	203	3,243	20,400	7,687	3,575	2,630	34,292
Northern Indians ...	190	6	6	3	205	614	55	42	30	741	14,608	1,608	876	557	17,649
Southern Indians	105	4	4	...	113	497	29	18	7	551	52,397	11,333	7,577	5,239	76,546
Others ...	206	133	101	55	495	879	102	60	34	1,075	2,126	410	260	143	2,939
Total ...	3,189	819	493	291	4,792	20,203	7,776	1,628	1,344	30,951	250,313	81,877	31,838	22,917	386,945

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1935

ARRIVALS FROM

RACE	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	617	110	3	3	733	1,183	426	37	6	1,652	16,376	9,331	1,374	1,208	28,289
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	90	64	9	4	167	483	418	43	51	995
Japanese ...	23	1	...	1	25	121	3	1	...	125	1,954	536	175	152	2,817
Chinese ...	24	1	...	...	25	33,674	8,851	5,698	3,800	52,023	177,701	60,010	23,706	16,751	278,168
Malays ...	...	...	...	...	...	40,740	19,736	6,895	4,739	72,110	61,140	27,423	10,470	7,369	106,402
Northern Indians ...	9	2	1	...	12	2,999	92	77	17	3,185	17,616	1,702	954	574	20,846
Southern Indians ...	4	...	...	...	4	3,448	53	34	4	3,539	55,849	11,386	7,611	5,243	80,089
Others ...	2	1	...	...	3	12,522	8,185	4,108	2,976	27,791	14,650	8,596	4,368	3,119	30,733
TOTAL ...	679	115	4	4	802	94,777	37,410	16,859	11,546	160,592	345,769	119,402	48.701	34,467	548,339

DEPARTURES TO

RACE	BY SEA														
	THE NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	4,155	2,223	401	375	7,154	1,210	683	68	42	2,003	1,074	754	60	55	1,943
Eurasians ..	197	210	4	3	414	2	...	...	...	2	55	36	11	12	114
Japanese ...	375	59	17	16	467	54	9	5	1	69	102	22	5	9	138
Chinese ...	40,500	5,759	2,021	1,348	49,628	48,120	13,643	5,790	5,574	73,127	856	229	78	79	1,242
Malays (5) ...	18,791	5,062	2,129	1,604	27,586	29	10	8	4	51	215	35	10	10	270
Northern Indians ...	2,123	175	75	40	2,414	94	11	3	3	111	8,524	1,048	630	388	10,590
Southern Indians (6)	1,322	72	51	23	1,468	68	5	...	1	74	31,211	6,905	2,024	1,321	41,461
Others ...	737	38	27	7	809	62	13	6	6	87	248	76	23	11	358
TOTAL ...	68,200	13,599	4,725	3,416	89,940	49,639	14,374	5,880	5,631	75,524	42,285	9,105	2,841	1,885	56,116

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1935

DEPARTURES TO

RACE	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	496	172	26	16	710	6,591	4,154	814	654	12,213	13,526	7,986	1,369	1,142	24,023
Eurasians ...	8	14	4	10	36	35	22	6	8	71	297	282	25	33	637
Japanese ...	43	5	...	3	51	960	360	148	133	1,601	1,534	455	175	162	2,326
Chinese ...	1,637	370	287	99	2,393	7,317	2,405	648	427	10,797	98,430	22,406	8,824	7,527	137,187
Malays ...	86	6	2	2	96	2,193	1,086	298	234	3,811	21,314	6,199	2,447	1,854	31,814
Northern Indians ...	266	9	11	2	288	474	52	23	20	569	11,481	1,296	742	453	13,972
Southern Indians	110	11	3	4	128	455	50	30	20	555	33,166	7,043	2,108	1,369	43,686
Others ...	297	188	50	48	583	659	107	121	35	922	2,003	422	227	107	2,759
TOTAL ...	2,943	775	383	184	4,285	18,684	8,236	2,088	1,531	30,539	181,751	46,089	15,917	12,647	256,404

RACE	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	652	121	7	2	782	1,222	544	35	9	1,810	15,400	8,651	1,411	1,153	26,615
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	105	53	29	26	213	402	335	54	59	850
Japanese ...	19	1	...	...	20	100	4	2	...	106	1,653	460	177	162	2,452
Chinese ...	21	1	...	...	22	31,368	9,015	5,705	3,885	49,973	129,819	31,422	14,529	11,412	187,182
Malays ...	...	...	...	...	...	43,945	21,871	6,773	5,059	77,648	65,259	28,070	9,220	6,913	109,462
Northern Indians ...	10	3	1	...	14	2,882	81	35	14	3,012	14,373	1,380	778	467	16,998
Southern Indians ...	1	...	...	...	1	3,257	61	31	8	3,357	36,424	7,104	2,139	1,377	47,044
Others ...	1	1	...	...	2	13,608	8,821	4,248	3,092	29,769	15,612	9,244	4,475	3,199	32,530
TOTAL ...	704	127	8	2	841	96,487	40,450	16,858	12,093	165,888	278,942	86,666	32,783	24,742	423,133

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1935

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

RACE	BY SEA														
	THE NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1)		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans (4) ...	48	136	121	130	435	− 171	74	− 2	18	− 81	− 75	− 122	5	− 16	− 208
Eurasians	35	39	7	6	87	8	10	4	5	27	− 6	12	− 6	− 1	− 1
Japanese	236	81	74	35	426	28	20	− 3	4	49	6	− 4	2	− 3	1
Chinese	6,615	2,264	1,836	1,241	11,956	38,887	27,278	7,445	4,142	77,752	− 340	− 68	− 10	− 25	− 443
Malays (5) ...	− 780	1,795	1,167	813	2,995	59	27	− 6	...	80	− 4	− 16	− 6	− 9	− 35
Northern Indians ...	345	− 25	57	37	414	137	− 5	2	1	135	2,581	342	61	55	3,039
Southern Indians (6)	576	17	33	21	647	− 26	− 3	1	− 1	− 29	18,644	4,304	5,446	3,867	32,261
Others	− 81	21	50	28	18	− 19	2	− 4	− 6	− 27	94	25	− 3	8	124
TOTAL ...	6,994	4,328	3,345	2,311	16,978	38,903	27,403	7,437	4,163	77,906	20,900	4,473	5,489	3,876	34,738

RACE	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans ...	− 42	− 14	− 4	− 5	− 65	1,290	735	− 155	− 70	1,800	1,050	809	− 35	57	1,881
Eurasians	6	1	− 1	1	7	53	10	5	3	71	96	72	9	14	191
Japanese	− 26	− 2	...	− 3	− 31	32	− 18	− 74	− 44	− 104	276	77	− 1	− 11	341
Chinese	489	117	63	107	776	− 78	− 839	− 150	− 41	− 1,108	45,573	28,752	9,184	5,424	88,933
Malays	− 9	7	5	3	6	− 180	− 325	− 32	− 31	− 568	− 914	1,488	1,128	776	2,478
Northern Indians ...	− 76	− 3	− 5	1	− 83	140	3	19	10	172	3,127	312	134	104	3,677
Southern Indians ...	− 5	− 7	1	− 4	− 15	42	− 21	− 12	− 13	− 4	19,231	4,290	5,469	3,870	32,860
Others	− 91	− 55	51	7	− 88	220	− 5	− 61	− 1	153	123	− 12	33	36	180
TOTAL ...	246	44	110	107	507	1,519	− 460	− 460	− 187	412	68,562	35,788	15,921	10,270	130,541

TABLE III—*concluded*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1935

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

RACE	BY AIR — FOREIGN COUNTRIES					BY LAND — SIAM					GRAND TOTAL (7) (8)				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans	− 35	− 11	− 4	1	− 49	− 39	− 118	2	− 3	− 158	976	[illegible]	− 37	55	1,674
Eurasians	...	...	..	...	...	− 15	11	− 20	− 22	− 46	81	63	− 11	− 8	145
Japanese	4	...	...	1	5	21	− 1	− 1	..	19	301	76	− 2	− 10	365
Chinese	3	...	...	...	3	2,306	− 164	− 7	− 85	2,050	47,882	28,588	9,177	5,339	90,986
Malays	...	...	...	...	...	− 3,205	− 2,135	122	− 320	− 5,538	− 4,119	− 647	1,250	456	− 3,060
Northern Indians ...	− 1	− 1	...	...	− 2	117	11	42	3	173	3,243	322	176	107	3,848
Southern Indians ...	3	...	...	...	3	191	− 8	3	− 4	182	19,425	4,282	5,472	3,866	33,045
Others	1	...	...	...	1	− 1,086	− 636	− 140	− 116	− 1,978	− 962	− 648	− 107	− 80	− 1,797
TOTAL ...	− 25	− 12	− 4	2	− 39	− 1,710	− 3,040	1	− 547	− 5,296	66,827	32,736	15,918	9,725	125,206

NOTES:—

1. Children are under 12 (English) years of age.
2. China includes Hong Kong.
3. India includes Burma and Ceylon.
4. Europeans include Americans.
5. Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago.
6. Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore.
7. For movements *viâ* individual ports or land-routes, *see* monthly Return Statistics 3; for movements of deck passengers (Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indians) *see* monthly Return Statistics 13.
8. Net Arrivals, 1935: 125,206.
   Net Arrivals, 1934: 142,089.

TABLE IV

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE, JAVANESE AND SOUTHERN INDIAN DECK PASSENGERS DURING THE YEAR, 1935

RACE	Singapore		Penang		Port Swettenham		Total		Net Arrivals during the year	Net Arrivals for the years 1934 and 1935	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures		1934	1935
1. Chinese from and to China including Hongkong *(a)* ...	136,059	59,535	9,640	7,912	154	1,578	145,853	69,025	76,828	41,138	76,828
2. Javanese from and to Java *(b)* ...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	6	– 6	– 459	– 6
3. Southern Indians from and to Presidency of Madras *(c)* ...	12,436	9,887	29,768	17,099	22,864	10,914	65,068	37,900	27,168	61,845	27,168
TOTAL ...	148,495	69,428	39,408	25,011	23,018	12,492	210,921	106,931	103,990	102,524	103,990

(a) For Chinese: all deck passengers by all steamers.

(b) For Javanese: all labourers recruited for Malayan estates as reported by recruiting agencies and the Labour Department at Singapore.

(c) For Southern Indians: all deck passengers embarked and disembarked by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers between Malayan Ports and Madras, as reported by the Labour Department.

TABLE V

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE DECK PASSENGERS FROM AND TO CHINA DURING THE YEAR, 1935

Port	Arrivals				Departures				Total Arrivals		Total Departures	
	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	1934	1935	1934	1935
Singapore	79,011	36,546	11,898	8,604	40,153	10,713	4,177	4,492	100,518	136,059	58,200	59,535
Penang	4,708	3,226	962	744	4,335	1,609	1,179	789	8,749	9,640	8,109	7,912
Port Swettenham ...	152	1	1	...	1,112	255	141	70	...	154	1,820	1,578
TOTAL ...	83,871	39,773	12,861	9,348	45,600	12,577	5,497	5,351	109,267	145,853	68,129	69,025

(a) Under 12 (English) years of age.

APPENDIX "C"

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1935.

Nationality	Singapore						Penang					
	Merchant Vessels				Men-of-War		Merchant Vessels				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	4,685	10,200,369	..	..	70	288,368	2,702	7,776,439	..	..	68	95,502
American ..	85	469,821	..	..	2	20,000	75	427,793	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	83	62,304	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	243	754,011	..	..	..	..	124	419,007	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	4,656	6,669,020	..	..	..	..	1,107	1,211,241	..	..	..	..
French ..	417	1,842,715	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	325	1,531,448	..	..	..	..	174	909,112	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	42	126,080	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	128	794,030	..	..	..	..	20	72,264	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	1,247	5,269,495	..	..	4	37,500	364	1,619,718	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	1,082	1,847,003	..	..	..	..	244	380,918	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	6	31,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	2	2,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polish ..	..	..	..	..	2	3,122	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	54	96,200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	140	73,128	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	321	174,283	..	..	10	5,400	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ...	75	292,023	..	..	..	..	24	89,758	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian ..	6	21,796	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	13,595	30,255,426	33,180	1,270,129	90	356,890	4,834	12,906,250	11,976	542,278	68	95,502
± 1934 ..	−48	+436,146	+2,438	+23,498	−64	−285,018	+87	+537,626	−12	+2,333	+6	−47,658

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1935.

Nationality	MALACCA						LABUAN					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	770	905,046	..	..	1	9,750	268	233,792	..	..	4	23,000
American ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	56	223,488	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	36	26,676	..	..	..	..	12	4,044	..	..	..	..
Finnish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	992
German ..	34	151,524	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	110	91,894	..	..	..	..	2	3,738	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	692	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	14	10,292	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spanish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1,020	1,408,920	5,487	120,111	1	9,750	286	242,266	2,981	32,302	6	23,992
± 1934 ..	−76	−1,034	+231	−530	+1	+9,750	−8	+4,028	−5	+4,619	−6	+6,282

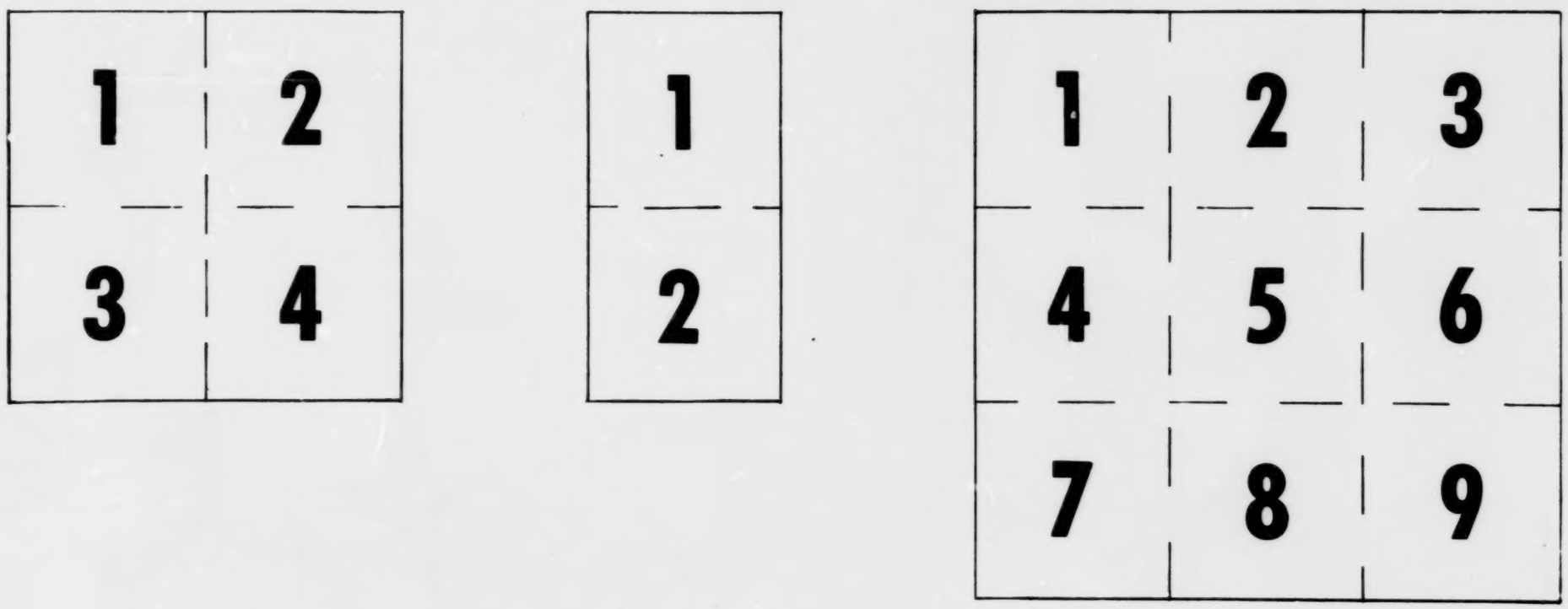
NOTE:—To the above figures must be added:—

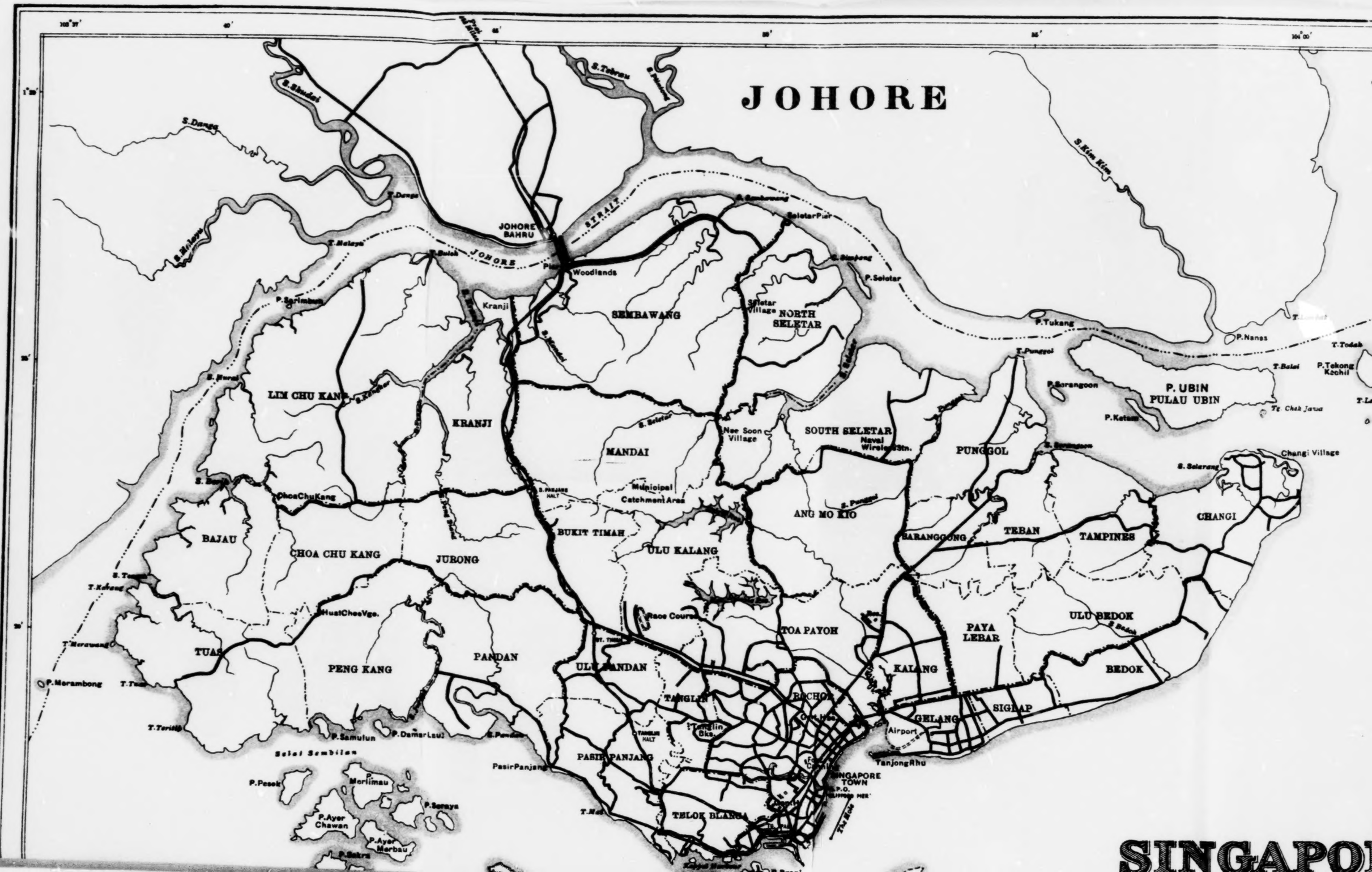
(*a*) Christmas Island: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1935 was 146,997 tons—an increase of 21,363 tons.

The total tonnage of vessels arrived and departed at the Straits Settlements ports during the year 1935 was 47,410,813 tons or an increase of 711,405 tons as compared with the year, 1934. This comprised (*a*) merchant vessels 46,924,679 tons of which

(i) over 75 tons	44,959,859	tons
(ii) 75 tons and under and native craft ...	1,964,820	tons
(*b*) warships	486,134	tons
Total ...	47,410,813	tons

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.

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Nee Soon Village
MANDAI
Municipal Catchment Area
KRANJI
LIM CHU KANG
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
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ANG MO KIO
PUNGGOL
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CHANGI
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Changi Village
Race Course
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
BEDOK
TUAS
PENG KANG
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BUCHOR
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GELANG
SIGLAP
Airport
Tanjong Rhu
PASIR PANJANG
TELOK BLANGA
SINGAPORE TOWN
P.O.
Selat Sembilan
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P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
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P. Sekra
P. Samulun
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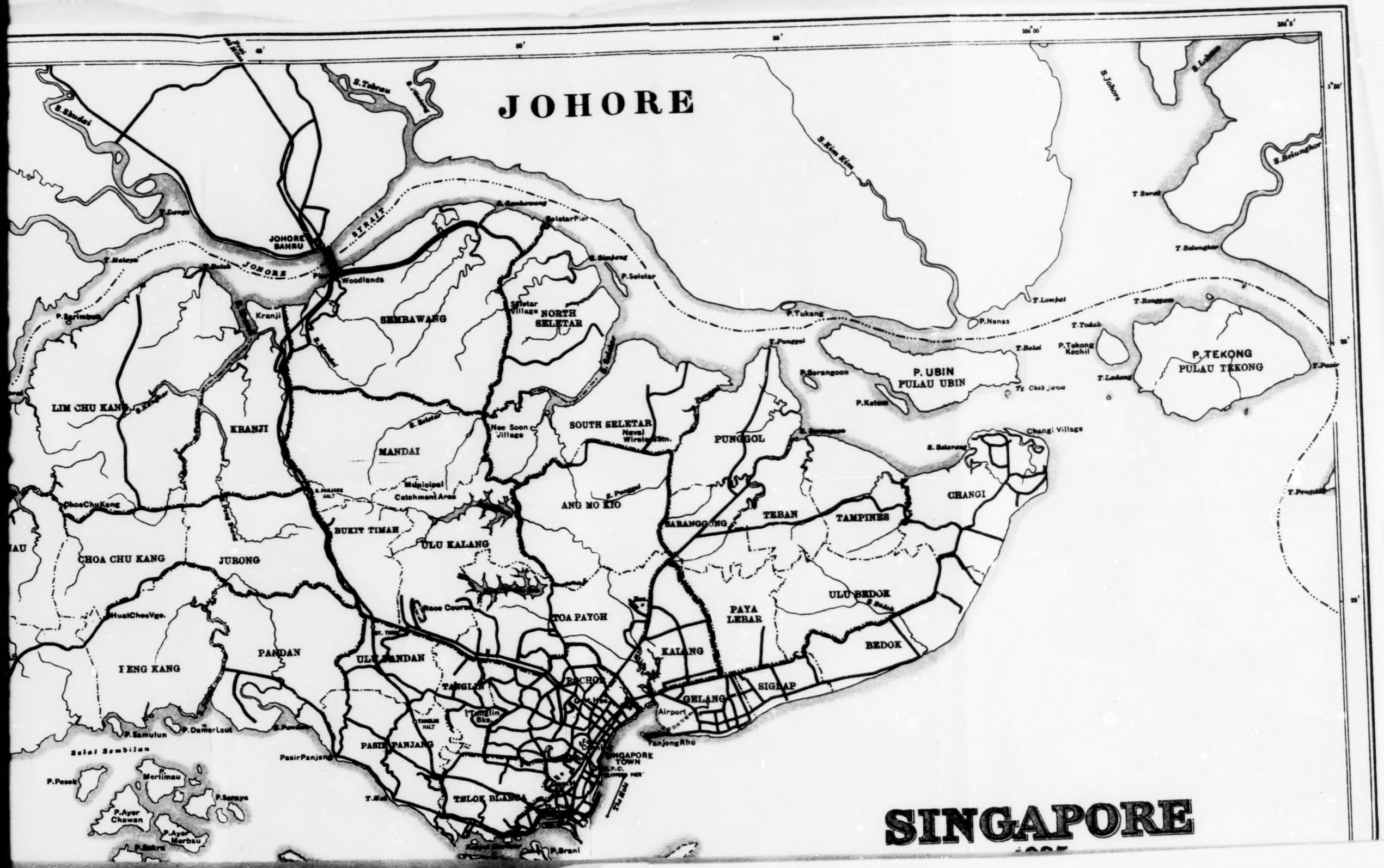
Tg. Chek Jawa
SINGAPO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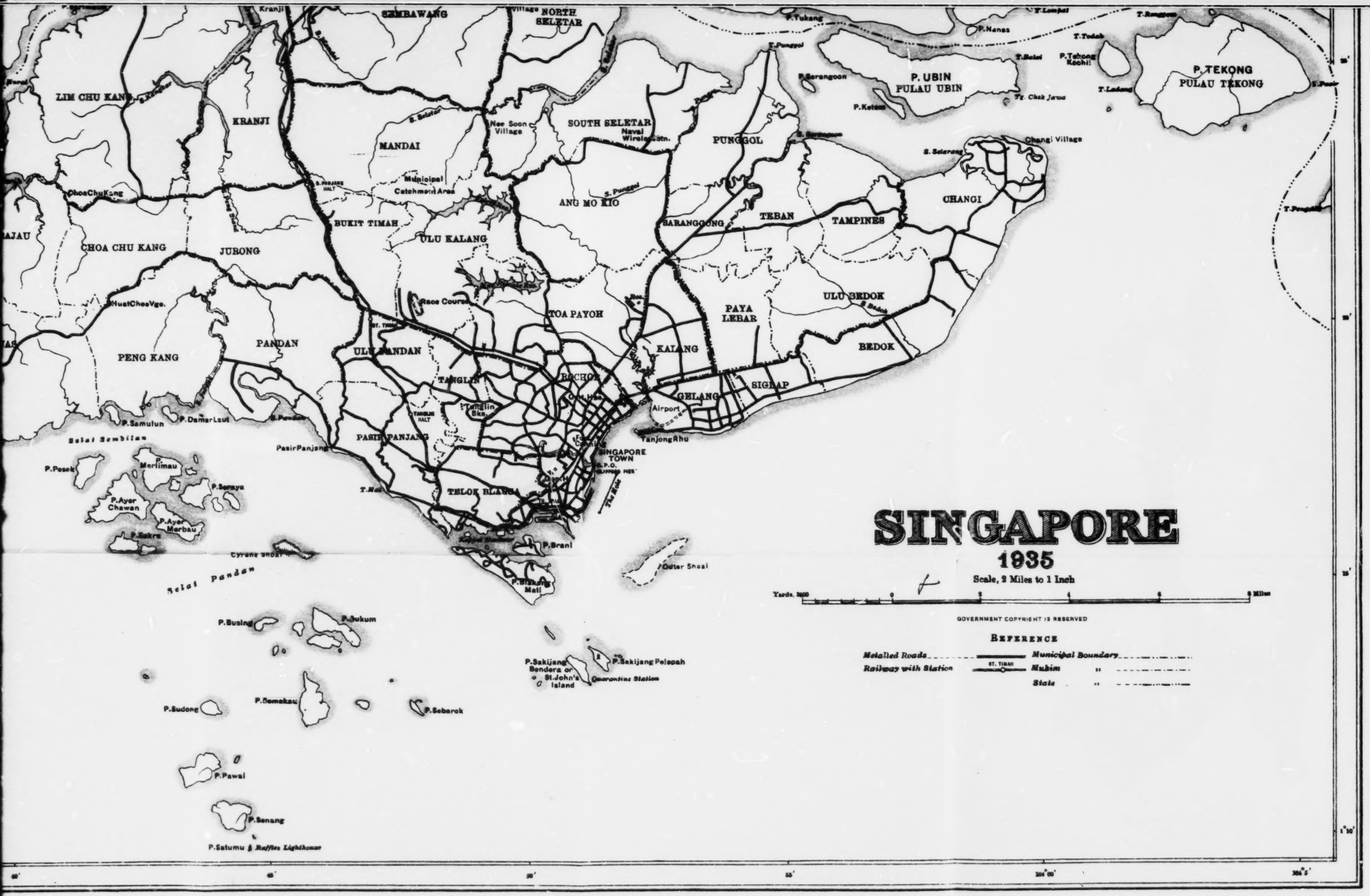

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MAP
OF
PENANG ISLAND
AND
PROVINCE WELLESLEY
1935

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

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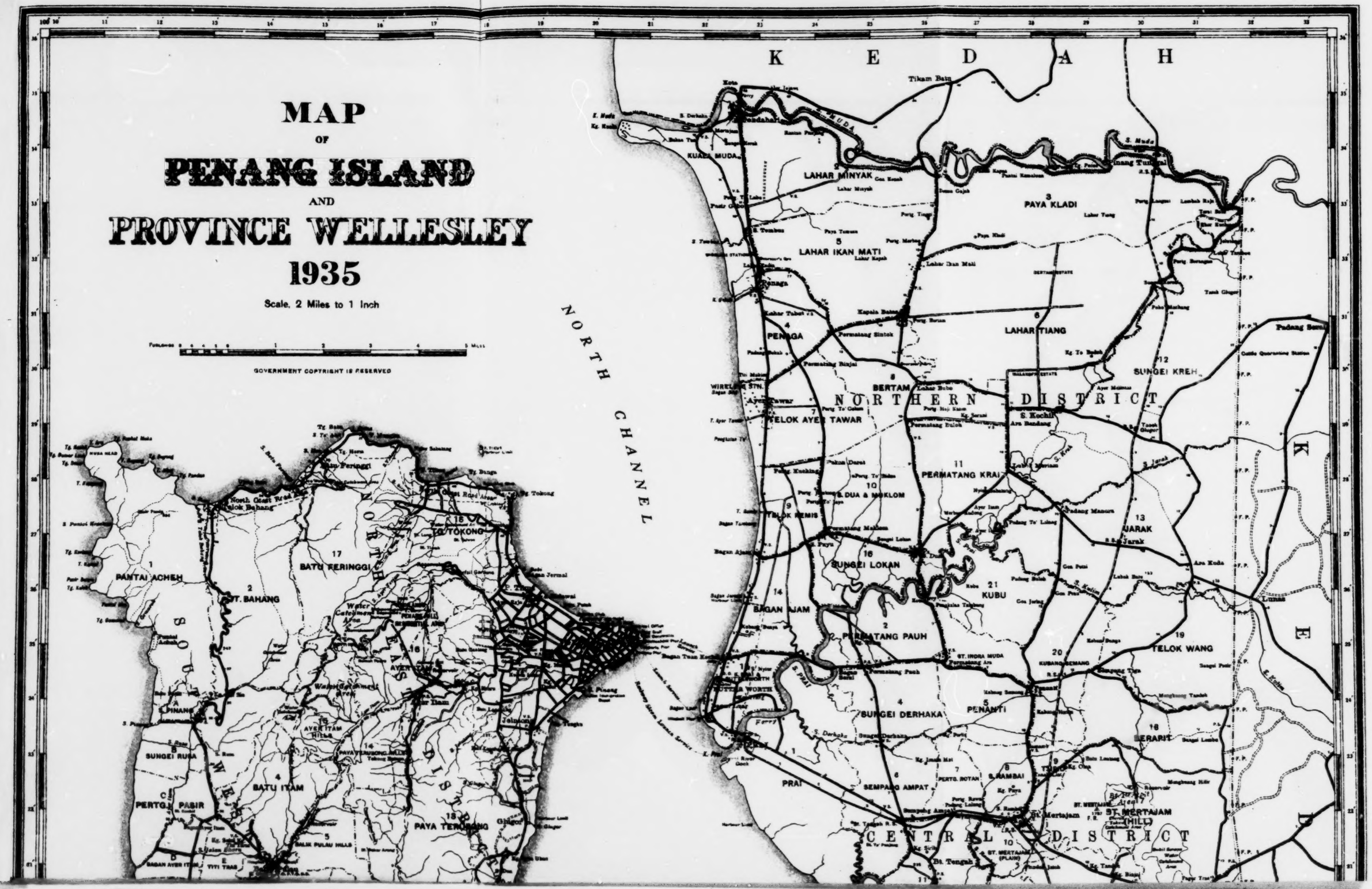

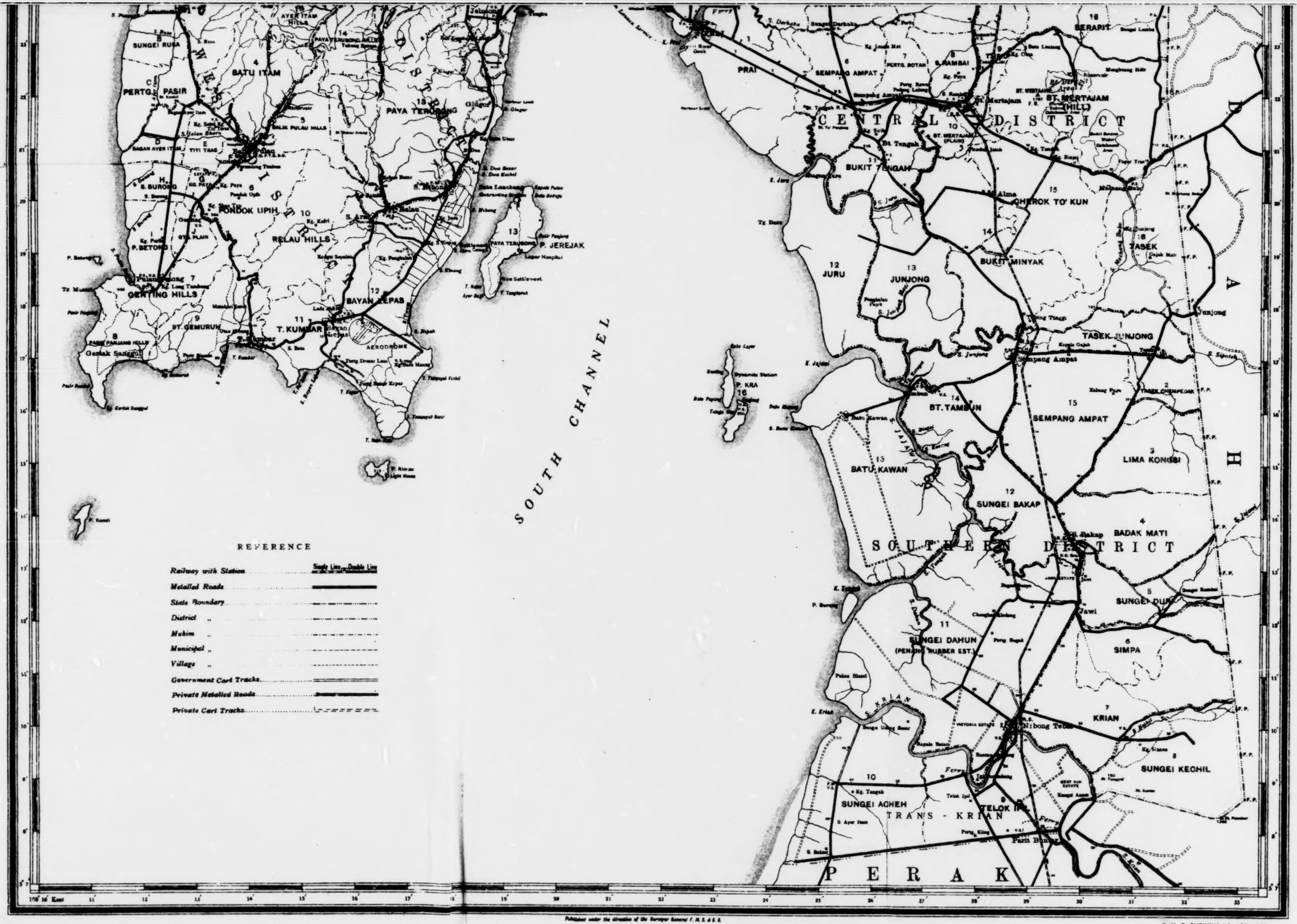

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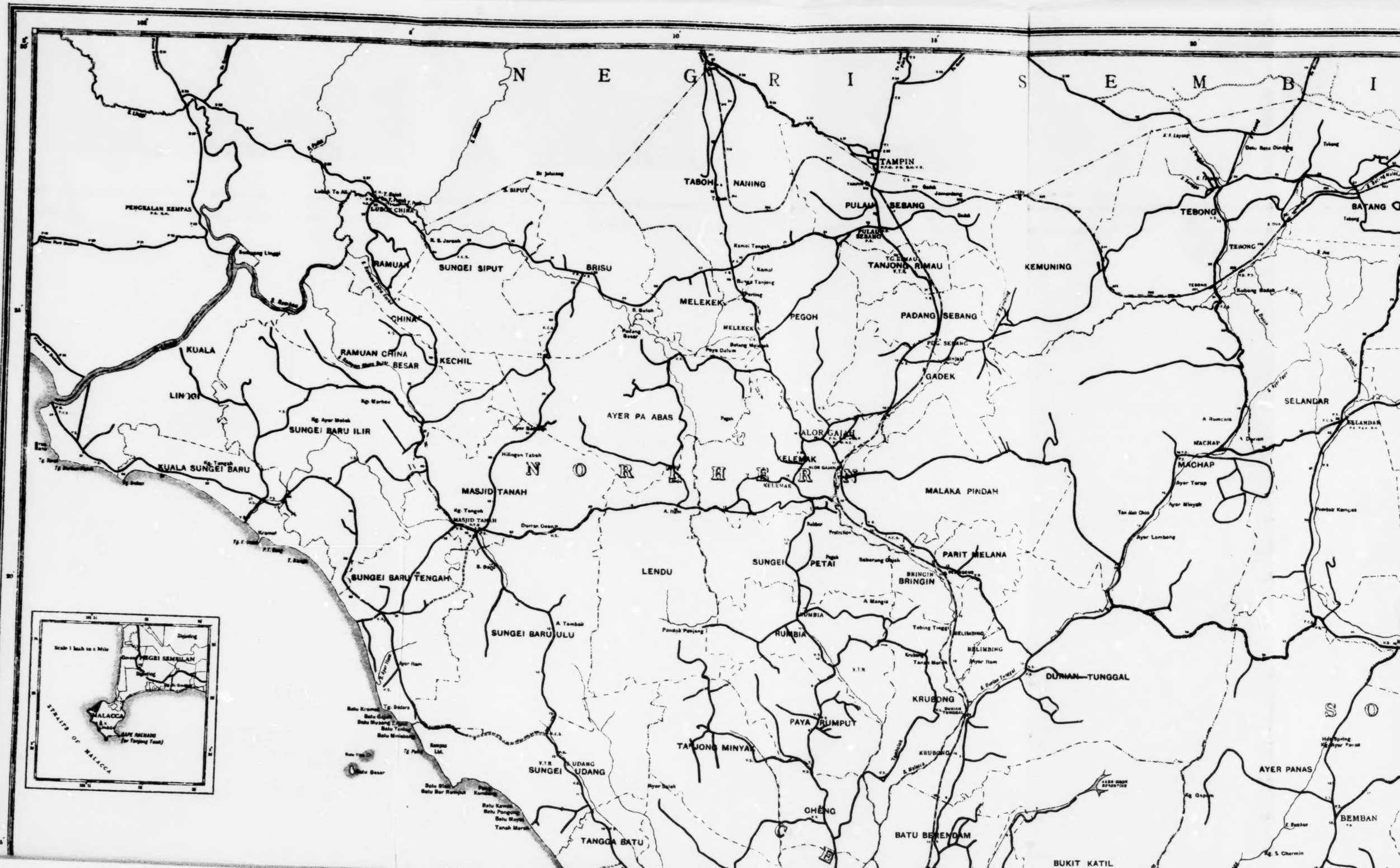
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KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
SELANDAR
MACHAP
MALAKA PINDAH
PARIT MELANA
BRINGIN
BELIMBING
DURIAN TUNGGAL
KRUBONG
PAYA RUMPUT
TAMPUNG MINYAK
CHENG
BATU BERENDAM
BUKIT KATIL
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN
LENDU
SUNGEI PETAI
RUMBIA
SUNGEI BARU ULU
SUNGEI BARU TENGAH
MASJID TANAH
SUNGEI BARU ILIR
KUALA SUNGEI BARU
KUALA LINGGI
RAMUAN CHINA BESAR
RAMUAN KECHIL
SUNGEI SIPUT
BRISU
MELEKEK
AYER PA ABAS
ALOR GAJAH
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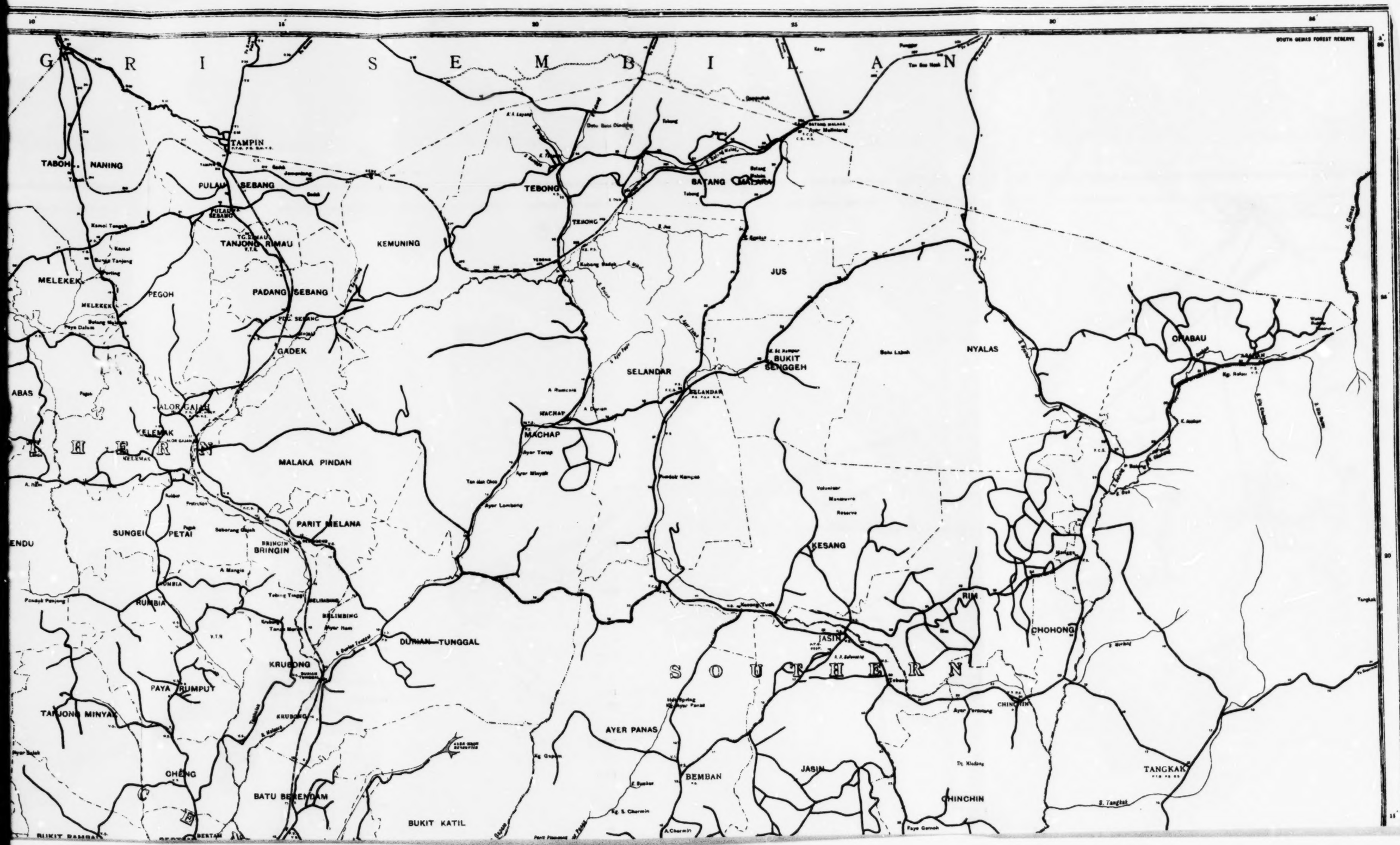
SUNGEI UDANG
PENGKALAN KEMPAS
NEGRI SEMBILAN
MALACCA
STRAITS OF MALACCA



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MALACCA TERRITORY

1935

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Furlongs 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

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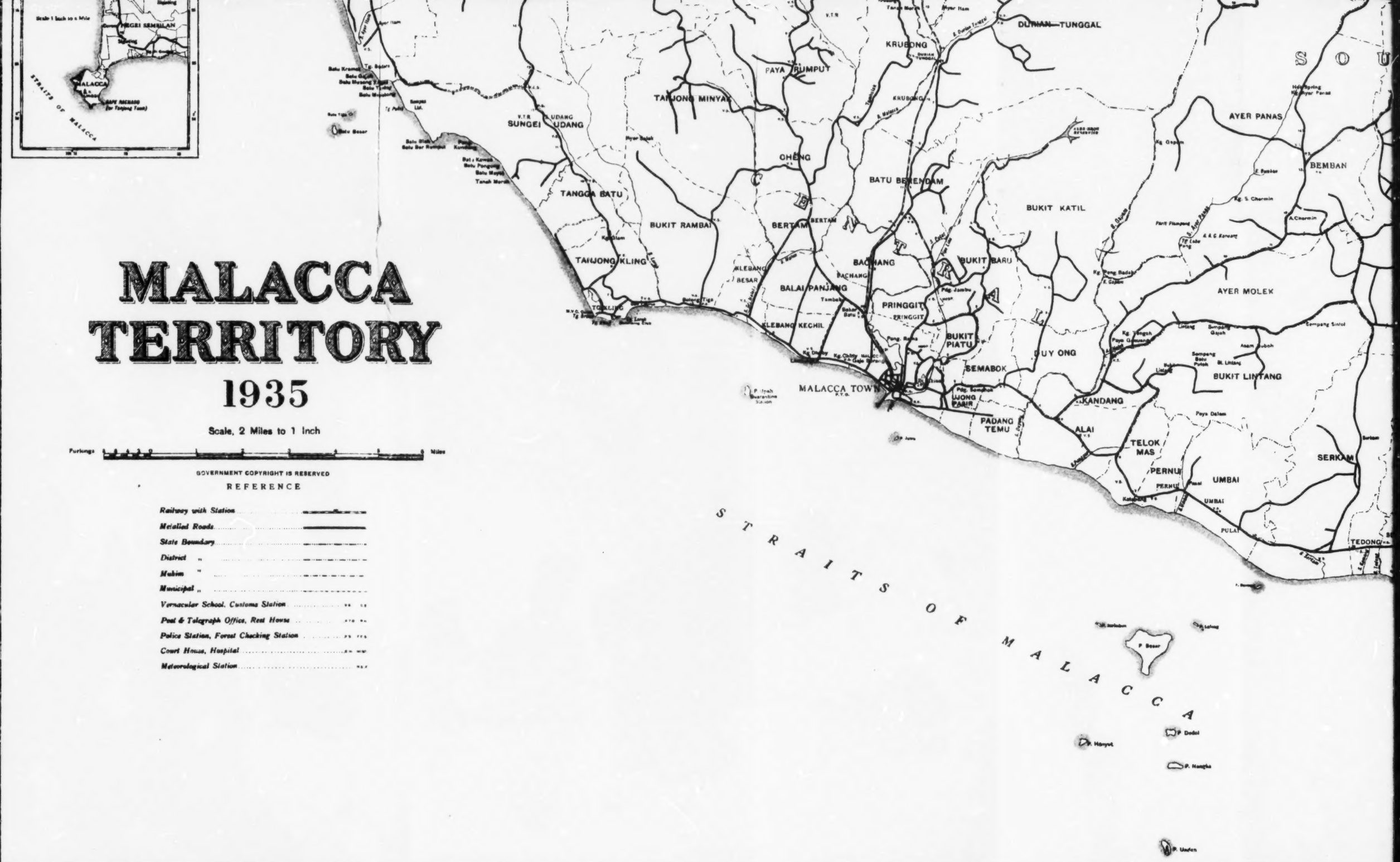
REFERENCE

- *Railway with Station*
- *Metalled Roads*
- *State Boundary*
- *District "*
- *Mukim "*
- *Municipal "*
- *Vernacular School, Customs Station*
- *Post & Telegraph Office, Rest House*
- *Police Station, Forest Checking Station*
- *Court House, Hospital*
- *Meteorological Station*



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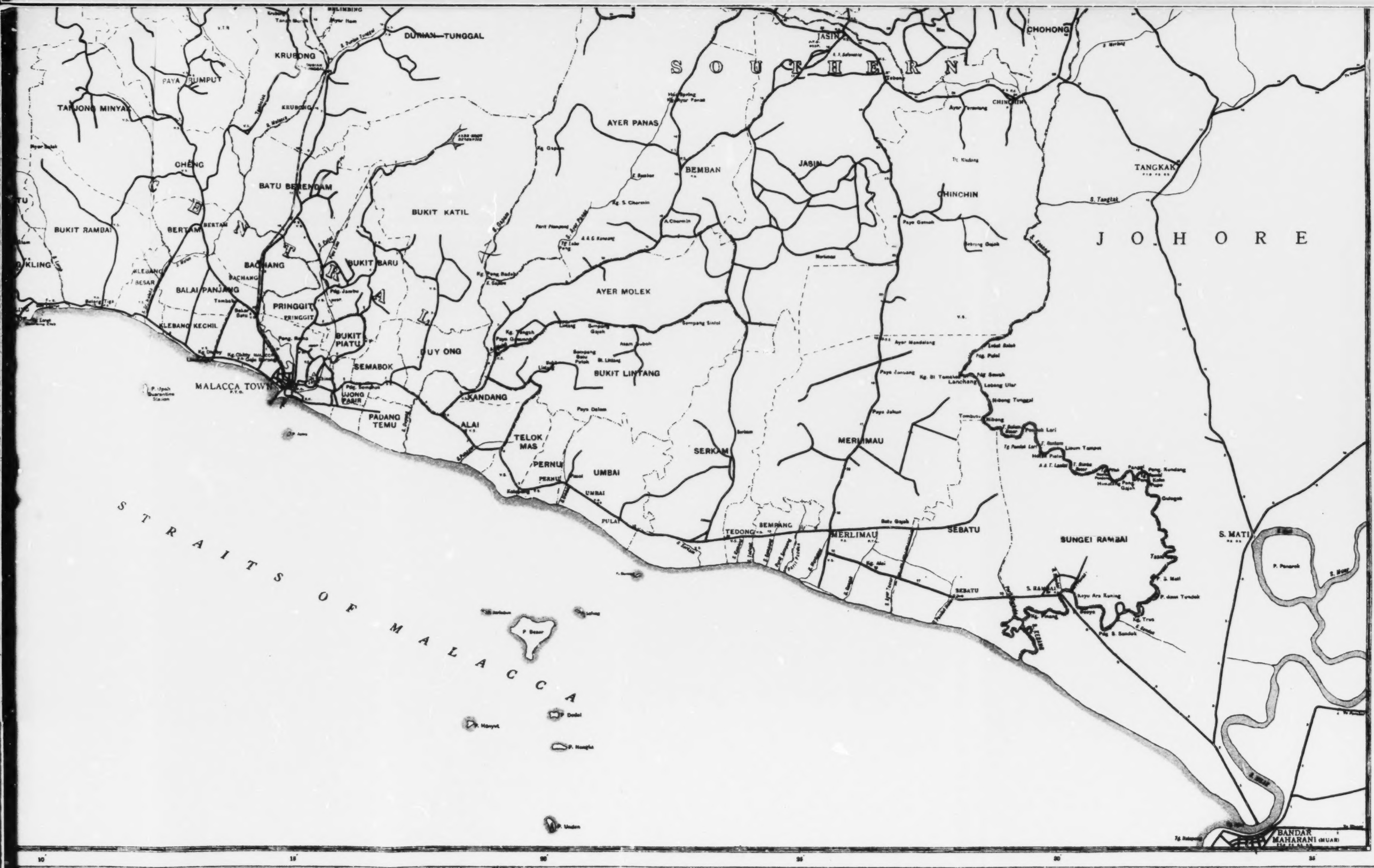

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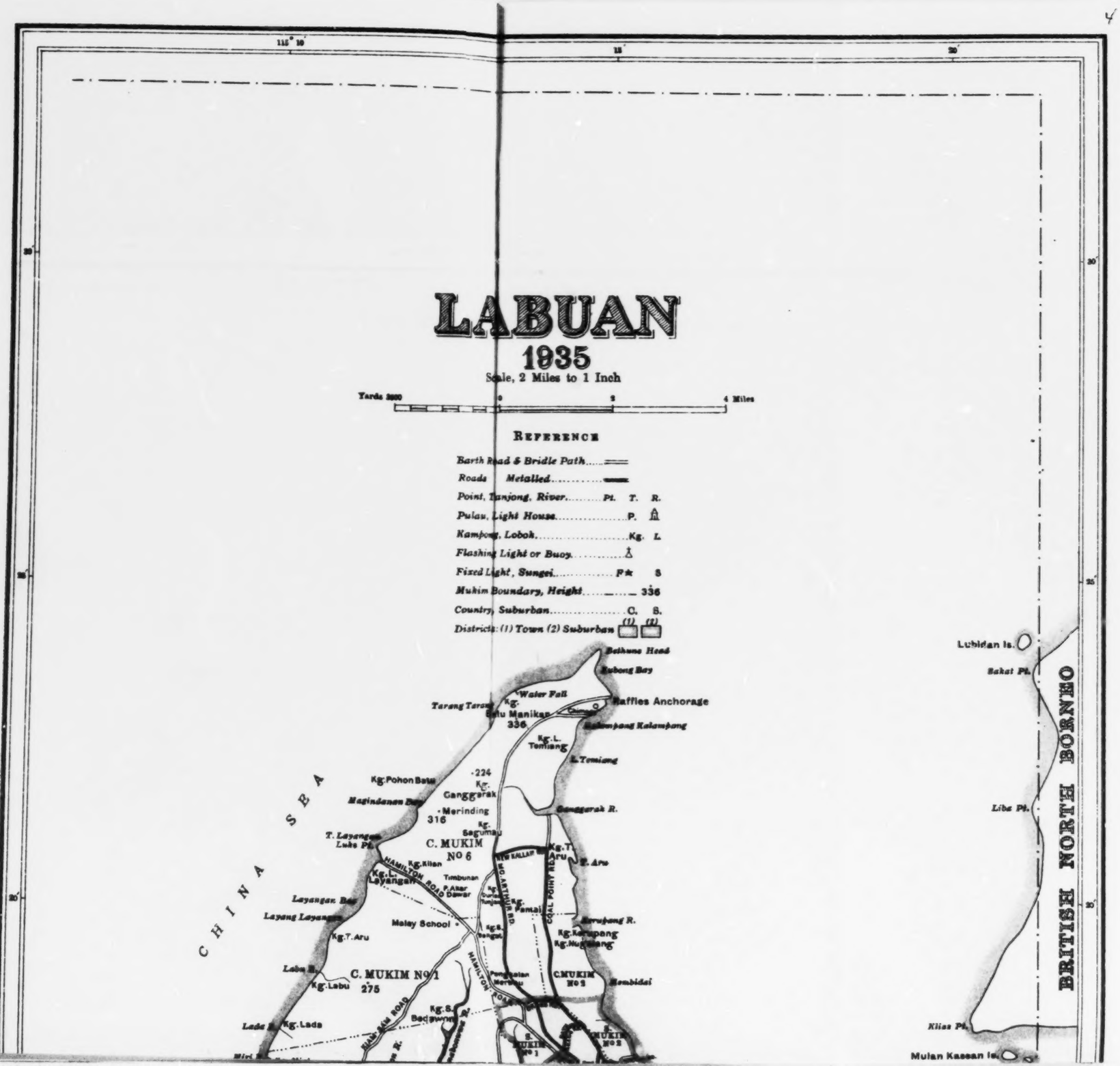
LABUAN
1935
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards 2000
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4 Miles
REFERENCE
Earth Road & Bridle Path
Roads Metalled
Point, Tanjong, River Pt. T. R.
Pulau, Light House P.
Kampong, Lobok Kg. L.
Flashing Light or Buoy
Fixed Light, Sungei F☆ S
Mukim Boundary, Height 336
Country, Suburban C. S.
Districts: (1) Town (2) Suburban (1) (2)
Bethune Head
Rubong Bay
Water Fall
Raffles Anchorage
Tarang Tarang
Kg. Batu Manikan
336
Kampong Kalampong
Kg. L. Temiang
L. Temiang
Kg. Pohon Batu
Magindanao Bay
224
Kg. Ganggarak
Merinding
316
Ganggarak R.
Kg. Segumau
T. Layangan Luke Pt.
C. MUKIM NO 6
Kg. Kilan
HAMILTON ROAD
Kg. L. Layangan
Timbunan
P. Akar
Dawar
Kg. T. Aru
P. Aru
NEW KALLAR
MC. ARTHUR RD.
COAL POINT RD.
Kg. Pantai
Layangan Bay
Layang Layangan
Malay School
Kg. S. Sungei
Kg. T. Aru
Kerupang R.
Kg. Kerupang
Kg. Mugimang
Labu R.
Kg. Labu
C. MUKIM NO 1
275
Pengkalan Meriau
C. MUKIM NO 2
Membidai
Lada R.
Kg. Lada
MAIN RAM ROAD
Kg. S. Bedgerung
C. MUKIM NO 1
C. MUKIM NO 2
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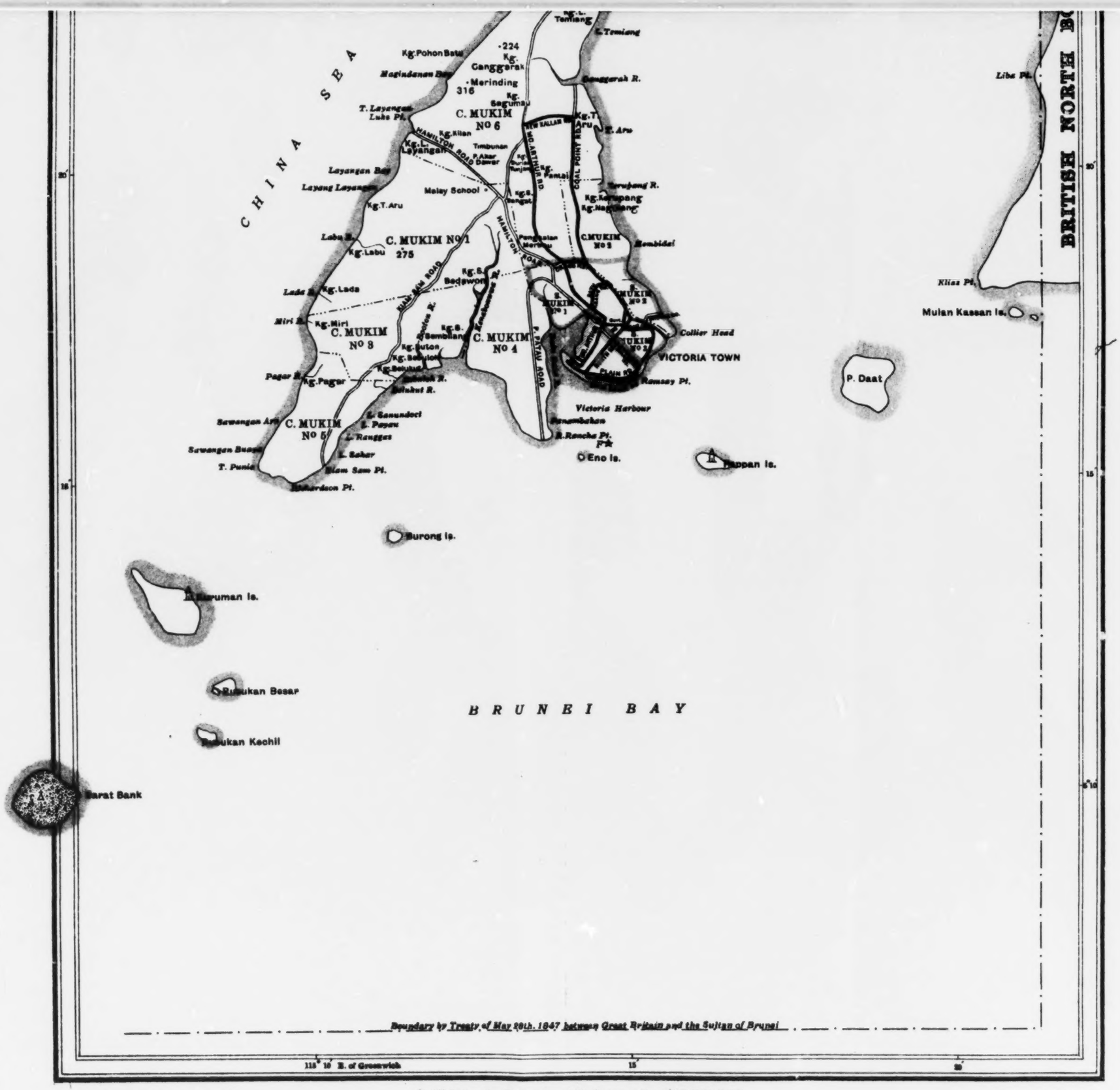
Lubidan Is.
Sakat Pt.
Libu Pt.
Klias Pt.
Mulan Kasean Is.
BRITISH NORTH BORNEO



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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1936

CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, and about 217 square miles in area. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore which also form part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 60 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands lie about 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is five miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil and nuts are exported.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, and about 108 square miles in area. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait varying in width from 2 to 10 miles, lies *Province Wellesley*, a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. The principal town of the province is Butterworth.

Malacca is a town situated on the west coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang. It gives its name to the Settlement of Malacca, a strip of territory about 42 miles in length and varying in breadth from 8 to 25 miles, with a total area of about 637 square miles. At one time it gave its name to the whole peninsula, which is still known to the French as the Presqu'île de Malacca.

Labuan is an island, some 40 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca, said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365 and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the great entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But, with the development of Dutch commerce in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade dwindled and it has never recovered its old commercial pre-eminence although the development of plantation rubber in the present century has restored to town and territory a large measure of prosperity.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British and remained a part of the Settlement of Penang until its retrocession to the State of Perak in February, 1935.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield first place to the port with the better strategic position and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable that trade has become large and important with the expansion of tin mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, and the development of trade with neighbouring countries.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement there in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired the whole island for the East India Company. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal and in 1826 was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands were declared a British possession in 1857. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1900 it was made part of the Settlement of Singapore.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The characteristic features of the climate of the Straits Settlements are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures found in continental tropical areas are never experienced.

The mean temperature during 1936 was:—

Singapore (Kallang Aerodrome)	80·8°F
Penang (District Hospital)	82·0°F
Province Wellesley (Bagan Dalam) ...	80·8°F
Malacca (Bukit China)	79·8°F

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperature varied as follows:—

	Mean Monthly Maximum		*Mean Monthly Minimum*	
	Highest (°F)	*Lowest (°F)*	*Highest (°F)*	*Lowest (°F)*
Singapore	87·7 Feb.	84·6 Oct.	77·7 July	74·5 Jan. and Dec.
Penang	92·4 Mar.	87·7 Oct.	75·3 April	73·4 June

The extremes of temperature (highest maximum and lowest minimum recorded were:—

	Highest °F	*Lowest °F*
Singapore	92 on 1st March	71 on 16th July and 11th October
Penang	95 on several days	68 on 29th February

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.

Records for 64 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September are the dry months with between 6½ and 7 inches. Rain falls on the average on half the days in the year.

The wettest year recorded was 1913 with 135·92 inches and the driest 1888 with 63·21 inches.

Records of 50 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107½ inches, October being the wettest month with nearly 17 inches and February the driest with three inches; rain falling on the average on about 165 days in the year.

The force of the monsoon is not much felt though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz.* :—

S.W. from May to October,
N.E. from November to April.

At coastal stations, however, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The rainfall recorded was as follows :—

	1934	*1935*	*1936*	*No. of Rainfall days in 1936*
Singapore ...	106·55″	72·76″	85·51″	211
Penang	137·31″	107·98″	96·20″	156
Malacca	91·43″	95·92″	92·44″	201
Province Wellesley	111·13″	91·02″	94·15″	189
Labuan	124·51″	140·59″	127·82″	192

Although the days are hot, and, on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The effect of the heat and humidity, without seasonal change, is however cumulative, and after a few years a change to a bracing climate becomes imperative for Europeans if health is to be maintained.

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924 and the 18th March, 1935, respectively.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Resident Councillor, Malacca, two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed, under the Letters Patent mentioned above and the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931 and the 12th February, 1932, respectively. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

The Legislative Council is constituted by the Letters Patent and the Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by its own Standing Orders. Under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, the constitution of the Legislative Council was enlarged when for the first time it contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments

of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for Signification of the Royal pleasure. The King has the right to disallow the Ordinances of the Colony.

The administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident.

The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the Rural areas within the three Settlements. The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under the Municipal Ordinance which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

In estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements for the year 1936, the method of calculation adopted last year has been followed. This takes account of the excess of births over deaths and the excess of emigration over immigration, or *vice versa*, since the census.

This change of method was rendered necessary by the large exodus of labourers, chiefly Chinese, Tamils and Javanese, which took place during the years 1931, 1932 and 1933. Under normal conditions these non-Malayan units form such a large proportion of the total population that the excess of emigration over immigration during the three years immediately following the census of 1931, became the dominant factor in determining the resident population, but the losses due to emigration during the slump years 1931–1933, have been almost fully regained.

The population of the Straits Settlements on June 30th, 1936, is estimated to be 1,168,197. This estimate is derived from the estimated total of 1,117,023 for 1935, adjusted in accordance with the following :—

(*a*) An excess of 22,067 births over the number of deaths,

(*b*) and of 29,107 representing the balance of immigrants over emigrants as at the end of the same period.

Cocos and Keeling Islands and Christmas Island which also form part of the Straits Settlements are not included, owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate and regular figures.

The population of Christmas Island and of Cocos and Keeling Islands for 1936, is returned as 2,228 of which 1,086 are on Christmas Island. If this figure is added to the total for the rest of the Straits Settlements, then the total population is 1,170,425.

The distribution of the population by race amongst the various Settlements as on 30th June, 1936, is estimated as follows:—

	Singapore	*Penang*	*Province Wellesley*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*	*Total*
European ...	10,452	1,747	284	422	29	12,934
Eurasians ...	7,437	2,177	288	2,205	43	12,150
Malays ...	69,972	40,781	73,902	104,261	5,130	294,046
Chinese ...	455,191	131,183	48,394	71,239	2,397	708,404
Indians ...	51,740	28,347	24,996	24,085	147	129,315
Others ...	8,371	1,759	541	616	61	11,348
Total ...	603,163	205,994	148,405	202,828	7,807	1,168,197

The second inter decennial census carried out in Singapore town was undertaken on the night of 30th June–1st July, by the Municipal Authorities. The actual census figure obtained was 490,155 as compared with an estimated figure of 500,353 and the distribution of population by nationalities was as follows:—

Europeans	8,338
Eurasians	7,151
Malays	45,077
Chinese	374,117
Indians	47,402
Japanese	3,695
Others	4,375
Total ...	490,155

Government paid one-third of the cost of the census.

Births.—The births registered during the year totalled 51,788 as against 46,649 in 1935. The birth-rate was 44·33 per thousand of the estimated population; compared with 41·76 for the preceding year.

The percentage of males born was 51·18 as compared with 52·21 during the year 1935.

Deaths.—The crude death-rate was 24·91 per thousand; that for 1935 was 25·11 and the average for the ten years 1927–1936 was 26·20 as recorded in the annual report of the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Infantile Mortality.—The infantile mortality rate was 170·85 per thousand as against 165·25 in 1935 which is the lowest yet recorded and an average of 178·27 over the ten years 1927–1936.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

Measurements of migration are dealt with on a Malayan basis. Migration is a subject of special interest in Malaya owing to the attraction of the country for foreign capital and for labour from India, China and the neighbouring countries of the Archipelago, and also to the situation of Singapore and Penang at the junction of ocean trade-routes. Until 1930 immigration was practically free, and one of the important activities of Singapore was the importation of labourers from China. In that year a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China with the objects of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 the Aliens Ordinance which is administered by the Immigration Department extended this control,

subject to certain temporary exceptions to all adult male immigrants of other than British or British-protected nationality.

Statistics of migration between Malaya and foreign countries by land, sea and air are collected by the Statistics Department and published monthly in the *Gazette*. These include particulars as to race, sex, proportion of minors, country of original departure or ultimate destination, and the Malayan port of entry. Tables are also published to show arrivals and departures of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers, as indicating movements of labour. Copies of the summaries for the year are included in the Appendices.

Migration statistics are also, as already indicated, of importance as an aid to an estimation of the population in the periods between censuses.

The population of Malaya as ascertained by the census on the 1st April, 1931, was 4,385,346, that of the Straits Settlements being 1,114,015 or approximately one quarter. The populations on the 30th June, 1936, were estimated as 4,694,166 and 1,170,425 respectively. The immigration surplus for the year was 82,809 persons as compared with 125,206 in 1935. The total gain to the population for the two years was 208,015 persons. This gain does not, however, counterbalance the emigration surplus of 353,436 persons during the period from the 1931 Census to 31st December, 1933, the net loss to the population through migration from the Census of 1931 to the end of 1936 being 3,332 persons. The dominant factor in Malayan migration statistics is the movement of Chinese and Southern Indian labourers which is largely dependent on the welfare of Malaya's two major industries, rubber and tin. Net arrivals of Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indian deck passengers for the year 1935 amounted to 103,900. Arrivals exceeded departures throughout the year, but there was a drop in the months of February, August, November and December; the net surplus of arrivals for the year being 72,635. A further reference to movements of Southern Indian and Chinese labour is made in the following sections of this chapter.

The following table shows the racial composition of the migrational surplus or deficit during the last three years :—

MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

Race		*1934*		*1935*		*1936*
Europeans and Americans ...	+	1,599	+	1,674	+	2,773
Eurasians	+	263	+	145	+	70
Japanese	+	423	+	365	+	429
Chinese	+	61,639	+	90,986	+	75,801
Malays	+	3,425	−	3,060	−	4,326
Northern Indians ...	+	7,132	+	3,848	+	2,061
Southern Indians ...	+	66,666	+	33,045	+	7,909
Others	+	942	−	1,797	−	1,908
Total ...	+	142,089	+	125,206	+	82,809

For the year 1936 the total number of arrivals (to the nearest thousand) was 526,000, a decrease of 4 per cent. and of departures 443,000, an increase of 5 per cent.

The majority of passengers travelled by sea. Penang and Port Swettenham were the main ports of entry for Southern Indian labourers, but for other races Singapore was the main port of entry and departure. Migration by land hardly exists, except for the ebb and flow of Malays,

Chinese and Siamese resident on their side of the border between Siam and Malaya, and over a period of years the population of Malaya is little affected by it. Passenger transport by air is growing and showed a bigger increase than in 1935. Most of the passengers travelling by air were Europeans, but increasing numbers of Japanese, Chinese and Malay passengers were recorded.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—Indian Immigration*

(*a*) The total number of immigrants from Southern India who arrived at Penang by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1936 was 43,191. This is less by 22,000 than the figure of 65,191 for 1935.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (labourers and dependants assisted to emigrate at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates, etc., in Malaya)	3,754
Non-assisted immigrants (traders and others who paid their own passages)	39,437
Total ...	43,191

Of the non-assisted immigrants 24,104 (61%), were of the labouring classes, the remaining 15,333 being traders and others. It is estimated that about one-third of the non-assisted immigrants remained in the Colony, the remainder proceeding to the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States. Of the assisted immigrants, 200 arrived to work in the Colony.

The following table shows the number of assisted passages taken during the last five years, for labourers and their families from Southern India to Malaya, and paid for from the Indian Immigration Fund:—

1932	12
1933	13
1934	36,712
1935	16,709
1936	3,097

The fall in the number of assisted immigrants in 1936 as compared with 1935 was due to the decline in the demand for labour consequent on the working of the Rubber Restriction Scheme.

(*b*) In addition to the immigrants who arrived by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 1,075 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes line.

(ii).—Indian Emigration

(*a*) The number of deck passengers who left Penang for Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1936 was 40,075 (34,596 adults, 2,927 minors and 2,552 infants) as against 38,392 (33,726 adults, 2,444 minors and 2,222 infants) in 1935.

Of the above, 28,300 adults, accompanied by 1,393 minors and 1,753 infants, paid their own passages, while 6,296 adults, 1,534 minors and 799 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department.

* The word immigrant, as used here in connection with Indian immigration, means a deck-passenger only, and does not include first or second class passengers.

Of those repatriated through the Labour Department most of the 5,713 adults, accompanied by 1,394 minors and 728 infants, were unfit for work, while the remaining 583 adults, 140 minors and 71 infants were repatriated at the expense of private employers or Government Departments or on free passages granted by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
1. Sent at the expense of the Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund ...	868	149	60
2. Sent at the expense of estates and Government Departments	60	6	2
3. Carried free of charge by the British India Steam Navigation Company ...	66	11	5
	994	166	67

There was throughout the year a steadily maintained return traffic to India of labourers paying their own passages, traders and other deck passengers.

The number of adult labourers was 14,916 as against 13,364 in 1935 while the number of traders and other non-labourers was 13,384 as against 15,825 in 1935.

(*b*) In addition to the above, 482 deck passengers left for South India by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes.

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese aliens arriving in the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong) was restricted by Proclamation under the Aliens Ordinance. The quota was fixed at 4,000 a month throughout the year. This restriction applies to adult male Chinese arriving on the ships of the six quota companies. Other shipping companies are restricted to a total of 25 a month each.

Alien Chinese in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence issued under the Aliens Ordinance in the Colony or under a corresponding Aliens Enactment in a Malay State are exempted from the provisions of Part I of the Aliens Ordinance and are therefore not counted against the quota.

The total number of Chinese entering the Colony under the quota during the year was 47,859.

The total number of Chinese who arrived on non-quota ships was 2,760.

The total number of Chinese who arrived in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence was 18,939.

The total number of male Chinese from China ports (including Hong Kong) who arrived during the year was, therefore, 69,558, compared with 81,775 in 1935, 52,023 in 1934, 13,535 in 1933, 18,741 in 1932 and 50,120 in 1931.

No restriction is placed on the immigration of women and children. 49,632 women and 24,141 children entered the Colony from China ports. The corresponding figures for the last five years were:—

	Women	*Children*
1931	17,042	11,923
1932	8,652	6,141
1933	8,199	6,062
1934	29,678	17,163
1935	38,621	21,496

The number of women to a thousand men arriving from China ports during the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1936 was 340, 462, 605, 570, 472 and 713 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 80,578 as against 69,025 in 1935.

Fares for deck passengers to and from China were as follows:—

The fares from Singapore to China ports at the end of the year were from $11 to $18 to Hong Kong and $13 to $22 to Amoy and Swatow (Straits Currency).

For passengers counted against the quota from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong to Singapore the fares varied as follows:—

$50 to $55 (China currency) and $55 (China currency) and $40 to $50 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

For passengers not counted against the quota from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong to Singapore the fares were $35 to $45 (China currency), $30 to $45 (China currency) and $25 to $35 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

All the fares above quoted were subject to broker's commission.

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM THE PRINCIPAL DISEASES

(i).—General

(1) *Malaria* accounted for one thousand three hundred and fifteen deaths as compared with 1,698 for the year 1935. This low figure is reflected, as is usual in these circumstances, in the number of deaths due to fever unspecified which was 3,562 compared with 3,787 in 1935.

(2) *Tuberculosis.*—Two thousand three hundred and sixty-two deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,267 for 1935. Pulmonary tuberculosis was responsible for 2,181 deaths equivalent to 7·5% of the total deaths for all causes. The measures taken for prevention may be classified under four main headings:—

(*a*) *Education.*—Every endeavour is made by means of films, posters, leaflets, informal talks, etc., to educate the people in methods of cleanliness and personal hygiene with a view to avoiding infection and limiting its spread.

(*b*) *Improvement of housing and general sanitation.*—The Singapore Improvement Trust's policy of constructing back lanes in the congested areas, was energetically continued during the year. There are also schemes for the demolition of slums, the building of cottages and tenements and the establishment of open spaces.

(*c*) *Special measures of sanitation.*—Preventive and curative measures against malaria and ankylostomiasis are carried out on a large scale and have the effect of improving the general health and raising the natural resistance of the people against infection by tuberculosis.

(*d*) *Hospital treatment.*—Beds for tuberculous cases are available in Government hospitals and beds for the special treatment of tuberculosis exist in the General Hospitals in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and also in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore.

(3) *Pneumonia.*—Pneumonia caused 2,624 deaths as against 2,541 in 1935, giving a percentage of 90·2 per thousand deaths.

(4) *Beri-beri.*—One thousand and eighty deaths were caused by beri-beri as compared with 916 deaths in the previous year.

(5) *Dysentery.*—The deaths from this disease totalled 314. The mortality rate from this disease is steadily decreasing.

(ii).—Dangerous Infectious Diseases

(1) *Plague.*—No case occurred.

(2) *Cholera.*—No case occurred.

(3) *Small-pox.*—No case occurred.

(4) *Cerebro-spinal fever.*—Twenty-one cases occurred of which nineteen died.

(iii).—Venereal Diseases

The treatment of this disease is supervised by the Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene, who is the officer in immediate charge of a special branch of the Medical Department known as the Social Hygiene Branch.

The treatment centres in the Straits Settlements, which number 26, are distributed as follows:—

Singapore	7
Penang (including Province Wellesley) ...	12
Malacca	7

Singapore.—The number of new cases treated shows an increase on the previous year:—

1935	9,966 cases
1936	11,051 ,,

Penang.—The figures for 1936 shows an increase of 378 cases as compared with that of 1935:—

1935	6,774 cases
1936	7,152 ,,

Malacca.—There was also an increase in the Settlement of Malacca, as shown in the following figures:—

1935	3,601 cases
1936	4,477 ,,

Number of Seamen treated.—The new admissions to the clinics for sailors of whom 260 were British and 139 non-British Europeans, totalled 1,064. Of the remainder, 552 were Chinese, 9 Malays, 64 Indians and 44 other races.

Serological Reactions.—Three thousand and twenty-nine and fifteen thousand nine hundred and eighty specimens of blood were submitted for Kahn and Wassermann tests respectively, of which 907 and 6,153 gave positive results.

Propaganda.—Pamphlets and leaflets were freely distributed to the public, and posters drawing the attention to the dangers of venereal disease and the facilities for free treatment, have been displayed throughout the town of Singapore.

(iv).—Yaws

There was a decrease in the number of cases of yaws treated during the year:—

Cases of yaws treated in 1935	...	...	8,222
Cases of yaws treated in 1936	...	...	5,711

The travelling dispensaries which visit the rural areas afford full facilities for the treatment of this disease which occurs chiefly among the Malays. The treatment has been so successful that it has gained the confidence of the villagers. Few cases now remained untreated for long in the areas where there are Government hospitals and dispensaries.

(v).—Buildings

No building operations of any magnitude were undertaken for the Medical Department at Singapore.

At Penang the old first class and second class wards were reconstructed and are now incorporated in the new General Hospital.

A new camp was erected at Pulau Jerejak Leper Settlement.

B.—HOSPITALS, Etc.

(i).—Hospitals

The total number of inpatients treated in the hospitals of the Colony was 72,135 as compared with 72,222 in the preceding year. The malaria admissions accounted for 9,502, those for the preceding year were 12,478.

Admissions for venereal disease totalled 2,595 with 109 deaths, as against 3,020 with 156 deaths in the previous year.

Admissions for tuberculosis increased to 2,876 with 1,108 deaths as compared with 2,447 admissions and 868 deaths in 1935.

There were one thousand six hundred and eighty-four admissions for pneumonia with 974 deaths as against 1,672 admissions with 934 deaths in the previous year.

(ii).—Dispensaries

The number of out-patients treated at Government dispensaries and the number of attendances were as follows:—

		1935	*1936*
Number of out-patients	...	215,406	184,298
Number of attendances	...	435,514	434,770

There was an increase in the number of attendances at the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, the figures being 45,404 in 1935, and 59,183 in 1936.

The attendances at the Women's and Children's Dispensary in Penang, were :—

	1935	*1936*
Attendances	21,728	25,415

At the Women's and Children's Out-door Dispensary at Malacca, 13,529 attended during 1936, compared with 13,706 in 1935, whilst at Merlimau and Masjid Tanah, the numbers totalled 1,233 and 864 for the period under review, compared with 2,207 and 1,582 for 1935, respectively.

(iii).—Motor Travelling Dispensaries

There are up-to-date motor travelling dispensaries in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley.

Men, women and children of all nationalities who are suffering from minor ailments and who reside in the outlying districts of each Settlement, obtain treatment from these dispensaries.

The attendances for the whole Colony totalled :—

1936	107,896 attendances
1935	111,498 ,,

(iv).—Leper Settlements

Pulau Jerejak Settlement.—Up-to-date treatment for leprosy is given with encouraging results to early cases. The treatment is available for all who need it.

Its success is evidenced by the fact that 22 cases have been discharged as non-infective during the year under review; the numbers of cases so discharged for the years 1933, 1934 and 1935, were 45, 30 and 56, respectively. Every encouragement is given to the inmates to work in the settlement, and those who are quite strong are generally employed as artisans, woodcutters, dhobies, etc. Those who are educated, are given employment as teachers, dressers and overseers. There are quite a number who do carpentry, vegetable and fruit gardening and some fishing and poultry farming.

The good standard of education provided by both the English school and the Chinese school, has been maintained. Several successful performances were given by the dramatic troupes of the settlement. There are 43 Boy Scouts; drills have been carried out regularly during the year under review. The Scouts also take part in outdoor sports. The brass band continues to be popular and has given much pleasure to the inmates.

Singapore Settlement.—The settlement at Singapore has accommodation for male and female lepers, but male patients are transferred to Pulau Jerejak as early as possible. The method of treatment was the same as in previous years except that a greater number of patients received injections of non-iodised ethyl esters. An investigation is being carried out on the subject of infection by yaws and treatment by yaws therapy and at the end of the period under review 42 cases were being treated. At all religious and national festivals the inmates were entertained with a special dietary while amusements were provided from donations by various individuals and religious sects.

A "lepers aid fund" was initiated towards the close of the year.

(v).—Mental Hospital

One thousand three hundred and ninety-seven patients remained in hospital at the beginning of the year; the admissions numbered 619 in 1936. Discharges, deaths and abscondings totalled 607. The number of patients remaining at the end of 1936 was 1,409. The admissions showed an increase of 22 over those for 1935. The recovery rate was 44·10% of the admissions.

C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i)—Quarantine

Eight hundred and eighty-five visits in Singapore and 536 visits in Penang (as against 756 and 423 respectively in 1935) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers. Four hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and ninety-four persons were examined during the year as compared with 415,540 in 1935.

Twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and eighteen persons were detained under observation in the Quarantine Stations at Singapore and Penang.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases at Singapore Quarantine Station was 1 for small-pox. At the Penang Quarantine Station 1 was treated for small-pox and 1 for cholera.

The Port Health work of Malacca is carried out by the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer. Two hundred and two vessels visited Malacca during 1936 and 24 of these were inspected.

(ii).—Rural Conservancy

Singapore.—In all areas a system of nightsoil removal by contract is carried out. Bored-hole latrines are constructed where sites are suitable. A total of 365 bored-hole latrines were constructed during the year. It is hoped to proceed rapidly with these structures as they are more satisfactory in every way for the majority of the rural dwellers than any other type of latrine.

In the more populous areas the bucket latrine system is most common. There are 4,867 houses on the nightsoil removal list. The nightsoil is collected and carried to trenching grounds where it is properly trenched under the supervision of Sanitary Inspectors.

In addition to the bucket system there are houses equipped with the water borne sewage systems. The method of disposal is by septic tank installations. There are 61 of these disposal plants in the Rural Area.

Every householder is required to have a sanitary dust bin. The contents of these bins are removed every morning by handcarts. At the roadside collection stations there are large iron dust bins wherein all domestic and street refuse is deposited. The removal from these stations is carried out by motor lorries. There are 26 small type slow combustion incinerators in use and 4 "controlled tipping" grounds.

Penang.—Pail latrines are obligatory in places where buildings are close together; elsewhere in villages and throughout the rural area bored-hole latrines or corresponding types of sanitary conveniences are provided by the responsible occupier. Throughout the residential area of Penang Hill and in a number of residences along the coast road, water carriage and septic tank systems are installed.

During the year 900 latrines have been constructed or reconditioned. Insanitary latrines to the number of 138 have been demolished. Three hundred and sixty-eight bored-hole latrines have been constructed and 363 pit latrines have been dug.

There are 41 village incinerators within gazetted areas and 3 on Penang Hill most of which have given good service throughout the year. Domestic refuse together with road sweepings is collected in refuse bins placed on concrete platforms along the roadside and disposed of either by incineration in the village incinerators or by "controlled tipping".

Malacca.—Sewage disposal in the rural area is carried out by direct Chinese labour. In most villages the nightsoil is disposed of by trenching or by dumping in bore-holes, or deep covered pits, but two villages (Jasin and Sungei Rambei) have septic tanks for the disposal of nightsoil.

South Indian coolies under the control of the Health Officer are employed for the disposal of refuse. The rubbish is disposed of by incineration and new Horsfall incinerators with large concrete sorting platforms partially covered by asbestos roofing were installed during the year.

Labuan.—The collection of nightsoil is done by coolies and disposal is by dumping. The total number of pails on the removal list was 343. Trenching is so far very satisfactory.

(iii).—Anti-Malarial Work

The protection of the population from malaria in towns and villages of the Straits Settlements is an important duty of the Government and Municipal Health Authorities in their respective areas.

The total expenditure by Government on anti-malarial measures undertaken in the rural areas during the year was $170,965.11.

The establishment of anti-mosquito and malaria protection zones in the rural areas continues to be a major undertaking for the Government Health Department. The extension of the areas occupied by the Naval, Military and Royal Air Forces in Singapore and increase greater private building activity in the rural areas of Singapore and Penang has necessitated an increase in malaria protection zones.

The problem of malaria in the rural areas is rendered difficult by the widespread distribution of breeding places or *Anopheles maculatus*. Measures are directed against the larval stage of the mosquito, this work is associated also with general sanitary measures and, in some selected areas, with drug prophylaxis.

The practice of anti-larval control consists of applying larvicide to all the breeding places of dangerous mosquitoes within the protection zones; permanent protection works such as drainage and earth filling are then taken in hand so as to replace by gradual degrees such anti-malarial measures as are lacking in permanence and reliability.

Considerable work has been carried out in connection with the sluicing of ravines and streams. Automatic sluices have been designed and constructed and experiments conducted up-to-date have indicated that this is a very useful addition to existing methods for anti-larval control.

CHAPTER V

Housing

In the principal towns of the Colony the various types of houses may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) Houses with gardens occupied by the well-to-do residents.
(*b*) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by less prosperous, or the less well-paid of the salary classes.
(*c*) Terrace houses for clerks and people of similar standing.
(*d*) Shop-houses.
(*e*) Common lodging houses, which are frequently over-crowded.
(*f*) Tenements in closely built areas, and
(*g*) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses in the out-skirts of the city.

The houses in the first category, occupied by the European residents and the wealthier Asiatics, vary greatly in type from the old Colonial style mostly built of wood, with its wide open verandas and large rooms to the more modern types built substantially of brick or concrete and designed for economical household management. The small semi-detached houses and bungalows generally differ from the houses of the wealthier only in size, and nearly all in Singapore, at least have the advantages of modern lighting and sanitation. In Singapore, flats are becoming increasingly popular with both the above section of the community and the considerable increase that has taken place in the garrison is likely to encourage this development. The terrace houses occupied by the clerical classes are necessarily humbler in character than the "compound" and semi-detached houses. Even these, however, afford good accommodation, are well ventilated and in some areas in the larger towns at least have modern sanitation as well as lighting.

Shop-houses in the older parts of the towns are generally built in rows, of solid construction and two or more stories in height, but too frequently they are insufficiently ventilated and for many streets no back lanes are provided. Poor ventilation, of course, conduces to the spread of tuberculosis and the absence of back-lanes interferes with proper sanitation. The upper stories of many of these houses are divided into small cubicles with temporary partitions, erected without regard to the need of light and air, and it is in these that the worst overcrowding is found. Unfortunately too many of the labouring and artisan classes find their homes in such cubicles or in the common lodging houses of the most densely populated areas, which frequently consist of just an overcrowded dormitory above a shop or store.

With such conditions prevailing it is not surprising that tuberculosis is prevalent in urban areas or that the infantile death-rate is still high; but social workers and others who have studied the problem of slum-clearance and re-housing in the larger seaport towns at home will appreciate the extra difficulties that attend its solution in a country where the main areas affected are occupied by a transient Asiatic population inured for generations to a standard of living compared with which their present circumstances give little cause for complaint. The Government, however, and the educated elements of the populations, European and Asiatic, are fully alive to the needs of the situation, and the first steps have already been taken to deal with the re-housing of the poorer classes of the population in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, the three principal towns of the Colony.

In Singapore, such measures fall within the scope of operations of the Singapore Improvement Trust, a body especially incorporated for the purpose by an Ordinance passed in 1927.

The Improvement Trust has adopted a fixed programme for the driving of back-lanes through congested areas, and expects that action will have been completed in all the worst areas within the next two or three years. It had already acquired several large blocks of slum-property before the end of 1934, and had demolished them for reconstruction or the establishment of open spaces. Further, about fifty acres of waste land at Tiong Bharu, adjoining a particularly crowded Chinese area, had been bought, filled in, provided with roads, and laid out in building lots for sale, with a view to relieving the prevailing congestion. During the year under review progress was steadily maintained. Fourteen new back-lanes were completed, enabling 220 more houses to be connected to the Municipal sewers, 36 houses of unsatisfactory design were bought and 31 were demolished. Eleven contracts for reconstruction of rear portions of houses affected by back-lanes were let out in 1936, and eight plans for back-lanes were submitted to Government for approval. During the year a block of 32 flats and 5 shops of modern design were completed and occupied at Tiong Bahru, and work was commenced on a further block of 18 flats and 2 shops in the same area. The Trust also commenced the erection of 54 more artisans' quarters at Balestier Road. No less than 149 layouts for the development of private property on modern and sanitary lines were considered and approved, and a number of blocks of old property in the town were inspected and new layouts prepared with a view to action under the Singapore Improvement Ordinance. Unfortunately, a legal dispute has arisen in regard to the Trust's powers to deal with major schemes of slum clearance and this has led to some delay in the execution of these schemes. A Committee has been appointed to go into the question of clarifying the law and is now sitting.

In Penang and Malacca, where the problems to be met and solved are neither so great nor so pressing as those of Singapore, all measures of town-improvement are undertaken by the Municipal Commissioners under the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance and, while development has not been possible on the same scale as the work undertaken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore, a great deal has been accomplished during the last ten years and the work is still progressing. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings, and strict control of common lodging houses is maintained to prevent over-crowding and preserve a decent standard of sanitation. During the year two special schemes of slum-clearance in the most congested area in Penang, were successfully carried through at a cost of $240,000.

In rural districts though brick shop-houses with tiled roofs are found in the larger villages, the houses are generally of old Malay or Chinese types, built of planks with roofs of attap, a very efficient native type of thatching with dried palm fronds. The wood and attap houses are usually owned by the occupiers, and as a general rule are clean and well-ventilated, besides being admirably suited to the climate and cool and comfortable to live in. Those of the Malay small-holder or peasant are raised about four to six feet above the ground level, and are especially well-ventilated, cool and comfortable. The brick-and-tile shop-houses in the villages, like those in the towns, lend themselves to overcrowding, but the evils are less pronounced in rural areas. Planning schemes have been evolved for most gazetted villages, demolition notices are enforced against insanitary buildings whenever necessary, and the work of providing all dwellings with

sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. For all new buildings, in Municipal and Rural Board areas, strict compliance with the building by-laws is now enforced, although it is impossible, and indeed unnecessary, to insist on the standards devised for the wealthier municipal areas in the rural areas where expense is a much greater consideration. There are no building societies in the Straits Settlements.

Labourers on rubber estates are usually housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. Nearly all of these buildings conform to an approved standard design and frequent inspections by the health authorities and the officers of the Labour Department, prevent overcrowding and ensure decent upkeep and cleanliness.

CHAPTER VI

A.—AGRICULTURE

General

The principal crops grown in the Colony are rubber, coconuts, rice and pineapples; the areas cultivated thereunder in each Settlement during the year were as follows:—

Crop.	*Province Wellesley and Penang*	*Malacca*	*Singapore*	*Total Straits Settlement*
	(*acres*)	(*acres*)	(*acres*)	(*acres*)
Rubber ...	84,977	189,661	54,073	328,711
Coconuts ...	46,831	13,498	8,360	68,689
Rice ...	35,700	32,050	nil	67,750
Pineapples ...	559	542	5,250	6,351

Crops of secondary importance are fruits, vegetables, arecanuts, tobacco, derris, spices, coffee and tapioca. Only rubber and coconuts are grown by Europeans and Asiatics on a large scale, and also by Asiatics on small holdings.

(i).—Crops grown by Europeans and Asiatics

Rubber.—The total area under rubber in the Straits Settlements at the end of 1936 was estimated to be 328,711 acres, distributed as follows:—

Settlement	*Estates of 100 acres and over*	*Small-holdings of less than 100 acres*	*Total*
	(*acres*)	(*acres*)	(*acres*)
P.W. and Penang ...	48,157	36,820	84,977
Malacca	123,466	66,195	189,661
Singapore	33,482	20,591	54,073
Total ...	205,105	123,606*	328,711

Of the area cultivated on estates 128,470 acres were grown on European-owned estates and 76,635 acres on Asiatic-owned estates.

The average price per pound of standard smoked sheet in Singapore for the year was 27.04 cents, as compared with 20.25 cents in 1935. The price rose steadily from 22⅜ cents at the beginning of the year to 26 1/16

* Figures for small holdings are as at the end of 1935, adjusted to include 1936 replantings.

cents in the middle of the year. Prices then remained fairly steady until October when there was a gradual rise to 28 11/16. In November and December there was a further improvement in prices, culminating at the end of the year with a sharp rise to 39 5/8 cents per pound.

The International Rubber Regulation continued in force throughout the year. Under this Agreement Malaya received a quota of 569,000 tons. The international quota release for the first two quarters of the year was 60 per cent., and for the third and fourth quarters 65 per cent., and the domestic release was the same. The total permissible export for the year was thus 355,625 tons. The share of Malaya's quota allotted to the Straits Settlements by the Controller of Rubber was 50,800 tons. The declared production of rubber for the Colony was 31,929 tons, of which 19,397 tons were produced on large estates and 12,532 tons from small holdings. The greater part of the crop was produced in the form of standard smoked sheet, but there was also an appreciable export of rubber in the form of latex; the quantity exported in this form from Malaya was estimated to amount to 16,937 tons on the basis of dry rubber content.

Replanting on estates almost invariably is carried out with budded stock. The total area of budded rubber in the Colony is now 3,833 acres, of which 403 acres were budded in the year under review.

The regulation scheme worked effectively throughout the year.

In spite of the low percentage of the quota allowed, the improved price of rubber enabled most estates to produce at a profit, in addition to which many estates were able to finance from profits improvements which had been postponed during the period of low prices before the introduction of the present rubber regulation scheme.

The general maintenance and management of small holdings shewed some improvement and there was considerable improvement in the preparation of the product. These improvements have been made possible by the work of the Asiatic Rubber Instructors who are trained firstly in the School of Agriculture, Malaya, and then at the Rubber Research Institute.

A small cheaply erected smoke cabinet for small-holders' use was designed by the Rubber Research Institute, being an improved edition of one found in actual use by a small-holder in Perak. It has been demonstrated that these cabinets are capable of turning out smoked sheet up to European standard and small-holders experience no difficulty in working them. Their general adoption at present is limited owing to marketing difficulties, as in many localities the difference in price between smoked and unsmoked sheet offered by local dealers is too small to make smoking by the small-holder economically advantageous to him. A difference of at least $1 a picul is required to make it profitable for a small-holder to smoke his own rubber in areas where he has little opportunity to find outside employment: where outside employment is available at market rates more than $1 difference is required to make the smoking of his rubber profitable.

Diseases of the rubber tree on small holdings gave no cause for alarm. Wherever such diseases caused anxiety, special demonstrations and instructions were instituted which, coupled with the sale of efficient fungicide at cost price, led to an improvement.

There was an increase in the amount of attention shown by estates to manuring. Manuring is being done in nearly all cases of replanting. Interest has been shown on estates in cover plants, both cultivated leguminous and "natural" types. The value of covers in old rubber is

now fully appreciated as is also the necessity of supplementing them with manures.

The area out of tapping on estates in the Straits Settlements at the end of the year was 29·4 per cent., as compared with 27·7 per cent. at the end of the year 1935. On small holdings, however, the area out of tapping decreased from 28 to 18 per cent.

Coconuts and Coconut Products.—The total area under coconut is estimated to be 72,130 acres, of which 46,831 acres are in Province Wellesley and Penang, 13,498 acres in Malacca, 8,360 acres in Singapore, 3,422 acres in Labuan and 19 acres in Christmas Island. Of the total area, about 18,000 acres are contained on estates of over 100 acres each.

The crop from estates is almost entirely used for the preparation of copra. On small holdings, however, the disposal of the crop varies in different districts. Large quantities of nuts are consumed in the fresh state by the owners and for local sale. In parts of Province Wellesley most of the crop is exported as fresh nuts to Burma; exports from the Colony in 1936 amounted to 11,415,800 nuts. In other parts of the Province copra manufacture is usual. In Malacca, copra making remains of secondary importance as nuts can be sold at a high price for consumption as food. In Singapore, too, there is a ready market for fresh nuts, although in some areas copra kilns were in operation throughout the year. The palms in Singapore are mostly very old, in consequence of which yields are stated to be steadily decreasing.

Efforts have been made to improve the quality of copra produced in Province Wellesley and Penang. Owing to the disruption of the copra trade in this area by reason of the export of fresh nuts, little headway has been made. In Malacca an effort has been made to devise a workable scheme whereby Malays can market their nuts collectively in inland districts when prices are good.

Serious outbreaks of frond-eating caterpillars mostly of the moth *Chalcoscelis* occurred in Province Wellesley during the early part of the year, but were brought under control. No other serious outbreaks of pests occurred during the year.

The amount of the annual crop of coconuts is unknown. In view of the large local consumption, the only indication of production is by examination of export figures.

The seasonal drop in crop which normally occurs in August and September was unusually marked and prolonged in all coconut areas, and production had not returned to normal by the end of the year. The decreased yield was the more noticeable as it coincided with a greatly increased demand for copra and consequently a rise in price.

A feature of the industry is the continued growth of the trade in preparing and exporting coconut oil. There are several oil mills in the Colony, which use imported copra as well as the local product for this purpose. The Malayan net exports of oil in 1936 were 46,507 tons as compared with 35,910 in the previous year, and 12,000 tons in 1932. Consequent upon the development of this industry the exports of "poonac" (coconut cake) have steadily increased from 8,145 tons in 1932 to 20,438 tons in 1936. As is to be expected, under these circumstances, the net exports of copra have declined, and in 1936 amounted to 76,681 tons as compared with 111,753 tons in the previous year and 97,277 tons in 1932.

The price of copra improved early in the year, but was not maintained. In June a gradual improvement commenced, culminating in a sharp rise in

November and December. The average price in Singapore of sun-dried copra was $5.81 per picul, the "mixed" quality being 43 cents lower. Corresponding prices in 1935 were $4.54 with the "mixed" 39 cents lower. Coconut oil realized an average price of $11.96 per picul, as compared with $9.13 in 1935 and $5.96 in 1934.

The improved price of copra enabled more attention to be given to cultural conditions on estates. Particular interest was shown in the question of water movement in relation to crop yields. The study of the question of copra preparation which has engaged the attention of the officers of the Department of Agriculture and has been closely followed by managers of coconut estates has borne results as is seen by the improvement in the quality of estate copra which has been reflected in prices realized, as compared with standard quotations.

A proposal for introducing legislation to effect the grading of copra under a "Malayan Mark" scheme was discussed, but failed to obtain sufficient support amongst interested parties to render its introduction advisable.

Coffee.—Coffee is grown to a small extent on estates and small holdings in Malacca. The produce is sold for local consumption.

(ii).—Crops grown exclusively by Asiatics

Rice.—The cultivation of rice is the most important of the crops grown exclusively by Asiatics, most of whom are Malays. The main centres of cultivation are on the coastal alluvial lands in Province Wellesley and Malacca, and the shallow valleys in the inland districts of Malacca and Penang Island.

The area planted with rice in the Straits Settlements in the season 1935-36, and the yields were as follows:—

Territory	Wet		Dry		Total	
	Acres	Gantangs	Acres	Gantangs	Acres	Gantangs
Province Wellesley	31,240	10,409,000	450	193,000	31,690	10,602,000
Malacca ..	32,050	12,778,000	..	..	32,050	12,778,000
Penang ..	4,010	1,807,000	..	..	4,010	1,807,000
Total ..	67,300	24,994,000	450	193,000	67,750	25,187,000

The total area planted was 750 acres less than in the previous season, while the total crop harvested was down by 4,109,000 gantangs.*

Two systems of padi cultivation—the wet and the dry—are in vogue in Malaya; the latter system in which the seed is sown on dry land, is relatively unimportant. Under the wet system, the seed is sown in a nursery and later transplanted in inundated fields where the soil has been prepared by puddling. The crop may take about six months to reach maturity, but only one crop a year is removed from the land.

* A gantang is an Imperial gallon. About 700 gantangs of padi (rice in the husk) will produce 1 ton of cleaned rice.

Extremely wet weather during the growing period in the Province resulted in a decreased yield compared with the previous season. In parts of Malacca floods were responsible for a large reduction in yield. Yields on the whole, however, were considered satisfactory, the mean yield for the Colony being 372 gantangs per acre.

The wholesale price of rice appreciated considerably in 1935 and prices were well maintained in 1936 at the higher level. The average prices per picul of the three principal grades of imported rice were:—Siam No. 2, $3.86, Rangoon No. 1, $3.44, Saigon No. 1, $3.59. The average wholesale price was $3.63 per picul which was 3 per cent. less than that recorded in 1935.

Manurial and cultural experiments were continued by the Department of Agriculture, and a number of Padi Test Stations maintained for proving the worth of improved varieties of rice when grown under varying local conditions. The demand for pure-strain seed in Malacca exceeded the supply available at the Padi Station of Pulau Gadong.

Rats proved the most serious pest during the growing season; they were kept under control in Malacca and the Province by rat control organisations.

Pineapples.—Pineapple canning is an important industry in Singapore. Some fruit for canning is grown on Singapore Island, but the major portion is obtained from south Johore. Smaller areas exist in Malacca and Penang, the fruit being sold for local consumption in a fresh state.

The total area in Singapore cultivated with pineapple during 1936 was 5,250 acres, 3,000 acres of which were planted as a sole crop, and 2,250 acres interplanted in mixed cultivation; the planted area showed a decrease of 1,750 acres as compared with the previous year. Several areas which had been cropped with pineapples for a number of years were cleared of this crop and planted with vegetables and derris, as the land had become unproductive under continuous cropping with pineapples. Whereas the area decreased in Singapore, there is a considerable increase in the area under this crop in Johore so that there is no fear of a shortage of fruit for the Singapore factories.

There were four pineapple factories in operation in Singapore, three of which were reconstructed and continued canning operations throughout the two main fruiting seasons of the year. The factories were re-built to meet the specifications laid down under the Pineapple Industry Ordinance, 1934, under which legislation insanitary factories are refused registration. In consequence of reconstruction and close supervision, a considerable improvement took place in factory conditions.

Nearly two and a half million cases of pineapples were exported from Malaya in 1936, most of which was canned in Singapore and Johore, and shipped from Singapore.

The Pineapple Experiment Station at Lim Chu Kang, Singapore, was maintained and carried out experiments which indicate that if pineapples are to be grown profitably as a sole crop, manuring must probably be on a fairly generous scale and planting distances must be very much closer than those normally used in Malayan practice, with the object both of obtaining heavier crops per acre and minimising the loss of fertility from exposure and erosion.

A special Canning Officer of the Department of Agriculture was appointed early in 1936 and has initiated investigations on several problems.

The average Singapore prices per case of 48 cans of 1½ lb. each of Malayan pineapples were as follows:—

Year	Cubes	Sliced flat	Sliced tall	Fresh fruit per 100	
				First quality	Second quality
	$	$	$		
1934	3·10	3·01	3·19	2·52	1·38
1935	3·47	3·27	3·51	3·25	2·52
1936	3·29	3·09	3·29	3·29	2·78

Fruits.—The area under fruits increased, particularly on Singapore Island and in Malacca, and greater attention was given to the selection of good stock for planting. The range of fruits cultivated is extensive and includes mangosteens, pulasans, rambutans, bananas, durians, papaya, chikus, belimbings and langsats. Usually individual holdings are small, but there are a number of extensive fruit orchards owned by Chinese in Penang Island and Malacca. Local supplies of fruit are insufficient to satisfy the demand and large quantities of fruits are imported.

Apart from pineapples, it is estimated that there are 9,048 acres planted with fruit trees in the Colony.

The fruit season generally was poor in all parts of the country. In Singapore, poor crops of durians, rambutans, mangosteen and pulasan were harvested in the main season in June and further poor crops in the secondary season during November. As a result of this shortage prices of Penang rambutans and Johore durians were very high. Small off-season crops of durian, rambutan, mangosteen and langsat were harvested in Penang during January and obtained good prices; although the main season was poor, a few rambutan orchards gave heavy yields. Malacca dukus are famed throughout the country; in 1936 they failed to fruit.

Vegetables.—Market gardens cultivated by Chinese are found near all centres of population. It is estimated that there are over 3,000 acres on Singapore Island, and almost as much in Malacca, the total area in the Colony being 6,249 acres. The quantity of vegetables produced is unknown, but certainly exceeds 10,000 tons during the year.

Tobacco.—The cultivation of tobacco is of importance, especially to the Chinese market gardeners. The planted area at the end of 1936 was 448 acres. The area decreased in Singapore owing to the difficulty of obtaining fresh land suitable for the crop. Malacca has 322 acres, and a further increase in area is anticipated as prices are good. There are three Chinese factories in Malacca working at full capacity making cigars, cheroots and cut tobacco. Local sales are good and there is a large export to Singapore and Penang. Production in Penang is steady, most of the leaf being used locally for cigar wrappers. The leaf from Province Wellesley Central, however, is used as a filler for cigars.

No high-grade or "bright" tobacco is produced in Malaya, the present production being confined to supplying the local demand for a very cheap smoke.

Derris (Tuba Root).—The cultivation of derris occupied an increasingly important position on Singapore Island during 1936. The area extended

from 750 acres in 1935 to 1350 acres in 1936. Malayan production, as judged by exports, was nearly 600 tons valued at nearly $500,000.

The investigations of the Department of Agriculture have made this product well known in other countries and there has been a steady demand for supplies of selected planting material.

The average price of the dried root was $48.58 per picul when sold on the basis of rotenone content and $31.54 when sold on the ether extract basis. These prices were of the same order as those ruling in the previous year. Higher prices were paid for dried root of Changi (Singapore) being $85 per picul for selected root and $75 for the mixed quality.

Cloves.—Cloves are cultivated by Chinese in the Settlement of Penang, where there are 367 acres. Harvesting of the 1935–36 crop was completed in February and was up to average in quality for the early plucking, and high in quality towards the end of the season. A small off-season crop was collected in August, but the prospects of the next crop are said to be poor.

(iii).—Livestock

The Colony, unfortunately, depends largely on foreign sources for its supply of livestock for slaughter, and for its requirements in the way of animal products, such as milk, butter, eggs and so forth. An endeavour, however, is being made to increase the proportion obtained from local sources and the neighbouring Malay States.

In Malacca two new areas have been set aside for buffalo grazing, and legislation has been introduced prohibiting the slaughter of female buffalo. Livestock shows have been introduced to impress upon the farmers the value of their animals.

Province Wellesley and Malacca can now easily supply all their own requirements in swine and both Settlements even supply a few pigs to abattoirs in neighbouring States. The production of goats is still far below requirements but is improving.

The Municipal Abattoirs (in Singapore and Penang) provide a very essential and efficient service, the animals being humanely handled and only meat fit for human consumption passed. Unfortunately, however, in all Settlements there are private slaughter houses over which there is little or no supervision.

Dairies are principally owned and run by Northern Indians. The type of dairy animal used is frequently unsatisfactory, and the conditions under which the milk is produced and distributed leave a great deal to be desired. In Singapore, however, there are two dairy farms, the Singapore Dairy Farm and Malayan Farms Ltd., both under European management, which supply first-class produce. At the two farms upwards of 200 imported European cows are milked and at the same time numbers of dry cows, bulls, and calves are kept. All fresh fodder is produced on the farms and other foods are imported from Europe, Australia and the United States of America. Altogether there are about 60 acres of land in grass yielding on an average 28 tons per acre of cut grass. The dairy cattle include Ayrshire, Guernsey, Jersey, Illawarras and Friesians. At one farm the milking is done by hand, and at the other, by machine. All operations are under the closest European supervision and the milk produced is of high quality and meets all requirements of the health authorities.

Poultry farming in all Settlements is carried out more or less haphazardly as a side-line to other occupations. The local production of poultry and eggs for food is on a far greater scale than is commonly realized,

but there is reason to believe that so long as poultry and eggs can be easily imported, the local production will remain more or less stationary.

The outbreak of Goat Pox in Province Wellesley that started in 1935 was finally stamped out early in the year. No other serious mammalian diseases occurred in 1936 but several outbreaks of poultry disease were reported and dealt with.

The following table gives the census of livestock in Singapore, Penang and Province Wellesley, and Malacca :—

	Cattle	*Buffaloes*	*Sheep*	*Goats*	*Swine*
Singapore	4,196	777	3,000	3,461	127,468
Penang and P. Wellesley	9,419	5,983	—	12,682	48,179
Malacca	6,047	12,073	67	16,683	24,742
Total ...	19,662	18,833	3,067	32,826	200,389

The following table gives the imports and exports of livestock during the year :—

IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

	Oxen	*Buffaloes*	*Sheep*	*Goats*	*Swine*
Singapore ...	15,640	—	44,222	2,969	123,025
Penang ...	2,175	1,542	9,223	5,082	929
Malacca ...	242	13	318	19	576
Total ...	18,057	1,555	53,763	8,070	124,530

EXPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

	Oxen	*Buffaloes*	*Sheep*	*Goats*	*Swine*
Singapore ...	1,914	—	4,957	153	3,194
Penang ...	36	40	1,810	838	940
Malacca ...	211	227	—	151	1,655
Total ...	2,161	267	6,767	1,142	5,789

(iv).—AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION

The School of Agriculture, Malaya, situated at Serdang, and supported jointly by the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements Governments continued to operate very successfully. The school year opened in May, 1936, with a full complement of 80 boys. Of the forty-six students who left school in April thirty-four have obtained employment either in the Government service, the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya or in private companies. Training at the school followed the same lines as in previous years.

Three major and three minor scholarships tenable for two years and one year respectively were again awarded this year. The major scholarships were all gained by Chinese and the minor scholarships by Malays. The Edwin Phillip Scholarship, for which there were seven candidates was won by a Straits Chinese.

The Farm School situated at Sungei Udang Agricultural Station, Malacca, completed the first year of operation in November. Twenty-two boys entered for the final examination. The new school year opened on December 21st with a full complement of twenty-five boys, ten of whom

received a scholarship which entitles them to free tuition. The course has been divided into two terms instead of three, as for various reasons this appeared to be more suitable.

During the year 137 schools maintained gardens. These were periodically inspected by Asiatic Officers of the Department and assistance was given by both Asiatic and Agricultural Officers in judging and awarding the annual prizes or shields provided for the purpose.

The Rural Lecture Caravan made tours in the Settlements of Penang and Malacca during the year.

The Thirteenth Annual Malayan Exhibition was held in Kuala Lumpur from August 1st to 3rd and Agricultural Shows were held at Bukit Mertajam, and Sungei Bakap in Province Wellesley and at Alor Gajah and Jasin in Malacca. An exhibition of agricultural products was again arranged for a tourist ship which called at Malacca during March.

(v).—Methods and Conditions of Recruiting South Indian Labour

The elaborate machinery which exists for the recruitment, in normal times, of South Indian labourers, required for work on rubber, coconut and oil-palm estates, is utilised also to supply labour required for the Railways, the Municipalities and such Government Departments as the Public Works Department.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, and the Rules made thereunder. There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labourers for skilled work, but the recruiting of skilled labourers in British India for work in Malaya is practically non-existent.

The basis of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labourers is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is maintained by contributions from all employers of South Indian labourers including the several Governments of Malaya. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may be spent only for the purpose of assisting immigration or on measures designed for the welfare and protection of South Indian labourers, such as the maintenance of "choultries" (free lodging houses) and a home for decrepit Indian labourers, the repatriation of labourers to India and the assistance of those in need of relief. During the lean years from 1930 to 1933 the resources of the Fund were extensively used for the repatriation of labourers wishing to return to India.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being (*a*) cost of the train fares of recruited emigrants from their homes to the Depôts at Negapatam and Avadi, (*b*) care and feeding of all assisted emigrants in the Emigration Depôts at Negapatam and Avadi while awaiting shipment, (*c*) steamer passages (from Madras or Negapatam) to the Straits, (*d*) expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang and Port Swettenham, (*e*) transport from ports of disembarkation to places of employment in Malaya and (*f*) payment of recruiting allowances to employers by whose agents the emigrants have been recruited.

Recruiting agents, known as kanganies, are sent over by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. A "recruiting allowance" is paid to the employer in re-imbursement of this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

(i) he must be a South Indian of the labouring classes.

(ii) he must have been employed as a labourer for a period of not less than three months on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit.

Licences are issued by the Deputy Controller of Labour in Penang and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty and the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments with the approval of the Government of India, to supervise emigration to Malaya, or to the Assistant Emigration Commissioner in Negapatam. Only on endorsement by one of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually six months and is limited, in any case, to one year.

After registration of his licence the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents, where he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) before leaving for his own village to inform his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate.

When the kangany finds people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and must obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Headman whose duty it is to satisfy himself that there is no valid objection to their emigration. If so satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman, he takes them to the Emigration Depôt at or near the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Avadi or Negapatam, either himself prepaying the train fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents employed at the charge of the Fund. These two depôts are maintained by the Fund and intending emigrants are housed and fed in them, free of charge, until they embark for Malaya.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped the kangany receives his commission, less the amount of his advance from the financial agents unless he is himself returning to the Colony in which case he is paid the balance due to him on arrival at the estate.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charge and is purposely kept low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from $3 to $20 and is at present fixed at $10 for every female recruit or male recruit accompanied by his wife and $8 for every male recruit not accompanied by his wife. The amount of the allowance now fixed is designed to cover all legitimate out-of-pocket expenses leaving a margin just sufficient to induce employers to recruit up to their requirements.

Assisted emigration however is not confined to labourers recruited by kanganies for individual employers. An agricultural labourer who is physically fit can, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant and on production, where necessary, of a certificate from his Village Headman, obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing during recent years. They are usually labourers who have been in Malaya before and are returning to their old places of employment. As they are not recruited, neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable on their account, but each receives a gift of $2 and a free railway ticket to his destination on discharge from the immigration depôts in Malaya. This gift of $2 is made to ensure that each labourer will not suffer from lack of food while seeking employment.

Assisted immigration from India was suspended in August 1930, but was resumed in May, 1934, since when recruiting licences have been issued only in a limited number of special cases, the great majority of assisted emigrants to Malaya being non-recruited labourers.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as *exofficio* Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee which is partly composed of unofficials, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited, are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no "contract" or indentured labour in the Colony.

There were 77 European-owned, and 263 Asiatic-owned estates in the Colony, employing 13,263 and 1,655 South Indian labourers respectively, on the 31st December, 1936.

B.—FORESTRY

No change was made in the organization of the department, the forests of Singapore remaining in charge of the Commissioner of Lands, whilst Malacca and the Northern Settlement were generally supervised by the State Forest Officers, Negri Sembilan and Perak North respectively. Full time executive control was exercised by the Forest Officer, Singapore, in connection with the saw-milling industry and by the Assistant Conservator at Jasin who is responsible for the forests of Malacca. Penang and Province Wellesley do not justify the full time services of a senior executive officer and are included in the territorial charge of the District Forest Officer, Matang (Perak).

Malayan exports of sawn timber and sleepers rose slightly in value from $469,462 to $482,102 of which $197,807 went to British territories and $284,295 to foreign countries. These figures suggest that the milling industry remained more or less stationary, but actually there was a large increase in turn over due to improved general conditions. Exports of graded timber to the United Kingdom showed satisfactory increases during the first half of the year, but in the second half they fell off badly, largely because of an increase in the occean freight rates which placed Malayan timbers in a less favourable position *vis a vis* their rivals from Borneo and Philippine Islands. It is hoped that this difficulty will be overcome, for the export of graded material, though small in itself, has vastly improved the general standard of manufacture and opened the eyes of the millers and

consumers to the possibilities of local timbers. The total shipments to the United Kingdom alone rose from 19,707 to 25,230 cubic feet.

Imports of logs for sawing in the Singapore mills totalled 132,661 cubic feet against 129,353 in 1935. The proportion from the peninsula fell from 32 to 25 per cent., the actual figures being 32,957 cubic tons in 1936 and 41,286 in 1935.

A notable achievement was the supply of just under 34,000 cubic feet of blocks valued at nearly $84,000 for use in the new graving dock. Only local timbers were used and it can safely be said that, but for the Singapore forest organization, this order would have been placed outside the country at very much higher cost and corresponding loss to the Settlement. The Public Works Department now maintains a stock of sawn timber which is purchased regularly through the agency of the Forest Officer and properly seasoned before use. Altogether 120,233 cubic feet of timber were inspected by the Singapore forest staff during the year.

After further examination it was decided that the forests of Malacca are not yet ready for the establishment of the sawmill foreshadowed in last year's report and the project has been postponed in favour of a mill in a Negri Sembilan reserve, which will be conveniently situated for supplying the Settlement for some years to come.

The forest reserves of the Straits Settlements at present occupy 127 square miles or approximately 10 per cent. of the total land area. The Singapore reserves will shortly be revoked with the exception of certain small areas and the Bukit Timah reserve, which will be retained for the purposes of amenity and natural history.

Revenue increased from $34,595 in 1935, to $36,820 in 1936, the corresponding expenditure falling from $74,358 to $72,251.

The Federated Malay States organizations for forest research and education, forest engineering and marketing also serve the needs of the Colony. The main research organization deals with forest botany, oecology, silviculture, wood technology, timber testing and investigation of forest products generally, and a school for training forest subordinates is attached to it. The Forest Engineer is concerned with the improvement of methods of extraction, conversion and transport of timber and other forest produce. The Timber Purchase Section serves as an agency for direct purchases of timber on behalf of government departments, but with the appointment of a forest officer in Singapore it has been possible to put an increasing number of purchasers in direct touch with the mills and to simplify to some extent the transactions involved.

C.—FISHERIES

The supply of fresh fish for the Singapore market is mainly in the hands of Japanese fishermen who land approximately 50 per cent. of the supplies, while another 30 per cent. is taken in the waters of the Rhio Archipelago and imported on ice by local dealers. This dependence on foreign supplies cannot be regarded as altogether satisfactory. In order, therefore, to encourage the local fishing industry, an experimental vessel 85 feet long and 15 feet in beam, with Diesel engine and equipped with refrigeration plant, was purchased and fitted out in November, 1936. The purpose of this vessel is to work in conjunction with the local fishing fleets, to purchase their catches and convey them in a fresh form to the markets in the bigger towns. It is hoped that by demonstrating the utility of the vessel private enterprise will be induced to invest in similar vessels operating all round the coast of Malaya.

Before the end of the year the vessel had made two voyages to the important fishing grounds off Pangkor Island, Dindings. The fish selected for storage in the refrigerator was Kembong (Scomber), one of the most delicate and perishable of all our local fishes. Five and three quarter tons were purchased from the Chinese fishermen operating in the locality mentioned, stored in the refrigerator and brought down to the Singapore market for sale. The results of this vessel's work were on the whole very encouraging, the fish being well received by the public and commanding a fair price; but it is too early yet to say if the scheme is likely to achieve its purpose.

The experimental work in connection with methods of preservation of fish was continued. Much of the fish caught on the rich grounds off the East Coast is dried and salted. It is thus converted into a mere condiment of no value as an article of diet. With a view to altering this state of affairs, an experimental canning station has been erected near Kuantan in Pahang. Unfortunately, during 1936 the station could not be utilised to its full capacity, partly owing to staff difficulties, and partly owing to bad fishing weather which reduced the supplies of fish. Nevertheless, a thousand tins of Kembong and Selayang (Caranx) were successfully packed. These fish pack well and are a remarkably good food. The success of this station will be of much importance for the local fishing industry.

Experiments were also carried out on the artificial drying of fish as an alternative to the insanitary method of sun drying which is so common throughout the country. Certain fish dealers were invited to import wet and even maggoted fish for treatment in a drier and did so. The results were not convincing but an improved drier was later constructed which was more satisfactory. Efforts will be continued to encourage this method of drying which is definitely to the advantage of dealers and tends to reduce waste. A considerable amount of work has been done in connection with fresh water fisheries, the most interesting being an attempt to establish fish cultivation by Malays in a lake at Chin Chin, Malacca, on co-operative lines. They have been assisted in the preliminary labour of clearing the stumps from the lake to enable them to work nets and in stocking the lake with various kinds of fresh water food fishes. The scheme is very promising. Not only have the fish increased in size and numbers at an encouraging rate but the co-operators have themselves about $200 which will serve as capital for the scheme when they take full charge of it. Fishing is being deferred, except for predatory fishes, until the end of the current year in order to ensure a good stock of fish.

The Government of the Colony makes a contribution to the cost of stocking the Cameron Highlands rivers with trout. The fish, which were liberated in 1935, are reported to be doing well and were increased by a further supply of 8,000 young trout of approximately four inches in length. Some of the original stock has moved a little down-stream to deeper pools and fish of approximately a pound in weight may be seen at dusk in some of them. Some have actually been reported as caught on the fly but these efforts were wholly experimental and angling for them is not yet open. The hatchery stock have matured and look like spawning some time in the early part of 1937.

Revenue in 1936 amounted to $11,399 which shows a decrease of $974 from the figures for 1935.

There were 12,348 fishermen employed of which 6,306 were Malays, 3,980 Chinese, 1,752 Japanese and 262 Indians.

The following statement shows the quantity of fresh fish landed in the Colony during the year 1936:—

Penang and Province Wellesley			...	9,315 tons
Malacca	...	...	...	2,476 tons
Singapore	...	...	...	12,930 tons
Labuan	...	...	...	142 tons
		Total	...	24,863 tons

D.—MINERALS

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca, where tin is mined and to Christmas Island, where deposits of phosphate of lime are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. There are coal deposits in Labuan but these are not at present being worked. On the 1st April, 1934, the tin mines of Malacca were brought formally within the scope of the International Tin-Restriction Scheme by the coming into operation of Ordinance No. 10 of 1934. By agreement with the Government of the Federated Malay States a fixed exportable allowance not exceeding 58·00 tons of tin per annum was allocated to the Settlement. This figure represents 1,291 pikuls of tin-ore, and the actual production during 1936 was 1285·16 pikuls. At the end of the year there were only five producers. Royalty amounting to $9,411 was paid.

The smelting of tin at Singapore and Penang is one of the principal industries of the Straits Settlements. The year's production, as declared by tin smelters, amounted to 84,716 tons, as compared with 61,923 tons in 1935, an increase of 36·8 per cent.

Imports into Singapore and Penang of tin-in-ore, (assessed as 75·5 per cent. by weight of ore imported) from countries outside Malaya amounted to 20,338 tons as compared with 16,634 tons in 1935 and from the Malay States and Malacca to 66,806 tons as compared with 42,327 tons in 1935, a total of 87,144 tons as compared with 58,961 tons in the previous year. Exports of smelted tin amounted to 83,492 tons. The price of tin was £217 a ton at the beginning and £233 a ton at the end of the year. The highest and lowest prices during the year were £244 and £176, and the annual average was £204. The average price in 1935 was £225.

The production of phosphates of lime, as shown by exports from Christmas Island was 161,440 tons. Of this, 124,550 tons were exported to Japan, 11,825 tons to Sweden, 5,600 tons to Netherlands, 5,550 tons to Germany, 5,200 tons to the Union of South Africa, 2,300 tons to Java, 50 tons to British India and 6,365 tons to Singapore and Port Swettenham. The labour force consisted of Chinese recruited in Singapore for work on the Island.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The foreign (external) trade of Malaya, representing the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the Federated and the Unfederated Malay States, in merchandise, bullion and specie and parcel post, amounted in value to $1,152 (£134) millions, as compared with $1,063 (£124) millions, in 1935, an increase of 8·4 per cent. Imports increased by $34 millions or 7·1 per cent. and exports by $55 millions or 9·4 per cent. The increase in both imports and exports was spread over the majority of the principal products, the largest increases being in the imports of rubber, liquid fuel, copra, tin

ore, rice, kerosene, other manufactures of iron or steel unenumerated and tin-plates, and in the exports of rubber, tin, cocoanut oil, kerosene, liquid fuel, copra, arecanuts, palm oil and sago flour. There were as a counterpoise, decreases in the imports of motor spirit, pepper, opium, motor cars, locomotives, swine and illipinuts, and a decline was also noted in the exports of motor spirit, pepper, gunnies and cotton piece goods. Exports of rubber increased by $44,221,000 in value, and tin by $24,059,000, due to the increased market values of these commodities, and on the whole a general improvement was noticeable both in the entrepot trade and the trade in domestic products.

Although the trade of the Straits Settlements, as distinct from Malaya, is not recorded separately, it can be assumed that Singapore and Penang handle the greater part of Malaya's trade and the large transhipment traffic, which comprises so valuable a part of Malayan commerce, passes almost entirely through these ports, being the nodal points for the collection, grading and distribution of goods for the whole of Malaysia, especially the neighbouring territories of the Netherlands Indies. At the same time, it must be remembered that the previous overwhelming proportion of entrepot trade has had to give way before the growth of trading self-consciousness of other countries, but still by no means everything that passes over the wharves or on the lighters in these two ports is of British Malayan origin or for a British Malayan destination. The $1,152 millions of external trade consisted of $513 millions of imports and $639 millions of exports, the corresponding figures for 1935 being respectively $479 millions and $584 millions. The value of bunker coal, oil fuel and stores taken on board ships and aircraft on foreign trade routes for their own consumption amounted to $11 millions and if this is added to the excess of exports there was a favourable trade balance of $137 millions, as compared with a favourable balance on the same basis of $117 millions in 1935.

As pointed out in previous reports, a certain amount of caution must be exercised in the use of statistics for measuring Malayan trade owing to the fact that the declared trade values for Malaya, and for the Colony, include a considerable portion of import and export of mineral oils. By virtue of its geographical position and proximity to the oil fields, Singapore is a natural storage and distributing centre for this commodity, and distribution is effected as far as Africa on one side and Australia on the other. To give an idea of the value of mineral oils imported and exported during the year 1936 and their relationship in value to the gross trade of Malaya, a glance at the following table is suggested :—

TRADE MINERAL OILS, 1936

VALUE IN $'000

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
Lubricating Oil	1,908	413	2,321
Kerosene	14,067	10,376	24,443
Liquid Fuel	17,078	5,694	22,772
Motor Spirit	36,777	27,451	64,228
A.—Total	69,830	43,934	113,764
B.—Malaya	513,000	639,000	1,152,000
C.—Percentage *A* and *B* ...	14	7	10

Of the $1,152 millions, representing the external trade of Malaya, $981 millions or 85 per cent. comprise the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements. The value of imports was $465 millions and of exports $516 millions. The figures indicate an increase in gross Colony trade and in the proportion of Malaya trade carried by Colony merchants, since 1935 when the Colony's $435 millions of imports and $474 millions of exports amounted to 86 per cent. of Malaya's external trade.

The percentage of Malayan trade with the United Kingdom, and the same can be said of that of the Colony, decreased from 15·9 to 11·6 but with British Possessions it increased from 15·4 to 15·7; there was, therefore, a net decrease with all British countries of 4·0 per cent.

The following is a table of the trade values geographically apportioned :—

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
	$ in millions		
1. United Kingdom	77	56	133
2. British Possessions	85	95	180
3. Continent of Europe ...	24	76	100
4. United States of America ...	9	296	305
5. Japan	33	48	81
6. Netherlands Indies	161	39	200
7. Siam	79	13	92
8. Other Countries	40	14	54
Total ...	508	637	1,145
Parcel Post, all countries ...	5	2	7
Total from Trade	513	639	1,152
Favourable Balance	126	—	—
	639	639	—

Detailed information regarding the trade of Malaya is contained in the regular periodical publications of the Department of Statistics.

Regulation of imports for Malayan consumption of cotton and rayon piece-goods manufactured in foreign countries by means of a quota system brought into force by the Importation of Textile (Quotas) Ordinance in 1934 remained throughout the year. The continued operation of the tin and rubber control schemes, as well as the textile (quotas) system did not hamper, on the whole, the Colony's tradition of free trade. Sanctions imposed against Italy under the Covenant of the League of Nations were raised in July and trade with Italy in due time resumed its normal course. Apart from excise duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imposed solely for revenue purposes, there are no import duties in the Straits Settlements, and commerce and passenger traffic flow with a freedom that in these days is remarkable.

CHAPTER VIII

Wages and the Cost of Living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for Southern Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts in Malaya and these rates tend in practice to regulate the rates of wages earned in other districts either by Southern Indians or by labourers of other races. There was no change in standard rates during the year.

In the Colony, the only key district in which standard wages were in force was Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates were 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer, 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female, and 16 cents for children of 10 years and over. No Indian child under 10 years of age may be allowed to work.

In Penang the average retail price of Rangoon No. 1 Rice which is the variety most commonly used by South Indian labourers in Malaya showed the usual seasonal decline, from 25 cents a gantang (8 lbs.) at the end of 1935 to 22 cents in April at which figure it remained constant until the middle of December, 1936, when it rose to 26 cents. In Malacca the price declined from 24 cents in January, 1936, to 21 cents in March, rising towards the end of the year to 24 cents. In Singapore the price declained from 26 cents in January to 23 cents in August, rising in the end of December to 26 cents. Estate Managers buy rice wholesale and retail it without profit to their labourers and the prices on Estates of Rangoon Rice were therefore lower than the figures given above. The price of No. 2 Siam rice which is the staple food of Chinese labour decreased from 34 cents a gantang in January to 24 cents in October but increased again to 28 cents in December.

The average of the monthly standard budget of a South Indian labourer showed decreases in each Settlement for 1936 as compared with 1935, Penang's fall being 0·8%, Malacca's about 8·3% and Singapore's about 2·4%, but the figures for the end of December, 1936, were about the same as at the end of December, 1935.

In the Settlement of Penang, daily rates for South Indian Agricultural labourers ranged from 40 to 68 cents a day for a male adult and from 32 to 40 cents a day for a female adult while children received from 16 to 35 cents a day. Normal rates for adults were about 40 cents for a male and 32 cents for a female.

In Singapore the daily earnings of South Indian labourers on estates ranged from 40 to 50 cents a day for adult males, from 32 to 40 cents a day for adult females and from 20 to 25 cents a day for children, the great majority of tappers being paid by results (4 to 6½ cents a lb. of rubber). Chinese tappers were paid by results, at varying rates higher however than those given to Indians or Javanese. In Government Departments and under public bodies the minimum rate for unskilled South Indian adult males was 40 cents a day, the range being from 47 to 96 cents a day, the normal being about 50 cents a day.

In Malacca on estates adult South Indian males earned 35 to 50 cents a day, adult females 28 to 40 cents a day and children 16 to 20 cents a day, the lower rates being found on some Asiatic properties in the first quarter of 1936. The higher rates were paid to store and factory workers. Chinese tappers worked at rates of 7½ to 8 cents a kati of rubber.

In Government Departments the rates ranged from 40 to 90 cents a day for adult unskilled males, 40 to 50 cents a day being normal.

The figures given above do not refer to skilled labour which commanded higher rates. Earnings of Javanese on estates were about the same as those of South Indians.

In Province Wellesley the labour forces are very settled, for on the older properties where South Indian labour has been employed for many years, the majority are locally born and the same position is being gradually attained in Malacca. Many of the estate labourers in Province Wellesley are not entirely dependent on their check roll wages, and the same position is frequently met with in Penang and is growing more common in Singapore.

Every employer is bound by law to provide at least 24 days' work in every month to each male or female labourer employed by him. There is no indentured labour in the Colony.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance *(Chapter 70)* is administered by a Commissioner in each centre (Singapore, Malacca, Penang and Province Wellesley) who is assisted by the Labour Department. Health and Labour Departments are invested with powers under the Labour Ordinance, to enforce proper conditions of health and work and protection from machinery is secured under the Machinery Ordinance. For further particulars, reference is invited to the Blue Book, Section 23.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living, reference is invited to the separate report on this subject (No. S. 4) published annually by the Statistics Department. The average weighted index of commodity prices in Singapore, represented by 17 principal commodities (15 wholesale and 2 retail) increased by 14·1 per cent. as compared with 1935, due principally to increases in the prices of rubber, copra, tapioca and coconut oil. There were increases also in the prices of sago flour, arecanuts, palm oil and damar. The prices of tin, pepper, pineapples, rattans, coffee, rice and gambier declined. The price of tin was £217 per ton at the beginning and £233 at the end of the year, the highest and lowest prices being £244 and £176, respectively. The price of rubber was 6½ pence per lb. at the beginning and 10⅝ pence at the end of the year, the highest and lowest being 11⅛ pence and 6½ pence, respectively. The following index numbers show changes in commodity values during the last five years:—

1932	*1933*	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*
37	45	63	64	73

The tendency for retail values was to decline, as shown by a decrease of 3·2 per cent. in the index of food prices, representing the mean of differences of the average of the two years in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

Municipal assessment values increased by 1·5 per cent. in Singapore and 0·1 per cent. in Penang, but declined by 2·2 per cent. in Malacca as compared with those of 1935.

There was a general but small decrease in the cost of living for all communities and the index numbers for the Asiatic, Eurasian and European standards given below show that costs in respect of all three standards

though slightly lower when compared with 1935 are still higher than in 1914.

Standard	1914	1935	1936	Percentage increase + or decrease − in 1936 as compared with 1935
Asiatic ...	100	108·1	106·0	− 1·9
Eurasian ...	100	109·0	107·8	− 1·1
European ...	100	124·7	124·0	− 0·6

CHAPTER IX

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools, (other than those in which the teaching is of an exclusively religious nature) in which fifteen or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance *(Chapter 139)*. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher in an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is insanitary or that is likely to be used for the purpose of propaganda detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director of Education may also, in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board receives, in addition to the school fees, the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas.

The reprinting of Education Codes was undertaken during the year and the following revised editions were issued:—

Part I. General Regulations for Government and Aided English Schools in the S.S. and F.M.S.

,, II. Regulations for Aided English Schools in the Straits Settlements.

Part III. Suggestions for Inspectors, Principals and Staffs of English Schools in the S.S. and F.M.S.

,, IV. A List of Scholarships in the S.S. together with Rules for the Remission of Fees.

,, VII. General Regulations for Indian Vernacular Schools in the S.S. and F.M.S.

The following Education Codes were in print at the close of the year:—

Part V. Regulations for Malay Vernacular Education in the S.S. and F.M.S.

,, VI. Regulations for Chinese Vernacular Schools in the S.S. and F.M.S.

B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The "English Schools" are those in which English is the medium of instruction. Less than half of the pupils come from English-speaking homes. The lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and are given an education which ends as a rule with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though a few stay on to enter for the Queen's Scholarship Examination.

The fees for pupils enrolled before the 1st January, 1934, are $30 (£3 10*s.*) a year for boys and $24 (£2 16*s.*) a year for girls for the first six years (*i.e.* for the years spent in the two Primary Classes and in Standards I to IV inclusive) and $48 (£5 12*s.*) a year for boys and $36 (£4 4*s.*) a year for girls for the remaining period. The rates for boys and girls enrolled on or after the 1st January, 1934, are $36 (£4 4*s.*) a year for the first eight years (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and thereafter $72 (£8 8*s.*) or $108 (£12 12*s.*) a year, according to the results of an examination, the successful pupils up to 50% of the available places paying the lower fee and the remainder paying the higher one.

There is no compulsory education.

In 1936 there were 24 Government and 33 Aided English Schools in the Colony, 28 in Singapore, 20 in Penang, 8 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 24,888 (9,356 in Government and 15,532 in Aided Schools), 366 less than last year.

Of the 24,888 pupils in English Schools, 18,354 were receiving elementary education (*i.e.* up to and including Standard V) and 6,534 secondary education (*i.e.* above Standard V).

One thousand eight hundred and sixty-one (or 10·14%) of those receiving elementary education and 1,439 (or 22%) of those receiving secondary education were enjoying free education. Of these free scholars 656 were Europeans and Eurasians, 965 Malays, 1,403 Chinese and 234 Indians, while 42 belonged to other races.

The Aided English Schools are managed by various missionary bodies—the Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of

England, the Portuguese Catholic Church, and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of European Missionary teachers at the rate of $3,000 (£350) a year for men missionaries and $1,800 (£210) a year for women missionaries. Allowances at these rates, however, are payable only to 16 per cent. of the total authorised staff in boys' schools and 25 per cent. of that in girls' schools. The other missionary teachers, European and Asiatic, are paid at the rate of $1,440 (£168) a year for men and $1,200 (£140) a year for women. In Christian Brothers' Schools and Convent Schools no distinction is made between European and Asiatic missionary teachers who are all paid at a flat rate of $2,400 (£280) a year for men and $1,500 (£175) a year for women. Under certain conditions capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government.

The Government Afternoon Schools in Singapore continued the useful work that they have carried out since their initiation in 1930. These schools accommodate pupils who are unable to gain admission to Government or Aided morning schools: some, but by no means all, of the pupils are over-age for the morning schools. The afternoon schools are staffed by qualified and trained teachers for whom employment cannot be found in the regular Government or Aided schools. Co-operation and liaison with the morning schools continued and promising boys in the afternoon schools were drafted into the morning schools as opportunity occurred. In one of the schools special attention was paid to manual work of value to the over-age boys unsuited to literary studies. Two of the schools had sports and parents' days and school exhibitions of work. The enrolment of the afternoon schools in 1936 was 879 as compared with 844 in 1935. The total expenditure was $34,567 and the total revenue $30,258.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—

(*a*) those controlled by religious bodies as educational and not commercial undertakings;

(*b*) those carried on by individuals for profit: many of these are accommodated in any sort of building—shop-house, private house, office or godown.

Among the 52 private English schools in Singapore are four or five efficiently conducted institutions and there has been a general though slow movement towards improvement in the private English schools in general. In 1936 there were 6,169 pupils in these schools in Singapore and 77 in Labuan. A still further step in the policy of improving the quality of the teachers was taken during the year by raising the minimum scholastic qualification for registration as a teacher from the Junior to the School Certificate (Senior Local) Examination. Selected teachers from private schools, who held the necessary initial qualification were admitted for training in the newly formed Singapore Primary Normal Class.

There were 12 private English schools in Penang with an enrolment of 851 boys and 143 girls. In Malacca there were 6 such schools with 306 boys and 33 girls.

The second annual Conference of the Heads of Singapore Government and Aided English schools was held under the presidency of the Inspector of Schools and formed a valuable medium for the exchange of ideas on

school organisation and method. As a result of the Conference various improvements in school organisation were made.

The appointments of European Supervisors—a Group Supervisor (man) for elementary classes and a Primary Supervisor (woman) for primary classes—in charge of groups of English schools with locally trained Principals were continued and the new arrangement was found to lead to a marked improvement in teaching methods. The Supervisors were also responsible for the Normal Class for Primary Teachers.

Arrangements were made in Singapore at the beginning of 1936 by which pupils in Aided Schools were taught Science on Saturday mornings and in the afternoons by science masters on the staffs of their own schools under the direction of the senior science master of Raffles Institution where the classes were held. Very satisfactory reports of the progress made were received.

There is no central College for the training of teachers for English Schools. When training is given it is supplied at Normal Classes* held at one centre in each of the three Settlements, but these classes have not been in full operation for some years. In 1936, however, a demand for teachers for primary work in the schools resulted in the re-opening of these classes in Singapore and Penang, and First Year Classes were started at both of these places in the course of the year; the students were all women, some of them being untrained teachers employed by private schools.

Three men from Penang were allowed to present themselves at a final Normal Class Examination held in 1936, and of these two passed.

The extensive and valuable scheme of Post Normal training was continued in Singapore, and many of the classes were arranged by the Department in conjunction with the Singapore Teachers' Association. A second elementary course in Malayan Plant Life was held by the Assistant Director of Gardens and the most successful students in the 1935 course were admitted to a special course in Systematic Botany. It is hoped that through the teachers who attend these classes a start may be made with the teaching of Biology. One of the European officers who attended this course, a qualified science mistress, is preparing a series of simple text-books for use in schools, the first of which "Nature Study in the Tropics" was published in 1936. Other teachers' courses held were in Speech Training and the Drama, in General Elementary Science, in First Aid, in Art and Handwork, in Folk Dancing and in Singing. The course in General Elementary Science, for which a fee was charged, was conducted by the Professor of Chemistry, Raffles College, and was attended by over seventy teachers. The course in First Aid was conducted by the local branch of St. John's Ambulance Society. The fine spirit of effort and enthusiasm shown by teachers in all the Post-Normal classes was a happy augury for the future.

Courses were run in Woodwork and Science for Trained teachers at Penang.

Teachers for all classes other than the first three primary classes are now recruited from Raffles College. In 1936 seven Raffles College graduates were appointed to Government and Aided Shcools in Singapore and one to an Aided School in Malacca while 13 teachers who had received their training in Normal Classes and who were not in employment in Government or Aided Schools were given appointments; 12 in Singapore and one in Malacca.

* A Normal Class is a Class for training teachers

C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School at Kuala Lumpur in the Federated Malay States where courses of training are given for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, and accommodation provided also for a class conducted by the Survey Department for its own subordinates.

In the Government Evening Classes in Singapore courses were provided in Plumbing, Structural Engineering, Machine Design, Surveying, Chemistry and Sanitary Engineering. The classes with the highest average attendance were Plumbing (60 in the 3rd term), Machine Design (34 in the 3rd term) and Structural Engineering (31 in the 3rd term). The classes, like all classes of this type everywhere, suffer from irregular enthusiasm, but, in general, steady and useful work was done during the year.

The Government Evening Classes in Singapore also continued to provide Nautical courses that were well attended throughout the year. The local nautical examinations were taken: twenty four qualified, twelve as helmsmen, seven as gunners and five as local trade masters. The numbers in these classes are limited in accordance with the requirements of the Port. Through the Master Attendant's Department, which is in direct contact with the various shipping companies, information is obtained regarding all vacancies for those who are qualified.

Government Evening Classes were also held at Penang in Radio Engineering, Machine Drawing and Applied Mathematics. The two latter were started at the request of the Straits Steamship Company and proved very popular.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils may proceed to the School of Agriculture at Serdang, near Kuala Lumpur, in the Federated Malay States, where one-year and two-year courses of study are followed. Government provided a number of scholarships to this school in 1936.

Four Singapore English schools maintained vegetable gardens during the year and received help and advice from the Agricultural Department which reported favourably on the work done. In addition eight Malay schools had gardens. In the annual Exhibition of Work of the Malay schools a section for vegetables and flowers was included for the first time. Geylang English School was placed first in the English School garden competition and Tanah Merah Besar School second in the parallel Malay School competition.

The useful holiday agricultural course was held at Bukit Mertajam in April and attended by 56 boys. The Poultry Farm there continued to be fairly successful and another was started at Bagan Tuan Kechil. Forty-nine Malay schools have gardens, and 2,695 boys attend their own home plots; three schools have their own rice fields.

Gardening continues to be of a high standard in the vernacular schools at Malacca. One thousand two hundred boys had home gardens. In addition to the annual inter-school Garden Competition, the Malay Schools Second Annual Agricultural Show was held in Malacca town on 26th September, 1936. Six hundred exhibits were received—an increase of 200 over those of 1935. The Show attracted great attention. Three parties of Malacca gurus visited Serdang School of Agriculture during the year.

Poultry keeping at Pengkalan Balak School in Malacca showed good progress. It was found necessary to expand the poultry run. Nine cross-bred Rhode Island Red cockerels were sold to kampong people.

Commercial Education.—Courses of study covering the better part of two years are provided by the Commercial Departments of Raffles Institution, St. Joseph's Institution, and the French Convent in Singapore, and the Government Day School in Penang and in the Government Evening Classes courses were given in Shorthand, Typewriting and Book-keeping. There are also several efficient private commercial schools in Singapore. The extent of the commercial work in schools and evening classes in Singapore is indicated by the number of entries in 1936 for the examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce, namely 1,011 candidates with 2,595 subject entries.

The Government Evening Classes at Penang provided courses in Advanced Book-keeping and Accountancy, Economics, Typewriting, Book-keeping and Shorthand. Seven entered for the Higher Certificate of the London Chamber of Commerce and 82 for the ordinary certificate at the November examination.

Evening Commercial Classes were also held regularly at Malacca, but Shorthand and Typewriting were the only subjects taught. Ten students sat for the London Chamber of Commerce Autumn Examination. These classes fill a definite need in Malacca, where there exists no other means of obtaining commercial education.

Industrial Education.—(*a*) The Singapore Trade School had an enrolment of 134 students of whom 87 were taking the general mechanics training course, 26 the electrical and 21 the plumbing course. Each is a three-year course and in 1936, 32 completed the course, namely 20 mechanics, six electricians and six plumbers.

As in past years, some outside work was done. The amount undertaken was not so excessive as to interfere with the progressive scheme of instruction but ensured necessary practical training. The gross revenue from outside work was $3,990.76 of which $990.76 represented profit.

A special Plumbing Shop was completed during the year to replace the temporary building formerly in use. The plant of the school was increased by the addition of a milling machine, an air compressor, a small drilling machine, a few second-hand electric motors and generators for experimental work, a four-foot planing machine and additional plumbing and electrical tools. The students constructed a brake-horse power testing machine, a variable voltage D.C. generating set and an electrical test board.

An important departure was made in arranging for an officer of the Public Works Department to be Electrical Adviser to the school and to pay regular visits of inspection. His advice regarding syllabus and equipment has been most valuable.

Instruction in electrical and acetylene welding was added to the syllabus and the Singapore Harbour Board kindly arranged for students in rotation to receive two months' training in their welding department. The Far East Oxy-Acetylene Company provided Oxygen and Acetylene free of charge.

The first two Jubilee Memorial Scholarships of the value of $12 a month each were awarded in 1935, the first to LIM SOM CHAI of St. Andrew's School and the second to CHUA THONG TAK of Victoria School.

Fees of $3 a month ($36 or £4 4*s*. a year) were paid by all except a limited number of poor students. There was great demand for admission

and there were over one hundred names on the waiting list at the end of the year.

Thanks largely to the Advisory Committee, which took a keen and sustained interest in the work of the school throughout the year, no difficulty was found in placing qualified students in employment. Very few of the qualified students who have passed out of the Singapore Trade School have been given employment in Government Departments: most are absorbed into private employment though none has yet been placed with local Chinese firms.

(*b*) The enrolment at the Penang Trade School fell to 70, 48 boys leaving and only 35 being admitted. Of these 48 only 24 had completed the course. The reason given for leaving prematurely was, in all cases, poverty. Boys who complete the course have no difficulty in obtaining employment. An officer from the Naval Base visited the school in September and expressed himself as quite satisfied with the standard of work. Six ex-students have since obtained employment there.

One new 6½" lathe and one Gray 1" lathe together with a circular Milling table and Milling machine and a complete welding set were installed during the year.

Gross receipts for work done were approximately $4,000 of which $1,000 was profit. Maintenance contracts for the Excise, Posts and Telegraphs, and Medical Departments were satisfactorily carried out.

Twenty-two out of 24 graduates found work on leaving.

(*c*) The Malacca Trade School had an enrolment of 22 students in the 2nd year class and one in the first year class at the beginning of the year. After the reduction of the fee in May the enrolment in the first year class rose to 22. At the end of the year the enrolment was 42 of whom five were Eurasians, one Chinese and 36 Malays.

The question of financial difficulties was again serious. Five boys were given scholarships of $6 a month, four received $3 a month and five were made free scholars. One boy received assistance in travelling. Several boys used an old hospital building as a hostel.

Both classes studied practical and theoretical carpentry and the 2nd year class was given a course in building construction in addition. It was found impossible to start a class in tailoring owing to the lack of demand.

The work was inspected twice during the year by an outside examiner, who expressed himself satisfied with the progress of the studies.

D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine and Raffles College, both in Singapore. The course at the College of Medicine covers six years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial List of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

There is also a fully organised dental school in which a five years' course of training is given, the Diploma in Dental Surgery entitling its holder to practise in Malaya.

There is a four years' course for a diploma in Pharmacy, entitling the holder to register under the Registration of Pharmacists Ordinance and to

hold a licence under the Poisons and Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, thereby enabling him to practise as a dispenser in Malaya.

Raffles College was opened in 1928 in order to place education of a University standard within the reach of all youths in British Malaya who were capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three year courses in Arts and Science, and Diplomas are awarded to successful students.

The College awards annually ten Entrance Scholarships of a value of $720 a year tenable for three years, and a limited number of Second and Third Year Exhibitions, not exceeding $500 a year, are available for students who show exceptional ability during their first or second years at College.

Two scholarships known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 for the first year and £400 for any subsequent year, up to six years in all, are awarded every year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential college at Oxford or Cambridge.

The annual examination for these scholarships, the thirteenth since they were restored by Government in 1923, was held in October. The successful candidates were LIM HONG BEE and CHIA KIM CHWEE of the Raffles Institution, Singapore. The first received all his secondary education at Raffles Institution while the second was at the Anglo-Chinese School Singapore, before his admission to the Queen's Scholarships Class. Both the scholars are taking Law at Cambridge University. Fourteen candidates competed at the examination.

E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay vernacular education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give a general and practical education to those boys and girls who will not receive an English education and who will find employment in vocations like agriculture in which a knowledge of English is not essential, and (ii) to provide preliminary vernacular education for pupils who will later receive an English education.

In 1936 there were 214 Malay vernacular schools with an average enrolment of 25,211 pupils. The figures for 1935 were 211 schools and 24,110 pupils. There is also an aided Malay school at Pulau Bukom, near Singapore, at which the enrolment was 60. In addition there were two private Malay schools in Singapore which had 378 pupils.

In Singapore, an important innovation in 1936 was the formation of a Standard VI at Kota Raja School. It consisted of selected boys from all the Malay schools in Singapore. The minimum qualification for admission was a creditable pass in the 1935 Standard V examination. The curriculum included Basic English (introduced as an experiment, though it has been decided in future years to teach traditional English instead) and is specially designed, with emphasis placed on manual work, to produce "handy" youths suitable for posts in shops and offices. The class was very successful

and will become increasingly necessary as more and more boys pass out from Standard V at an age when they are too young to enter employment.

Those who are to become teachers in the Malay vernacular boys' schools are selected from the pupils who have shown promise. As pupil teachers they both teach and study until they have attained the age of sixteen between which time and their eighteenth birthday they sit for an examination qualifying for admission to the Sultan Idris Training College at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States. If they do sufficiently well they are accepted into the College and put through a three-year course. Graduates of the College are designated "Trained Teachers".

In Singapore there were special classes for teachers in Malay schools in practical teaching, arithmetic, geography, carpentry (men only) and handwork. Separate classes for men and women were held and the progress made, particularly in Art and Handwork, was excellent.

The Rochore Girls' School, a school for selected pupils from all the Malay Girls' School in Singapore, continued to progress. The curriculum includes English as well as Malay but places special emphasis on art and handwork, nursing, cookery, needlework and homecraft generally. The Government Health Department gave valuable assistance in the teaching of nursing and hygiene. From this school are now drawn all the candidates for the teaching profession and as a result the new pupil teachers are far superior to the old.

The most important event of the year was the opening of the new Kampong Melayu (Malay Settlement) Malay School. There was a Scout display, an exhibition of work, and a school entertainment and there were gratifying indications of the happy co-operation between parents and the school that has of recent years become a feature of Malay education.

The Malay Women Teachers' Training College, Malacca, which opened in 1935, had an enrolment of 24 students drawn from the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States. The staff consisted of a Principal and an Assistant, both Europeans. The health of the students was good and there was a gratifying improvement in personal hygiene, mainly due to the popularity of "beauty" classes and to the rivalry in nicety of lingerie that arose, but one or two girls needed strict hair supervision and verminous heads continued to be still a matter of great concern; the cleansing of food utensils and dishes left much to be desired unless supervised daily, while drill in mannerly and tidy eating was very necessary. General behaviour was excellent, the students showing some aptitude in themselves arranging for amusements during their leisure time; a debating society inaugurated and managed by the students met once a week; a prefect system was introduced and worked very well indeed. By the end of the year the students were able to take notes with reasonable accuracy in sense and spelling, and the results in the final examination were distinctly better than in 1935; arithmetic and the scientific aspect of geography were subjects that remained difficult to the majority, but history made special appeal; all branches of industrial work gave great satisfaction when treated in class, but application of the training to daily life was exhibited by only a few of the students. Every student taught six criticism lessons during the year; the lessons showed vitality and, occasionally, originality on the part of the teachers, but there was usually a lack of forethought and a failure to grasp the child's difficulties. Badminton continued to be the principal game played, the bad condition of the temporary field militating against the popularity of netball; all forms of physical exercise were taught including

class drill, country dancing and rhythm. On Fridays the students entertained to tea and games the staffs of the girls' schools in the neighbourhood and the members of the Malacca Girls' Club; in April they gave a performance of "The Sleeping Beauty" before an audience of Europeans, and in original sketches fully exhibited the natural dramatic wit of the Malays; at a meeting held for the purpose of the presentation to the French Convent of the Badminton Cup, the students entertained 200 guests; visits to the cinema were arranged once a month whenever a suitable film was screened. All students admitted in 1935 completed two years' training by the end of the year and were appointed teachers in Malay girls' schools in December.

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese Schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1936 was 28 in Singapore, 22 in Penang and five in Malacca. There is an increase of 18 in Singapore and two in Malacca over the 1935 figures. The Penang figure remained the same. The total grants paid to these schools was $96,080 as against $49,308 in 1935.

The grants to Chinese vernacular schools are in two grades for primary schools, $10 (£1 3*s.* 4*d.*) a year or $5 (11*s.* 8*d.*) a year for each pupil in average attendance. The grant system was extended in 1936 to Middle schools at the rate of $18 (£2 2*s.*) a year or $12 (£1 8*s.*) a year for each pupil in average attendance. In order to qualify for the higher grade, schools must teach English with reasonable efficiency and must employ for that purpose a teacher who holds the minimum qualification of a Junior Cambridge Certificate or a certificate recognised by the Director of Education as of equal value. In addition to these grants certain schools with Normal classes receive a special grant of $25 (£2 18*s.* 4*d.*) a year in respect of a limited number of pupils in their normal classes. This number is determined by the number who may be reasonably expected to be absorbed as teachers in the local schools.

There are three types of schools:—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.* schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members";

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on the school fees for his livelihood, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1*s.* 2*d.*) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s.* 8*d.*) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of a Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The Primary course in Chinese schools normally occupied six years. The Government has little if any control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance, or the length of holidays in any except the Aided schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curriculum.

Secondary education for boys is provided in Singapore at the Chinese High School which in 1936 completed a three year Junior Middle Course. In Penang there were two schools for boys which provided a secondary education as well as a primary course. In Malacca one boys' school provided post primary classes, but not a complete secondary course. One girls' school in Singapore provided a three year secondary course, which is followed by a three year Normal course. Three girls' schools in Singapore and two in Penang provide a post primary Normal course.

Inter-school sports for Chinese schools managed by the Education Department have for some years been an annual event in Penang. In 1936 Singapore and Malacca were also included. The meetings in all the three Settlements were a great success and it is intended that in future annual sports shall be a regular event.

An Inter-School Examination which was started in 1935 was again held this year. The subjects in which pupils were examined were Chinese, English, Mathematics, History and Geography. It is hoped that this examination may help to raise the standard of education in Chinese schools.

At the close of 1936 there were 440 registered schools with 1,696 registered teachers and 36,657 pupils. The figures for 1935 were 430 schools, 1,518 teachers and 32,486 pupils.

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There were no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil schools in Penang and Province Wellesley, and all those in Malacca, were estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder were private schools run by mission bodies or committees.

Education is entirely free in estate schools; in some of these the children also receive free uniforms (from toddy-shop profits) and the parents a gift of rice if attendance is satisfactory. The schools run by Christian missions or Indian Associations usually give free education to the poor. In proprietory schools the fees seldom exceed $1 (*2s. 4d.*) a month.

At the end of the year there were 62 Tamil schools in the Colony with 2,816 pupils (of whom 1,029 were girls). The figures for 1935 were 52 schools with 2,231 pupils (of whom 844 were girls).

Of the 62 schools, 37 schools with 2,038 pupils received grants-in-aid which in 1936 amounted to $13,434 as against $8,037 in 1935.

No Singapore schools were in receipt of grants-in-aid. The most efficient of these schools was not in need of a grant and none of the others reached a standard high enough to justify a grant, though improvement was registered.

The appointment of a Tamil Assistant Inspector of Schools has resulted in a better understanding between the Education Department and the Managers of schools, with the result that greater efforts are now being made to fulfil requirements with regard to school buildings and equipment.

One estate school in Malacca taught Malayalam and about 15 children in another school learnt Telugu.

There is no provision in Malaya for the training of Tamil teachers. An attempt is being made to raise the standard of qualifications of teachers by holding qualifying examinations of those applicants who can show no proof of their attainments.

Malacca teachers have been given an opportunity to learn something about physical training in schools, and, with the engagement of a teacher who has taken a course under the Superintendent of Physical Education, it

is hoped to encourage the widespread inclusion of efficient physical training in the curriculum of estate schools.

Though there is no policy of co-education, a number of girls attend boys schools. There is only one Tamil vernacular school for girls in the Colony, the Convent Tamil School at Penang, and even this has a few boys in its lower classes.

F.—MUSIC, ART, DRAMA AND RECREATION

Music.—An important experiment in the organisation and supervision of the teaching of music was commenced during the year by the appointment of a Master of Music for the Colony. On his arrival he was posted to Singapore and was placed on the staff of a Singapore English school until the end of the year to enable him to gain first-hand acquaintance with local problems and teaching difficulties. To assist him in the preliminary survey of conditions the teachers of singing were formed into classes taken by him in the afternoons. He assisted the Choir and Orchestra of the Singapore Teachers' Association and made himself familiar with local musical conditions. He was appointed one of the two school representatives on the Children's Concert Committee. This Committee of which Major E. A. BROWN, O.B.E., is the Chairman and moving spirit, was again responsible for maintaining the Children's Orchestra (started in 1933) and arranging concerts for the children of the schools. At the end of the year the Children's Orchestra, in conjunction with various adult orchestras, gave an orchestral concert in aid of the local Rotary Fund for Christmas celebrations for the unemployed, and was the recipient of warm eulogies.

Lessons in musical appreciation were, as in past years, given in many schools. Part-singing and sight-singing of a high standard were continued at several schools, and several schools maintained school orchestras.

Art.—The high standard of past years was maintained. In the Primary Department, *Primary Classes and Standard I*, more attention was given to choice of subject matter and in consequence there was greater freedom in interpretation and individual expression. In these classes the handwork exercises were arranged according to the psychological and physiological development of the child and too high a standard of neatness and finish was not demanded. A remarkable and pleasing advance was made in the use of colour. In the Elementary Classes, *Standard II to Standard V*, a scheme of observational drawing was followed supplemented by creative work of various kinds and the teaching of design was introduced in a practical manner allied to some simple craft. The most popular handwork took the form of crafts connected with bookbinding such as stick printing, potato printing, marbling, block printing and stencilling. Basketry and cane weaving were also extensively practised. In the girls' schools, decorative needlework formed the bulk of the handwork. In the Secondary Classes, *Standard VI and upwards*, the scheme leads naturally and without forcing to the completion of the Art Syllabus for the School certificate Examination. The usual Art classes for teachers in the English and Malay schools in Singapore were again held and the enthusiasm and interest that have been so marked a feature of these classes for some years past continued unabated.

All Government English schools and three large Malay schools in Penang include carpentry in their curriculum.

Malacca schools still lack the advantages of having a local drawing instructor, but instruction in this subject was attempted in all schools.

Drama.—This very important aid to self-expression and to language teaching was much used in all schools, English and vernacular. The lowest classes of the English and Malay schools act simple plays and dramatize stories. In the higher classes more ambitious presentations, such as scenes from Shakespeare, are attempted.

The Singapore Teachers' Association again arranged for special courses for its members in elocution and the drama, and presented two short modern plays during the year. Short prose plays formed a feature of the programme of the Prize Distributions of most schools, English and Malay. Parts of well known Tamil dramas are frequently acted in Tamil schools.

Recreation.—Adequate provision was made in all schools, English and Malay, for recreation. The more popular games, football, cricket, and hockey, were played in all boys' schools. Provision was made in some schools for badminton, tennis, volley ball and basket ball. Malay schools are particularly keen on association football and have football leagues of their own.

All English schools held annual sports meetings. Facilities for indoor games, such as ping-pong and badminton, were often to be found, and a number of schools possess see-saws, swings, slides, etc., for the younger children.

Organised games were conducted in most of the girls' schools in the time allotted for physical training. In Malay girls' schools folk games were included in the physical training as part of the curriculum.

A special class in Folk Dancing was held for women teachers in Singapore and 31 qualified for certificates of attendance and achievement.

The Superintendent of Physical Education was posted to Malacca on his return from leave in August, 1936. He has revived interest in physical education and has held classes for teachers in addition to making inspections of schools.

The Guide movement received considerable impetus from the official visit to Malaya of an officer specially qualified to take training courses. The Scout movement during the year recorded special extension in the Rover Scout movement which rendered much useful service to the various school Troops and Packs. Malacca won the competition for the Scout District with the best Malay School Troops in the Peninsula. In the parallel competition for the best English School Troops, Penang was placed second to Negri Sembilan.

G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas Home (a Church of England Institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children, without restriction as to race or religion, from all over Malaya. There was an average of 15 boys and girls in the Home during 1936.

This Home is at Penang and it gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor. The Government grant was $1,550. Lord NUFFIELD on his visit to Penang gave this institution $10,000.

There are fifteen orphanages in the Colony (five in Singapore, five in Penang and five in Malacca), with 1,475 orphans in 1936, maintained by various religious bodies. Most of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support which in 1936 amounted to $39,328.

The orphans are educated in their own language and, in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught housekeeping and needlework. They generally marry or take up domestic service

when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as *mui tsai* who complain of ill-treatment, are detailed in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300.

During the year the Salvation Army with the assistance of the local Rotary Club opened the Salvation Army Industrial Home in Singapore for waifs and strays (boys). The enrolment at the end of the year was 25 and the Home seeks to provide the boys with an elementary education, with a practical bias, in English or Malay.

CHAPTER X

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

Communications by sea between the various Settlements are frequent and regular.

A weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan is maintained by ships belonging to the Straits Steamship Company. Vessels belonging to this Company also ply regularly from Malacca to Penang and Singapore, and there are Chinese-owned vessels engaged in coastal trade. Most of the mail and passenger ships which call at Singapore call at Penang also. Christmas Island is served by the s.s. "*Islander*" which belongs to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company and maintains a five-weekly service.

The Colony is very favourably situated for communication by sea with other countries, as Singapore is a nodal point for traffic between Europe, the Netherlands Indies, British India and the Far East.

The tonnage of all vessels entered and cleared at the five ports of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island) during the year 1936 was 48,038,328 tons, being 627,515 tons more than in 1935. Particulars are shown in Appendix "*C*". The increase at Singapore was 199,490 tons, and at Christmas Island 22,888 tons. Penang, Malacca and Labuan combined showed an increase of 405,137 tons.

The figure for merchant vessels above 75 tons net register increased by 571,035 tons.

In the last six years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1931	...	...	...	43,632,445	tons
1932	...	...	...	43,424,295	,,
1933	...	...	...	43,056,128	,,
1934	...	...	...	44,006,480	,,
1935	...	...	...	44,959,859	,,
1936	...	...	...	45,530,894	,,

B.—ROADS

The road systems of the various Settlements comprise a total of 978 miles of metalled roads, of which the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca maintain 247 miles and the remaining 731 miles are maintained by the Public Works Department, mostly in Rural Board areas. In addition the Public Works Department maintains 166 miles of natural roads and hill paths.

The mileage in the various Settlements is given in the following table :—

Settlement	Municipal	Government and Rural Board Roads			Total Road Mileage
	Roads and Streets	Metalled	Unmetalled and Natural	Total	
Singapore	162·21	*147·35	2·63	149·98	312·19
Penang	67·81	*79·31	29·02	108·33	176·14
P. Wellesley ..	..	178·68	26·87	205·55	205·55
Malacca	17·19	305·65	86·11	391·76	408·95
Labuan	..	19·77	21·35	41·12	41·12
Total ..	247·21	730·76	165·98	896·74	1,143·95

* Includes Government private roads within Municipal Limits

Expenditure.—Expenditure on the 897 miles entrusted to the Public Works Department falls under two heads "Maintenance" and "Reconstruction" and totalled $794,845.47 of which $503,277.73 was for maintenance, and $291,567.74 was for reconstruction. The average cost of maintenance was $561.00 per mile.

Singapore Municipality spent $238,792.11 on maintenance and $103,351.54 on reconstruction making a total of $342,143.65 for the year 1936 as compared with $166,621.44 in the year 1935.

Penang and Malacca Municipalities spent $97,966.30 and $39,582.20 respectively as compared with $97,205.96 and $49,392.46 in the year 1935.

The principal road reconstruction work in the Colony was carried out in Singapore where the reconstruction of the Singapore—Johore Main Road and surfacing with asphaltic concrete was completed to within ½ mile of the Johore Causeway.

A further all round increase in motor transport is apparent from the following table showing the numbers of cars and lorries licensed during 1936 :—

Settlements	1935			1936		
	Cars	Lorries	Jinrickshaws	Cars	Lorries	Jinrickshaws
Singapore ..	7,765	2,246	4,000	(*a*) 8,514	2,467	4,705
Penang ..	2,277	489	2,489	2,493	511	2,548
Malacca ..	1,061	236	715	1,108	263	718
Total ..	11,103	2,971	7,204	12,115	3,241	7,971

(*a*) Singapore includes 282 Hackney Carriages

Public transport is provided in Singapore by the Singapore Traction Company which operates a fleet of 108 Trolley Buses and 102 Omnibuses on routes 24·94 and 25·63 miles long respectively. During the year 49,468,719 passengers were carried by the Company's vehicles.

In Penang public transport is provided by electric tramcars and trolley buses operated by the Municipal Electrical Department over a route of 13·6 miles which carried 10,021,517 passengers during 1936. The trams are gradually being replaced by trolley buses and now only 1·61 miles of Tramway Track is left in commission. The Penang Hill Railway of 1·25 miles in length is the approach to Penang Hill. During 1936 it carried 129,158 passengers to and from the hill which is 2,250 feet above sea level.

C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Singapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, but communication between Prai and the island of Penang is by ferry. Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Province Wellesley a line runs North to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles.

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant or buffet parlour cars and sleeping saloons. The journey of 488 miles takes approximately 22 hours allowing for a break of approximately 3 hours at Kuala Lumpur which is situated 246 miles from Singapore.

D.—AIRWAYS

Imperial Airways and the Royal Netherlands Airways (K.L.M.) each provide a fast, regular and reliable bi-weekly service, the former plying between Singapore and London and the latter between Singapore and Amsterdam and between Singapore and the Netherlands Indies. The aircraft of both companies call at Penang en route.

Co-operating with the Royal Netherlands Airways (K.L.M.) is the Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.), operating between Medan and Batavia *viâ* Singapore on a bi-weekly schedule. A weekly service between Batavia and Singapore *viâ* Palembang is also in operation.

Qantas Empire Airways, linking up Singapore and Australia, now operate a bi-weekly service in conjunction with the services of Imperial Airways. The usual time in transit between Australia and Singapore is 4 days.

Imperial Airways (Far East) Ltd., now operate a regular weekly service between Penang and Hong Kong. This service connects with the England-Australia service.

Singapore Civil Aerodrome.—It is expected that this Aerodrome will be ready for use in June, 1937.

This Aerodrome, situated some 2 miles only from the centre of Singapore, lies between the business area and the residential area on the eastern outskirts of the city. Approximately 259 acres of tidal swamp have been reclaimed, 7,000,000 cubic yards of filling being required for this work. When the work is completed, Singapore will possess a landing

ground 1,000 yards in diameter, and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes situated close to the centre of the city.

Until this Aerodrome is completed commercial aircraft are allowed to use the Royal Air Force ground at Seletar.

Penang Civil Aerodrome.—This Aerodrome is used regularly by the air services to and from Europe. Full lighting equipment for night flying was installed in 1936.

The landing area comprises:—

N.E.—S.W. Landing strip 950 yards × 200 yards with asphalt macadam runway 60 yards wide down centre. (Macadamised turning and parking areas available at both ends 133 yards wide); and a

N.W.—S.E. Landing strip 800 yards × 200 yards. Grass surfaced.

Eight hundred and ten landings were made by aircraft at Penang during the year exclusive of the operations of the local club.

Flying Clubs.—"Taxi-flights" can be made by arrangement with the Malayan Flying Clubs who own 17 light aircraft.

The Royal Singapore Flying Club has completed its eighth successful year. It owns three Moth seaplanes, one Hornet and three Moth landplanes.

The Penang Flying Club added a B.A. Eagle to its fleet of three Moth Majors, the Leopard Moth having been written off. The Club continues to operate from the Penang Aerodrome.

Internal Services.—There are, as yet, no regular internal air services in operation but a more general interest in air transport is now apparent and their inauguration in the near future is to be expected.

E.—POSTS, MONEY ORDERS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(i).—Posts

The manifold activities of the Post Office available to the public in urban centres are, with minor restrictions, also at the service of the inhabitant of the remote village.

The Post Office supplements its primary function of letter carrier with the following services which touch the everyday life of the mercantile community and the private individual:—telephone, telegraph, radio-telegraphy, money order, postal order, savings bank, parcel post and cash-on-delivery system.

In the Straits Settlements full postal facilities are provided by 42 Post Offices; restricted services are in operation at 15 Agencies. These facilities are augmented by services rendered by 83 licensed Stamp-Vendors. At the close of the year 197 letter-posting boxes were in use; these boxes are additional to those installed at Post Offices and Postal Agencies.

During the year under review the continued improvement in general trade conditions had its effect on the volume and value of business transacted by the Department. The estimated number of postal articles dealt with during the year was 55,673,410 representing an increase of 16 per cent. over the estimated number dealt with during 1935. These figures include official, ordinary, registered and insured articles, printed papers, commercial papers, sample packets and parcels.

Surface-borne mails to and from Europe were despatched and received weekly alternately by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and of the British India Steam Navigation Company (*viâ* India). The average number of days occupied in transit in each direction was 22. Besides these regular despatches, mails containing correspondence specially superscribed for transmission by ships of other lines were also made up and received.

The expansion of air mail services made rapid progress during 1936; the more important developments were (i) the inauguration on the 23rd March of a weekly service between Penang and Hong Kong by Imperial Airways craft, (ii) the duplication with effect from the 15th May of the weekly service by Qantas Empire Airways between Singapore and Australia. The Penang—Hong Kong Air Service is of particular importance to Malaya; apart from a nett saving of about 3 days over the surface transport of correspondence addressed to Hong Kong itself the new air link also affords an opportunity for despatching letters for China, Japan, Macao and the Philippine Islands, by air to Hong Kong thence by surface transport to destination, with a very considerable saving in time. The extensive use already being made of this service is ample testimony to the benefits it confers on the community at large.

Other developments worthy of note are the extension of the air mail money order service to Hong Kong, China, Japan, Macao and the Philippine Islands on the 28th March, the introduction on the 1st April of combined air and postage fees for letters and postcards to all places for which correspondence may be sent by air and the admission on the 8th May of Chinese Clubbed Packets (remittance letters) to the air mail service to Hong Kong.

The average weekly weight of mail despatched from Malaya to Great Britain by Imperial Airways Service showed a steady increase throughout the year; from 361 lbs. in January it rose to 390 lbs. in November. The heaviest mails during the year were, naturally, those despatched in December with their Christmas and New Year Greetings traffic; the three mails despatched during the period ending the 20th December totalled 1,616 lbs. as compared with 1,536 lbs. during the corresponding period in 1935.

(ii).—Money Orders

The value of money orders issued and paid during 1936 amounted to $9,492,650 as compared with $7,990,913 in 1935.

(iii).—Telegraphs

The number of postal telegraph offices in the Straits Settlements is 41. The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, owns and operates ten submarine cables radiating from Singapore.

The total number of telegrams sent and received in the course of the year was 685,886 an increase of approximately 2 per cent. on the 1935 figures.

The total value of telegraph business including Government Messages sent free of charge decreased from $213,519 in 1935 to $192,435 in 1936, a decrease of approximately 10 per cent.

The total numbers of Inland Greetings Telegrams handed in during the year were as follows:—

Christmas and New Year	633
Chinese New Year	225
Hari Raya Puasa	105
Deepavali	80

During the year the new service indication "NLT" was introduced, denoting Night Letter Telegrams Service (Foreign). This service at present operates between Malaya and Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Irish Free State and Hong Kong only. These telegrams generally follow the rules for Daily Letter Telegrams as regards charges and special services admitted except that the normal delivery will be on the morning after the day of handing in.

Satisfactory teleprinter (Telegraph) working was maintained on the main telegraph circuits throughout the year and, in continuation of the policy to eliminate morse working, the Penang—Ipoh morse circuit was replaced by Teleprinter.

The following morse circuit was converted to Telephone—Telegram working :—

Penang—Kulim.

(iv).—Telephones

The number of telephones in service continues to increase and at the end of the year under review 1,739 direct exchange lines were connected to the Straits Settlements telephone system as compared with 1,670 at the end of 1935. These figures do not include lines in Singapore, where the telephone system is operated by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, under licence.

The total number of telephone instruments installed was 2,733 and other miscellaneous circuits numbered 133.

The nett revenue derived from telephones during the year was $375,919, an apparent decrease of $290 as compared with 1935. This apparent decrease was due to a reorganisation of the telephone accounting system involving collection of rentals for shorter periods in advance. There was in fact an increase in revenue. Included in the 1936 revenue figure above is $142,915 derived from trunk and junction services representing an increase of $8,986 over the previous year.

The Department now maintains 18 telephone exchanges for public service. There are three general types namely—

(*a*) Twelve Manual Exchanges. All switching at these exchanges is performed by operators.

(*b*) Four Full Automatic Exchanges. Subscribers connected to these Exchanges obtain their own local connections by dialling, and have access to an operator (usually at a remote exchange) for trunk and junction calls.

(*c*) Two Semi-Automatic Exchanges. Connections on these exchanges are set up by an operator at a remote exchange, to which the apparatus routes all calls. Subscribers are not provided with dialling devices and this type of working is practicable only at very small exchanges up to 10 lines.

Preparations were made for the installation in the Malacca district of several Rural Automatic Exchanges of an improved type which provides facilities for dialling numbers on remote exchanges, and for dialling through one exchange of this type to another connected "in tandem".

A new type of rural semi-automatic exchange equipment using relays only for making the necessary connections was also introduced for future use in sparsely populated areas. It has a capacity of 10 lines and requires to be connected to a "parent" manual exchange through which all calls pass.

Owing to general increase of traffic it was necessary to provide the following additional trunk and junction circuits during the year :—

Tampin—Malacca	1	Channel.
Parit Buntar—Nebong Tebal	1	,,
Bukit Mertajam—S. Patani	1	,,
Bukit Mertajam—Kulim	1	,,
Bukit Mertajam—Penang	1	,,

Radio-telephone services continued in operation between Malaya and—

(*a*) Java, Madoera and Bali.

(*b*) Philippine Islands. Zones I, II and III.

(*c*) North Sumatra.

(*d*) Macassar (Isle of Celebes).

(*e*) Siam (Bangkok only).

Preliminary arrangements were completed for a radio-telephone service from Malaya to Great Britain and other European countries *viâ* Java. The fee for a 3 minute call to Great Britain has been fixed at $51.

A reorganisation of the telephone accounting system has been arranged to take effect from the 1st January, 1937. The new system will provide for the payment of telephone subscriptions by monthly instalments, and for the provision of "phonogram" facilities for all subscribers.

(v).—Wireless

There are wireless stations at Paya Lebar (Singapore), Panaga (Province Wellesley), Christmas Island and Labuan.

The stations at Paya Lebar and Penaga are owned and controlled by Government, whilst the Christmas Island Station is owned and operated by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. The station in Labuan is owned and operated by the Brunei Government.

Short and medium wave ship-to-shore services are carried out by the Paya Lebar and Penaga Stations. The latter station also performs the duty of aerodrome wireless station for the Penang aerodrome. In the event of landline interruption it is utilised for communication with Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore as the case may be.

Paya Lebar carries out communication by means of short waves with Christmas Island and Kuching (Sarawak), and in the event of landline interruption communication is maintained with Penaga or Kuala Lumpur.

The British official wireless press is received at Penaga and distributed to newspapers in Malaya.

The British Malaya Broadcasting Corporation, which is a limited company authorised to provide Broadcasting Service for the Island of Singapore, had under construction throughout the year the station and studios required for this purpose. These were nearing completion at the end of the year and experimental broadcasts were due to start on 1st January, 1937. The Corporation proposes broadcasting on a medium wavelength of approximately 225 metres.

A temporary licence under which a limited broadcasting service had been carried out for some years in Singapore was terminated on the 31st December, in view of the impending commencement of the service by the British Malaya Broadcasting Corporation.

In Penang broadcasting was carried out throughout the year by the Penang Wireless Society, an amateur organisation.

The number of wireless receiving licences issued continued to increase rapidly. At the end of December the total number of licences in force was 3,859. There was a marked increase in the sales of British-made wireless broadcast receivers.

The fourth annual wireless exhibition held in Penang in December under the auspices of the Penang Wireless Society was opened by His Excellency the Governor and High Commissioner.

Direction Finding Stations were in course of installation at Penaga and Paya Lebar primarily for civil aviation services. These stations will be ready for operation early in 1937.

CHAPTER XI

A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary 20 cent, 10 cent and 5 cent silver coins and a 5 cent nickel coin, which are legal tender up to two dollars. There are also copper cents, half-cents and quarter-cents, but the quarter-cent has practically disappeared from circulation. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued in denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5 and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.

During the War, and for some years after, notes for 25 cents and 10 cents were issued.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony, and when Great Britain abandoned the Gold Standard during the War and again in September, 1931, the local currency automatically followed sterling, to which it is linked at 2*s.* 4*d.* to the dollar.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2*s.* 4 3/16*d.* to the dollar, and *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2*s.* 3¾*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits. Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $83,984,121.75 in notes and $2,985,813 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $135,130 compared with $135,795 at the end of 1935.

At the beginning of the year the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $77,122,486.25. There was a demand by the public for currency during the year and the consequent expansion in the note issue amounted to $6,811,100. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for silver current coin during the period under review, the result over the whole year being that on 31st December, 1936, the note circulation stood at $83,984,121.75.

It is a requirement of the law that a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund, being not less than 2/5 ths of the notes in circulation, shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.* in current silver coin in the Colony and in Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment Portion of the Fund.

The liquid portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $49,377,083.22, consisting of $10,393,665.91 in silver and $2,230,237.67 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £4,287,870. 19*s*. 2*d*. in sterling and short-dated investments in London.

The investment portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year consisted of investments valued at $109,504,152.96.

The excess value of the Fund, including cash at Bank $27,547.26, over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $74,925,278.69, compared with an excess of $70,114,981.42 at the end of 1935.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of $178,098.95 in subsidiary silver coins during the year.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $10,543,604.55 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $722,402.00 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1934 was $723,459.20 and at the end of 1935 $722,824.50.

Sixteen million six hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven and a half notes to the value of $49,993,214.50 were destroyed during the year as against 15,655,945¼ notes to the value of $46,700,053.95 in 1935.

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, Eastern Bank, Limited.
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited.
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de L'Indo-Chine.
,, National City Bank of New York.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited.
,, Kwong Lee Banking Company.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
,, United Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Ban Hin Lee Bank, Limited.
,, Bank of China.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4⅛ and 2/4. 1/16d. The higher rate was obtainable from March to the end of the year.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December, was 44,937 as compared with 41,467 on the 31st December, 1935, an increase of 3,470. During the year 9,365 new accounts were opened while 5,895 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was $10,319,033 as compared with $9,072,069 on the 31st December, 1935. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $219 and $230 at the end of 1935 and 1936 respectively.

The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December, was $12,219,605 and the market value of these investments according to the Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $12,268,240.

The number of depositors on 31st December, 1936 under the Fixed Deposit Scheme was 435 and the amount standing to their credit was $338,535.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(a) Standard of Length, the Imperial yard.

(b) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.

(c) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes Chinese steelyards (called "daching") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The following are the principal local measures used with their English equivalents:—

The chupak	...	...	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	...	...	,,	1 gallon.
The tahil	...	...	,,	1⅓ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	...	...	,,	1⅓ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)		...	,,	133⅓ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)		...	,,	5,333⅓ lbs.

CHAPTER XII

A.—PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works in the Straits Settlements are administered by the Director of Public Works, who is stationed in Singapore and is assisted by the Deputy Director and Head Office staff and the Government Architect and his staff. Work in each of the other Settlements is controlled by a local head or Settlement Engineer who corresponds with, and takes his instructions from Headquarters in Singapore, in all matters of major importance. The approved establishment of the Department includes twenty-six fully qualified European Engineers, four Architects, two Electrical Engineers, one Mechanical Engineer and one Quantity Surveyor.

During 1936 the total expenditure for Public Works in the Straits Settlements was $6,897,035.36 compared with $6,271,656.39 for the previous year. The details are shown in the following table:—

Head of Estimate	Expenditure	Settlement	Total Expenditure	Expenditure Extraordinary
	$ c.		$ c.	$ c.
Personal Emoluments	586,001.19	Singapore ..	4,341,553.33	3,149,640.61
Other Charges ..	154,339.09	Penang	672,980.94	311,253.53
Public Works Annually Recurrent ..	1,765,544.63	Province Wellesley	216,918.31	99,099.31
Public Works Extraordinary ..	4,356,253.04	Malacca ..	515,549.73	318,946.36
Work for Other Departments ..	34,897.41	Labuan ..	25,856.77	6,177.44
		Public Works for Rural Boards S.S.	1,124,176.28	471,135.79
Total ..	6,897,035.36	Total ..	6,897,035.36	4,356,253.04

Annually Recurrent Expenditure was as follows:—

	1935	1936
	$ c.	$ c.
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals	537,539 07	615,313 47
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works (including Sea and River Works)	1,191,976 78	1,150,231 16
	1,729,515 85	1,765,544 63

Expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary on reconstruction and special works under the heading Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was $404,392.11 in addition to the maintenance expenditure. The maintenance of 897 miles of road outside the Municipal areas cost $503,277.73 or $561.00 per mile.

Buildings and Miscellaneous Works.—The Extraordinary Expenditure under this heading amounted to $3,951,860.93 and the following important works were completed:—

(i) New Convict Prison, Changi, at a cost of $1,987,835.88 up to the end of 1936. This still left some extra-mural buildings to be erected.

(ii) One Class I and two Class III Quarters, Singapore, at a finished cost of $118,294.31.

(iii) The South-east Groyne at Malacca at a finished cost of $48,624.96

(iv) New Leper Camp, Pulau Jerejak, $78,278.00. Altogether 60 semi-detached huts for less serious cases were completed and occupied by 220 patients.

The following important works were in progress during the year:—

SINGAPORE

Civil Aerodrome.—On which the expenditure during the year was $2,043,965.68. This work of which the total estimated cost is $7,339,000.00 will be completed in May, 1937.

Supreme Court.—Estimated cost $1,577,000.00. The contract for the piled foundations was completed. It involved the driving of 789 piles

varying from 45 to 85 feet long. The plans of the superstructure were completed and tenders called in September. This is the first major building work for which the Bills of Quantities were prepared by the Public Works Department's Quantity Surveyor.

Beach Road Reclamation.—Estimated cost $988,900.00. This work is being carried out in combination with the dredging of the Seaplane Channel. 441,061 y.c. of dredgings were deposited during the year. The scheme will reclaim 47 acres of land along the seafront at Beach Road.

Province Wellesley. Extension of Water Supply.—During the year $52,302.14 was spent on this work bringing the total expenditure to the end of 1936 to $618,891.00 of a finished estimated cost of $850,000.00. Work was practically brought to a standstill in September by a grave disaster resulting in the loss of 15 lives.

Waterworks.—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are up-to-date and excellent. Water can be drunk from the tap as safely here as in the leading towns in England. The various installations in the rest of the Straits Settlements are controlled by the Public Works Department and were well maintained throughout the year.

Electric Light and Power.—In Singapore and Penang, the Municipalities own and operate their own power stations. In Singapore an additional power station is owned by the Singapore Harbour Board. The Penang Municipality supplies current for Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley, on contract. In Malacca, a private Company supplies electricity in the Municipal area. Outside these areas the Public Works Department maintains small supplies and the total expenditure on these and the maintenance of the installations in Government Buildings in 1936 was $176,025.00.

Sewage.—In Singapore and Penang the Municipal Sewage systems are being gradually extended. As the new sewers are made available, Government Quarters and Buildings are connected up. Where no public sewers are available septic tank installations are relied on. The effluents of these are periodically analysed and give reasonably satisfactory results.

General.—At the beginning of the year the Public Works Department had 40 contracts in hand; 253 were entered into during the year and at the close of the year 38 were incomplete.

The annual estimates included 192 Special Service items of which 28 were deleted and to which 63 were added leaving a total of 227 to be carried out. Of these 173 were completed, 33 were started but remained unfinished and no start was made on 21. The difficulty of fixing sites was the major cause of unfinished or unstarted works.

B.—DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

Penang Settlement.—The total area of land under cultivation with rice (*padi*) in the Settlement of Penang, including Province Wellesley, is about 40,000 acres. The work of the Department since it first began operations in this Settlement in 1933 has been mostly concerned with the restoration and improvement of drainage and irrigation of existing *padi* areas within the framework of already constructed roads and drainage systems. Eighty-five per cent. of the total area has now been brought under the control of the Department by the declaration of irrigation areas under the provision of the Irrigation Areas Ordinance.

Province Wellesley.—The principal areas in Province Wellesley are :—

Northern District—	
Penaga Area	6,800 acres
Sungei Dua Area	9,000 ,,
Central District—	
Sungei Kulim Area	3,500 acres
Kubang Semang Area	6,200 ,,
Southern District—	
Sungei Acheh Area	4,550 acres

The following is a very brief account of the work done and results obtained during the year and for more detailed information those who are interested should consult the Annual Report of the Drainage and Irrigation Department of the Colony of the Straits Settlements for the year 1935 and the Joint Annual Report of this Department for the F.M.S. and the Colony for 1936 by the Director, Drainage and Irrigation.

Penaga Area.—The total expenditure to the end of 1936 amounts to $15,511, the work comprising the improvements in drainage by clearing and regrading the two main outlet drains, namely the Sungei Tembus and the Sungei Lahar Endin, which take the waters of Bertam Estate through the *padi* area to the sea. The area between these two drains has been bunded and the main internal drain has also been cleared, graded and provided with a water-gate at its outlet.

During the 1935–36 season, 6,689 acres were planted in wet *padi* yielding an average of 415 gantangs an acre. This was slightly less than the previous year, but Mukim I, including the Alor Kedah Rice Lands which were protected in the north from sea water by a bund constructed in 1935, showed an increase, the average yield being 500 gantangs per acre.

Sungei Dua Irrigation Area.—This is the largest of the irrigation areas; practically the whole of the area was planted during the last season. The yield was on an average of 338 gantangs per acre and is less than that of the previous year. The area suffered greatly in common with the rest of the Province from extremes of drought and flood. Up to the end of 1936 one control gate was built on the Sungei Orang Puteh in the South-east corner, costing $950 and $7,000 has been spent on the initial clearing and regrading of streams which are now maintained in good condition.

Sungei Kulim Area.—During the year six drainage control gates were constructed on the various streams and drains flowing through the area to conserve the rain water during the *padi* season and to exclude tidal waters. Three thousand two hundred and fourteen acres were planted during the 1935–36 season yielding an average of 285 gantangs per acre. In the 1936–37 planting season drought persisted until early September, ploughing, sowing of nurseries and planting out were all delayed but a better crop is expected this season.

Investigations for a scheme for the irrigation of this area from the Sungei Kulim were continued throughout the year and provision has been made in the 1938 Estimates for the commencement of the work.

Kubang Semang Area.—A sum of $10,000 was entered in the 1936 Estimates to augment the supply of water to the area by the construction of a dam on the Sungei Kubang Semang. A site was chosen just below the road bridge near Kubang Semang village and during the year a sum of $6,107 was spent on the scheme including the construction of 1½ miles

of irrigation channel along the edge of the *kampong*, but it was not possible to bring the scheme into operation during the 1936–37 season.

The yield in the 1935–36 season was low owing to bad weather, being 282 gantangs per acre on a planted area of 5,100 acres.

Sungei Acheh Area.—The Sungei Acheh Area is essentially a part of the great Krian Rice Area from which it is separated only by the artificial barrier of the Boundary Road, and during the past three years the Krian Irrigation Works have been enlarged and augmented to supply the Acheh Area with full irrigation as on the Perak side. The cost of the work is estimated at $375,000 and is being borne in equal shares by the S. S. and Perak Governments.

A limited water supply was given from 1st July 1936 and it is expected that full supply can be given with Perak in the next season when the Ijok Diversion is completed. Four thousand acres of old *bendang* were planted in 1936 together with 220 acres in the reclaimed section along the Coast.

The main works upkept in the area were :—

676 chains of canals;
2,061 chains of drains;
500 chains of bunds;
2 regulators;
4 syphons;
8 watergates.

Tasek Junjong Irrigation Scheme.—The comparatively small *padi* area of 350 acres of Tasek Junjong is in the south district of the Province in a valley close to the Kedah boundary. Originally irrigation was obtained by the diversion of the river into an embanked canal containing several temporary timber dams constructed by the local planters. As the river is very liable to rise suddenly in flood, these dams offered a serious obstruction and when they burst, much damage was caused to the banks and crops by the sudden rush of water.

In 1935, a sum of $8,000 was entered in the Estimates for an irrigation scheme but investigation showed it advisable to amend the design of the headworks using a new type of gate specially suitable for the conditions at Tasek Junjong. A supplementary vote of $4,600 was approved in 1936 making a total of $12,600 available for the scheme.

During 1936, the headworks, a diversion channel to take the flood discharge, nearly a mile of new irrigation channel and four concrete drops have been constructed. In addition, 1½ miles of the original irrigation channels incorporated in the new scheme have been regraded and improved to conform with the new work.

It is expected that full irrigation will be given from the new works in the coming season.

Muda Bund.—The Muda Bund protects the agricultural areas north of the Prai River from flooding by the Muda River. There was no serious flood in the Muda River during the year.

Surveys were in progress throughout the year for the preparation of an extensive scheme to strengthen the whole of the bund from the Kedah boundary to the sea at an estimated cost of $165,000.

Penang Island.—The most important works carried out by the Department on Penang Island are in the Sungei Pinang and Sungei Burong areas.

Sungei Pinang Area.—During 1936, 4 miles of coastal bund and a large water-gate were constructed. The bund provides protection from sea water and an additional area of 260 acres previously inundated by sea water will be available for *padi*. The area comprising 1,450 acres is irrigated by a canal constructed some 15 years ago with an intake on the Sungei Pinang which, in the great landslide of November 1932, was buried in 6 feet of sand.

During the years 1935–36, a new intake has been completed and the canal regraded. The new intake was in commission throughout the season and an adequate supply of water was available at the lower end of the canal for the first time since its construction. The new intake and reconstructed canal also served for the first time the lands north of Jalan Kuala Sungei Pinang which were previously served by a seasonal dam in the Sungei Pinang and which obstructed drainage.

The total expenditure for the two years to the end of 1936 on these works was $17,473.

The most severe damage caused by the torrential flood of 1932 was the overwhelming of 120 acres of agricultural land and *kampong* land in 3 feet of sand brought down by the river which became completely silted up.

During the past three years the work of restoring the channel of the Sungei Pinang by training has been in hand and at the end of 1936 a total of $3,239 has been spent out of the original provision of $7,000 for this work.

Sungei Burong Area.—An irrigation scheme was completed in this area in 1935 and in 1936 a sum of $1,171 was spent in constructing a syphon under the main road to lead the water to the western portion of the area.

The following table is of interest as showing the extent of the employment of local Malay labour on drainage and irrigation works in the Settlement and which must have been a source of considerable help to the peasant during the slump when there were always men waiting for work.

Year	Total No. of names on check roll for year	Average No. of names per month	Maximum No. of names in any month	Total amount paid in wages for year
				$
1933 ...	873	87	104	3,970
1934 ...	3,108	259	403	26,611
1935 ...	3,737	311	533	33,810
1936 ...	4,876	406	737	43,396

Malacca Settlement.—In Malacca, 32,053 acres were planted with *padi* during the 1935–36 season producing an average yield of 406 gantangs per acre.

Very heavy rain was experienced over the whole of the Settlement during October and severe flooding occurred on almost all the *sawahs*. Fortunately, nearly all the *padi* was too advanced to be damaged, and it is estimated that only some 300 acres in the whole Settlement were really affected.

The following have been declared irrigation areas under Ordinance 38 of 1934:—

		Acres of Existing and Potential Padi Areas
Malacca River Valley—Bachang	... ...	1,480
Tanjong Minyak	... ...	2,700
Sungei Putat	... ...	960
Chohong	... ...	430
Parit China	... ...	2,000

Bachang Area.—This erstwhile swamp of nearly 1,500 acres which has been made fit for padi cultivation is slowly but steadily being taken up, 388 acres having been alienated at the end of the year.

Tanjong Minyak Area.—In the adjoining area of Tanjong Minyak of which all but 300 acres have been rendered fit for cultivation, the irrigation works functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. Since the completion of the irrigation scheme in 1933, better distribution of the water has been obtained by additional canals and better drainage, which has brought in a further 270 acres in the mukim of Bukit Rambai. There is a steady demand for land, the increase in area of alienated land since the provision of irrigation amounting to 280 acres.

During the year, a sum of $7,200 was spent in repairs to damage to the headworks caused by the heavy flood which occurred in July, 1935.

Sungei Putat Area.—The Sungei Putat Irrigation Scheme is the second largest irrigation scheme undertaken by the Department in Malacca and the result of the irrigation service undertaken in 1934 and 1935 has been to benefit 960 acres of land of which 510 were planted with *padi* previously.

Parit China Area.—The controlled drainage scheme at Parit China embracing some 2,500 acres of land situated in the mukims of Padang Temu, Ujong Pasir, Semabok, Bukit Piatu, Bukit Bharu and Bukit Katil, functioned satisfactorily throughout the year and the crop obtained shows an average of 379 gantangs per acre. There is a steady demand for land and an additional 210 acres have been alienated since the scheme was completed.

Chohong Area.—The scheme, completed in 1933 at a cost of $9,145 was for the improvement of existing *sawahs* and did not bring in any fresh areas. The total cultivable area is 430 acres of which 330 acres are at present planted with *padi*.

Each year since the work was completed water for irrigation has been supplied during the whole planting season. This year planting was rather late, but in spite of this, yields well up to the average are expected.

In the Merlimau Forest Reserve, digging of a drain 2 miles long has resulted in 450 acres of erstwhile swamp being made suitable partly for padi and partly for general cultivation. On the completion of the drain in July 1935, land was taken up by 81 settlers who concentrated chiefly on their land for general cultivation, only 15 acres of *sawah* being planted that year. In 1936, however, a further 40 acres of *sawah* have been planted and a good crop is anticipated.

An item of $60,000 has been entered in the 1937 Budget for the provision of a controlled drainage scheme at Duyong.

The scheme comprises the construction of a tidal control gate about half a mile upstream of the Singapore Road, and the deepening, widening

and bunding of 4½ miles of the river above the new gate. The complete scheme, estimated to cost $85,000, will improve some 1,665 acres of existing *sawah* which has not at present adequate drainage and will provide improved drainage for 1,980 acres of jungle swamp for the cultivation of *padi*.

During the year a scheme has been prepared and an item of $37,000 has been entered in the 1937 Budget Proposals for permanent irrigation service to 1,480 acres of *sawah* in the Jasin District between Kemendore and Chin Chin.

The 12-inch pump at Merlimau, which was installed in 1935 to augment the water supply to 200 acres of *sawah* previously dependent on rainfall, was required to operate on 32 days during last season. In past years when the rainfall has been inadequate, the yield fell to as low as 53 gantangs per acre as compared with the yield this last season of 573 gantangs per acre.

Malacca River Conservancy.—Due to various causes, chiefly the clearing of natural vegetation in its catchment area, the Malacca River has deteriorated and it was estimated that of 7,059 acres of potential *sawah* in the valley of the Malacca River only 920 acres were planted each season and these were liable, at least in part, to be damaged by flood. A scheme estimated to cost $200,000 for the dredging from the river of the accumulation of coarse silt above Malim has been in hand since 1935.

The scheme aims at lowering the normal water level by 3½ feet at Durian Tunggal effecting a general improvement of the drainage of the whole valley between Sungei Malim and Belimbing. The dredging is being carried out by means of a mechanical excavator mounted on a steel pontoon and it is estimated the work will take five years to complete.

Dredging commenced in December 1935 and during the year the machine has excavated 66,090 cubic yards measured after consolidation.

CHAPTER XIII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

The Courts Ordinance *(Chapter 10)* provides for the following Courts for the administration of Civil and Criminal law—

(*a*) The Supreme Court;

(*b*) District Courts;

(*c*) Police Courts;

(*d*) Coroners' Courts.

In addition to these a Court of Criminal Appeal, to hear appeals from convictions had in trials at assizes, was created under the provisions of an Ordinance passed in 1931 which was brought into force on 1st September, 1934.

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and consists of—

(*a*) the High Court which exercises original criminal and civil jurisdiction, and appellate criminal and civil jurisdiction in cases tried in District and Police Courts; and

(*b*) the Court of Appeal which exercises appellate civil jurisdiction in cases tried in the High Court.

An appeal may lie from the Court of Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Criminal trials at Assizes are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

A District Court, presided over by a District Judge and having both civil and criminal jurisdiction is constituted in each of the two Settlements of Malacca and Labuan. In Singapore, Penang and Province Wellesley, however, where the work of the courts is much heavier, there are two District Courts, one for civil and the other for criminal cases. The civil jurisdiction of a District Court is limited to suits involving not more than $500, when a District Judge presides and $100 when an Assistant District Judge presides.

Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is, in the main, criminal, and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

The Courts Ordinance also provides for the appointment of Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are not Courts and have no power to try cases.

The Criminal Procedure of the Colony is governed by the Criminal Procedure Code while Civil Procedure is governed by Rules of Court made under the Courts Ordinance. Civil Procedure in District Courts is governed by certain portions of the Civil Procedure Code which was repealed by the Courts Ordinance with a proviso that the provisions of the said Code relating to proceedings in the District Courts shall continue to apply to such proceedings until superseded by District Court Rules which may be, but have not yet been, made under the Courts Ordinance.

B.—POLICE

(i).—Organisation

The Straits Settlements Police Force is organised on a territorial basis. Each Settlement is in the charge of a Chief Police Officer, whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended, in most cases, by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca, the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties, but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

(*a*) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned with the investigation of any crime that is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(*b*) The Depôt at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for

recruiting men for the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

(*c*) The Financial Branch.

Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, officers of the Attorney-General's department who are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts. The Deputy Public Prosecutor at Singapore includes the Settlement of Malacca in his jurisdiction.

(ii).—Crime

Seizable offences, after regularly decreasing in number during the years 1930 to 1934, shewed a pronounced increase in 1935, when 5,538 reports were admitted: this increase was repeated during the current year, when 5,731 admitted reports were recorded, Singapore and Penang accounting for the higher figure. No alarm need be occasioned by these increases, however, as crime during the slump years reached an abnormally low level, while the present day figure is well below the pre-slump average.

Arrests were effected in 2,699 cases and convictions obtained in 2,132 of them, while at the end of the year 249 cases were awaiting disposal.

Outstanding variations between 1935 and 1936 seizable crime figures occur in the case of murders, which rose from 21 to 33; attempted murders, which decreased from 16 to 5; robberies of all kinds, which fell from 95 to 67; serious cases of causing hurt, rising from 372 to 445; thefts and thefts in dwellings combined, which increased by 385 to a total of 2,987; house-breaking and thefts which at 646 shewed a rise of 24%; and illicit possession and concealment of arms and explosives which almost doubled themselves, the figures being 26 and 51.

Admitted reports of non-seizable offences fell to 109,185 from the 1935 figure of 113,004. Figures under this heading vary from year to year in the several Settlements in a most erratic manner, which is usually ascribable to outbursts of Police activity in dealing with offences under the Minor Offences, Municipal, Traffic Regulations, Merchant shipping and similar ordinances.

Of the large number of non-seizable offences reported, the great majority fall within the provisions of the half-a-dozen ordinances named below, the numbers of reports dealt with being shewn:—

	1935	*1936*
Chandu Revenue	1,175	2,423
Merchant Shipping	5,619	7,235
Municipal	47,814	43,479
Traction Engines and Motor Cars ...	8,037	8,826
Traffic Regulations	13,420	11,523
Minor Offences	17,937	16,426

Under the less prominent headings, there was a decrease from 64 to 38 in non-seizable forgeries and a remarkable increase in cases under the Weights and Measures Ordinance, the figures being 332 and 865.

The total value of property reported lost as the result of criminal activities was $610,597.33, of which property valued at $94,331.10 was recovered by the Police. More than 50% of the total was lost as the result of robberies and criminal breach of trust.

Illegal secret societies provided the usual quantum of petty quarrels and fights but on the whole conditions were quiet. The Teo Chiu groups were at peace with each other, as were the Hokkien, but they clashed with each other and with the Cantonese. The last named have for a number of years been responsible for the majority of violent crimes due to society and gang activity; figures are given below:—

		1933	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*
Armed Gang Robbery	...	6	2	5	2
Gang Robbery	...	1	—	—	—
Armed Robbery	...	23	10	14	5
Simple Robbery	...	15	1	2	1

Inter-gang feuds were responsible for three murders and one case of voluntarily causing grievous hurt with a dangerous weapon. In 1935 the figures were two murders and one attempted murder. Firearms were used on two occasions during 1936 as compared with nine during the previous year.

The year produced no really outstanding crimes.

Detective 35, Mohamed Ali, was stabbed to death by members of a communist "protection squad" which was operating to guard the activities of slogan writers in their endeavours to incite to lawlessness Municipal Tamil coolies who were on strike. The culprits are known, but, despite the offer of a substantial reward for information, sufficient evidence is not forthcoming to bring them to book.

A serious case of acid throwing occurred in Malacca in which a whole family consisting of husband, wife and two young children were the victims. The husband and one child succumbed to their injuries.

Singapore and Penang were free from cases of arson, but four cases of suspected arson occurred in Malacca, all involving properties of small value. Revenge was the governing factor in all of them.

A new and ingenious method of counterfeiting local currency was brought to light when a very up-to-date and complete plant was seized in Singapore. The method employed was to smooth the reverse sides of quarter and half cent copper coins, sweat silver foil on to them and then die stamp them to represent 10 and 20 cent pieces. All concerned were arrested and convicted.

In December, 1935, a local bank despatched 70,000 guilders to Batavia made up in three parcels. On arrival it was found that one of the parcels, which should have contained 41,085 guilders, consisted of torn pages of the Malayan Directory. Early in the course of investigation suspicion fell on a clerk employed in the bank, but sufficient evidence was not forthcoming to enable action to be taken. Patient enquiries continued: in July, 1936, the suspect was arrested and eventually pleaded guilty to the theft. The modus operandi employed was the substitution of a dummy parcel.

C.—PRISONS

At the beginning of the year, there were 961 prisoners in the five prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island). Admissions during the year numbered 15,633, as compared with 13,828 during 1935 and 15,634 prisoners were discharged, leaving 960 in the prisons at the end of the year. There were 82 vagrants in the Houses of Detention

at the beginning of the year, and during the year 841 more were admitted, but 814 vagrants were discharged leaving only 109 under detention when the year closed. The health of the prisoners was maintained in a satisfactory state throughout the year.

"Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men are mainly employed at husk-beating and on fatigue duties. "Lower-grade" prisoners are usually employed on husk-beating during the first six months of their sentence but thereafter join the "Middle-grade" and "Upper-grade" prisoners in industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making or mat and basket-making. Cooks, orderlies, clerks and such are selected from among the upper-grade prisoners when possible. Remission of sentence may be earned by good behaviour by prisoners sentenced to penal servitude, rigorous imprisonment or simple imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile offenders are kept separate from adult prisoners so far as accommodation will permit and, under Section 290 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Courts may, in their discretion, release on probation any offender convicted of trivial offences.

The building of a new Convict Prison at Changi, 11½ miles from Singapore town, which was started in 1934, has been completed this year and was gazetted as a Prison on 24th December, 1936.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory at Singapore, is the only institution in Malaya specially organised for the reception of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and is not in any way connected with the Prisons Administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of seven and sixteen are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of eighteen.

At the end of 1935 the inmates numbered 99. Forty-two were released and forty-seven admitted during 1936. At the end of 1936 there were 104 inmates.

Of the 47 boys admitted during the year, 31 were from the Straits Settlements, 13 from the Federated Malay States, one from the Unfederated Malay States and two from Sarawak. There were 26 Chinese, seven Malays, 13 Indians and one Eurasian. Forty-one were committed for criminal offences including fraudulent possession of property, housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 25 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, five were committed for vagrancy and one as being uncontrollable.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, grass-cutters, gardeners, washermen, cooks, orderlies and general coolies. They were all taught Malay in Romanised script for 1½ hours daily, with the exception of 11 who had their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

So far as was possible work was found on their release for boys who had no parents, relatives or friends to look after them, or arrangements were made for their adoption by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Forty-one Ordinances were passed during the year 1936. Of these, two were Supply Ordinances, twenty-nine Amending Ordinances and the rest were new Ordinances.

The following are the more important—

(1) The Silver Jubilee Fund (Singapore) Ordinance and the Silver Jubilee Fund (Singapore) (Amendment) Ordinance (Nos. 1 and 5) provide for the administration of a Fund raised partly by public subscription and partly by grants made by the Government of the Colony and by the Municipal Commissioners of Singapore. The Fund is to be devoted for the relief of distress among persons of all races, all creeds, all classes and all ages within the Settlement. The Fund was raised as a permanent Memorial of the Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V.

(2) The Penang and Province Wellesley Jubilee Fund (Amendment) Ordinance provides that both the Government and the Municipality should have power to nominate some of the General Committee as since the Penang and Province Wellesley Jubilee Fund Ordinance (Chapter 176) was passed the Government and the Municipal Commissioners have made considerable contributions to the Fund.

(3) The Advocates and Solicitors (Amendment) Ordinance alters the procedure for hearing complaints of professional misconduct made against solicitors. The Ordinance provides that complaints shall be made in the first place to the Bar Committee. If the Bar Committee considers that there shall be formal investigation of such complaint the Committee shall apply to the Chief Justice to appoint a Disciplinary Committee which shall hear and investigate such complaint. If the Bar Committee does not consider that the complaint alleges facts constituting misconduct it shall on the request of the complainant give its reasons in writing and the complainant may apply to the Chief Justice to appoint Disciplinary Committee.

If after hearing and investigating such complaint the Disciplinary Committee is of opinion that due cause exists for disciplinary action under section 25 the Disciplinary Committee shall proceed to make application in accordance with section 26D.

(4) The Traction Engines and Motor Cars (Amendment) Ordinance—A substantial portion of the revenue of the Colony is derived from a tax on petrol. The increasing use of heavy oil engines in motor vehicles threatens a serious loss to revenue. This Ordinance imposes a special tax on heavy oil engined vehicles with a view to preventing this loss.

(5) The Rubber Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance creates a Rubber Fund common to all administrations in Malaya.

The Fund is to be devoted solely to paying the cost of rubber administration and for the benefit of the rubber industry generally.

(6) The Tin and Tin-ore Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance.—The total amount of tin which may be exported from tin-ore won in the Colony is 57 tons in any one year. Fifty-seven tons of tin is the normal yield of 77 tons of tin-ore. This Ordinance makes it clear that there is no restriction on opening a new mine provided that the total amount of tin-ore won does not exceed the maximum of 77 tons in any one year.

(7) The Revised Edition of the Laws (Annual Supplements) Ordinance.—The Annual Supplements for which this Ordinance provides will be in themselves revised editions of all Ordinances passed after the date up to which the Revised Edition of the Laws had been brought. The Revised Edition published in September, 1936, contained the local Ordinances amended to 31st December, 1935. The Annual Supplement for 1936 will be the Ordinance for that year. The Annual Supplement for 1937 will be the Ordinances for 1936 and 1937 any two Ordinances amending the same principal Ordinance being consolidated.

Thus if an Ordinance is enacted in 1936 which is amended in 1937 and again amended in 1938 and further amended in 1939, the Annual Supplement published in 1940 will contain one consolidated Ordinance which will be the Ordinance as enacted in 1936 incorporating all the amendments made respectively in 1937, 1938 and 1939.

(8) The Cattle Protection Ordinance is intended to provide for the preservation of female buffaloes. There has been considerable slaughter of female buffaloes in Malacca as in some other parts of Malaya, and grave fears are entertained that the quantity and quality of buffaloes will become seriously impaired. The Ordinance forbids, except under permit, the slaughter and export of these animals.

(9) The Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance conforms with the Convention done at Geneva on the 20th day of April, 1929 for the punishments imposed for offences in respect of domestic and foreign currency.

(10) The Registration (Amendment) Ordinance enacts a provision wherein the Ordinance can at any time be suspended. The principal Ordinance as passed is one which is, like other Ordinances in continual operation, which is considered unnecessary.

(11) The Youthful Offenders' Reception (Amendment) Ordinance.—As Sarawak has not yet got a Reformatory School of its own this Ordinance enables youthful offenders from Sarawak to be removed to a Reformatory School in the Colony.

(12) The Electric Lamp and Electric Appliances Ordinance. This Ordinance requires that electric lamp bulbs shall be of a certain standard and shall have stamped upon them particulars which will indicate to the purchaser the type of goods he is buying and prohibits the sale of lampholders and switches which are not adequately insulated.

It has been found that lamps of an inferior type and fittings which are dangerous to the user are on sale in the Straits Settlements and this Ordinance is designed to safeguard the public against those abuses.

(13) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance. The Navigation of small mechanically propelled trading craft in the ports of the Colony is a menace to the safety of life and property when such craft are not in charge of a competent helmsman or steersman with a knowledge of the rule of the road or sea. This Ordinance requires such craft to be provided with competent steersman, and, if they are over ten tons, with competent engineers.

(14) The Federated Malay States (Title to Property) Ordinance.—This Ordinance vests in the High Commissioner for the Malay States the lands in the Colony held by the Chief Secretary to Government, F. M. S. as the latter office is vacant and it is proposed to abolish the post. The Ordinance also confers upon the High Commissioner the powers and privileges heretofore exercised by the Chief Secretary.

(15) The Corporations Duty (Amendment) Ordinance imposes a duty in lieu of estate duty upon property which, if held by an individual would be liable to estate duty. The Ordinance is so amended as to bring it into accord with the English Act by imposing duty on the annual value of property, out of which no income or profit arises.

(16) The Tea Control Ordinance provides for the control over the production of tea by restricting, planting and prohibiting the export of tea seed.

(17) The Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance. Prior to the enactment of this Ordinance the Post Office Savings Bank law was comprised in certain sections of the Post Office Ordinance (Chapter 71). It is desired to separate the Savings Bank law from other Post Office law as has already been done in the Federated Malay States.

This Ordinance follows closely a model Ordinance prepared by the Secretary of State; and, in order to secure throughout the Malayan Postal Union as close a degree as possible of uniformity in law and procedure in this matter, a parallel Ordinance has been passed in the Federated Malay States.

(18) The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance. The totalisator or pari-mutuel and sweepstake of racing clubs have been taxed for some time. The present Ordinance proposes a similar tax on sweepstakes conducted by any other club, association or society.

The Ordinance also permits the Commissioner to receive the duty in cash instead of in adhesive stamps if he so desires.

CHAPTER XV

Public Finance and Taxation

The Revenue for the year 1936 amounted to $35,124,137.43 which was $1,622,373.43 more than the original estimate of $33,501,764 and $1,314,562.43 in excess of the revised estimate of $33,809,575.

The Expenditure was $33,398,912.22 being $2,550,058.78 less than the original estimate.

The year's working resulted therefore in a surplus of $1,725,225.21.

(i).—Revenue

The Revenue was $83,757.21 more than that of 1935. Details are shewn in the following table:—

Heads of Revenue	1935	1936	Increase	Decrease
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Port Harbour, Wharf and Light dues ..	2,494.98	2,467.74	..	27.24
2. Licenses Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	23,367,218.55	22,727,578.73	..	639,639.82
3. Fees of Court or Office, payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ..	1,390,589.75	1,448,173.51	57,583.76	..
4. Posts & Telegraphs ..	2,200,135.16	2,353,111.02	152,975.86	..
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,765,439.32	1,824,829.58	59,390.26	..
6. Interest ..	5,442,377.04	5,481,920.78	39,543.74	..
7. Micellaneous Receipts ..	766,598.77	1,143,231.90	376,633.13	..
Total exclusive of Land Sales and Grants-in-Aid	34,934,853.57	34,981,313.26	686,126.75	639,667.06
8. Land Sales and Premia on Grants ..	96,475.22	139,545.60	43,070.38	..
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	9,051.43	3,278.57	..	5,772.86
Total Revenue ..	35,040,380.22	35,124,137.43	729,197.13	645,439.92

The decrease under the heading "Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" is chiefly due to decrease under the following sub-heads:—

	$ c.
Liquors	141,853 53
Opium	380,227 84
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services) ...	38,948 59
Tobacco	76,974 79
	638,004 75

The increase in Fees of Court, etc., arises mainly from the following sub-heads:—

	$ c.
Contribution by Rockefeller Foundation towards salaries of Professors of Biochemistry and Bacteriology	23,154 89
Survey Fees	17,514 74
Widows' and Orphans' Pensions, Contributions, Fines, etc., on account of	12,254 32
Reimbursement of Cost of Audit Various External Bodies (New item)	68,070 00
Cost of Printing Recoverable (New item) ...	5,635 70
Contribution by Malayan Establishment Office towards the cost of Audit (New item) ...	3,150 00
	129,779 65

There are decreases under the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
District and Police Courts including Marine ...	17,482	37
Contribution from Rubber Fund	56,370	23
Contribution by Federated Malay States on account of Joint Services	14,641	09
	88,493	69

The increase under Posts and Telegraphs is attributed to:—

	$	c.
Money Orders and British Postal Orders ...	11,887	66
Sale of Stamps	130,174	37
Miscellaneous	23,416	40
	165,478	43

There is a decrease under the sub-head:—

	$	c.
Telegrams	21,393	29

The increase under Rents, etc., is distributed between:—

	$	c.
Lands	30,639	38
Telok Ayer Reclamation	30,401	00
	61,040	38

The increase under Interest is due to the following sub-heads:—

	$	c.
Interest on Loans and Advances	211,057	38
Interest on Opium Revenue Replacement Fund ...	13,180	67
	224,238	05

The following items under this head shew decreases:—

	$	c.
Interest on Bank account	17,263	56
Interest on Opium Purchase Money Outstanding	164,817	00
	182,080	56

The increase under Miscellaneous Receipts is apportionable as follows:—

	$	c.
Court Deposits unclaimed	19,573	17
Overpayments Recovered	50,106	93
Royalty on Phosphate	17,382	96
Retrocession of the Dindings to Perak ...	86,850	00
Investments Adjustment Account (Revaluation of Investments)	92,241	03
Miscellaneous	106,836	58
	372,990	67

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of Expenditure are set out below :—

Head of Expenditure	1935	1936	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	37,083.40	37,083.40	..	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc. ..	2,380,901.86	2,418,746.72	37,844.86	..
3. Charitable Allowances ..	70,793.78	68,063.80	..	2,729.98
4. The Governor ..	114,283.51	131,780.43	17,496.92	..
5. Malayan Civil Service ..	523,571.33	518,366.21	..	5,205.12
6. Straits Settlements Civil Service	15,022.42	8,390.96	..	6,631.46
7. General Clerical Service ..	1,154,074.50	1,181,967.24	27,892.74	..
8. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Residents ..	120,741.70	119,672.99	..	1,068.71
9. Secretary to High Commissioner	10,947.10	11,344.08	396.98	..
10. Malayan Establishment Office	* 10.25	..	..	* 10.25
11. Agricultural Department ..	83,307.42	84,642.31	1,334.89	..
12. Analyst	49,114.49	53,267.12	4,152.63	..
13. Audit	41,042.74	110,807.17	69,764.43	..
14. Chinese Secretariat ..	67,711.31	66,163.94	..	1,547.37
15. Co-operative Societies ..	26,009.87	26,353.13	343.26	..
16. Drainage and Irrigation ..	312,613.89	265,421.82	..	47,192.07
17. Education	2,002,648.12	2,170,691.93	168,043.81	..
18. Excise Department ..	1,137,021.39	1,113,841.73	..	23,179.66
19. Fisheries	34,267.61	77,081.09	42,813.48	..
20. Forests	60,655.46	56,263.62	..	4,391.84
21. Gardens, Botanical ..	118,834.42	123,118.50	4,284.08	..
22. Immigration, and Passports ..	56,450.58	61,093.88	4,643.30	..
23. Labour Department ..	18,668.17	29,311.80	10,643.63	..
24. Land and District Offices ..	249,596.73	232,794.58	..	16,802.15
25. Legal	407,717.77	407,769.15	51.38	..
26. Marine	543,219.01	492,833.74	..	50,385.27
27. Marine Surveys	77,140.08	67,899.54	..	9,240.54
28. Medical	369,730.95	407,299.24	37,568.29	..
29. Medical, Health Branch ..	539,752.81	560,146.25	20,393.44	..
30. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	91,658.13	102,822.15	11,164.02	..
31. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries	2,241,750.78	2,310,389.85	68,639.07	..
32. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution ..	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	..	..
II. Local Forces ..	431,002.59	435,074.98	4,072.39	..
33. Miscellaneous Services ..	6,285,218.90	3,921,890.15	..	2,363,328.75
34. Museum and Library, Raffles ..	49,448.97	44,324.63	..	5,124.34
35. Police	2,779,143.86	2,868,294.47	89,150.61	..
36. Post Office	1,723,651.80	1,821,303.88	97,652.08	..
37. Printing Office	218,092.94	243,218.21	25,125.27	..
38. Prisons	431,971.24	423,570.92	..	8,400.32
39. Public Works Department ..	632,864.57	655,805.94	22,941.37	..
40. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure	1,140,701.32	1,110,294.02	..	30,407.30
41. Public Works, Extraordinary	3,443,384.91	3,881,930.61	438,545.70	..
42. Statistics	95,987.39	80,513.43	..	15,473.96
43. Survey Department ..	364,577.62	361,316.43	..	3,261.19
44. Transport	18,318.69	18,473.76	155.07	..
45. Treasury	128,943.32	150,370.18	21,426.86	..
46. Veterinary	60,081.50	64,339.52	4,258.02	..
47. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund	4,929.55	2,762.72	..	2,166.83
TOTAL ..	34,764,640.25	33,398,912.22	1,230,798.58	2,596,526.61

* Expenditure Credit

The increase in "Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc.", is due to increased provisions in the votes "Superannuation Allowances Police Pensions", "Gratuities to Officers not entitled to pension", "Special Pension privileges beyond the scope of the Pension Law", "Pension outside the provision of the Pensions Ordinance" and "Allowances to the Descendants of the late Sultan Hussein".

The increase under "Governor" is mainly due to the purchase of a Ford Truck, the purchase of a Siddeley Special Limousine and the purchase of Furnishings, etc.

The decrease in "Malayan Civil Service" is due to vacancies and deletions.

The decrease in "Straits Settlements Civil Service" is due to the transfer of one member to the post of Assistant District Officer, Butterworth and the appointment of two probationers late in the year.

The increase in "General Clerical Service" is due to the incidence of increments and to a number of new appointments approved during the year.

The increase under "Government Analyst" is mainly due to the difference of duty salaries provided for duty posts, normal increments to staff, two new additional appointments and the purchase of a Refrigerator under Special Expenditure.

The increase under "Audit" is mainly due to the contribution from the Malayan Establishment Office and the reimbursements by various External Bodies, Straits Settlements, in respect of the cost of audit, being credited to Revenue instead of expenditure credits.

The decrease under "Drainage and Irrigation" is mainly due to the completion of certain major works under special expenditure in 1935, for which no provision appears in the 1936 Estimates.

The increase under "Education" is due to increments, the filling of vacancies and an increase in the Grants-in-Aid.

The decrease under "Excise" is mainly due to smaller quantities of materials being purchased in 1936 on account of lower rate of production of bulk and packed chandu.

The increase under "Fisheries" is primarily due to the purchase of the brine freezing vessel, expenditure of docking, fuel, stores, repairs, etc. and to more research and investigation work being carried out.

The decrease under "Forests" is mainly due to the deletion in the 1936 Estimates on account of the retrocession of the Dindings to the Perak Government.

The increase under "Gardens, Botanical" is mainly due to the transfer of Vote "Upkeep of Residency Grounds (P)" to the Gardens in 1936 and to an increase in the Special Expenditure Vote.

The increase under "Immigration and Passports" is due to annual increments of staff and to an increase in the vote "Reimbursement of Passport Revenue to Immigration Fund".

The increase in the "Labour Department" is principally due to expenditure under the heading "Repatriation of decrepit and unemployed Indian Immigrants" and to the fact that the Malayalam Clerk of Penang Office was transferred to the Straits Settlements Establishment from 1st January, 1936.

The decrease under "Land and District Offices" is partly due to the deletion of the Dindings from the 1936 Estimates on account of the retrocession to the Perak Government and also to the decrease in the special expenditure vote "Resettlement M.".

The decrease under "Marine" is mainly due to the fact that there was less Special Expenditure in 1936 as compared with 1935.

The decrease under "Marine Surveys" is mainly due to the leave salaries of European Officers being met from Malayan Establishment Funds.

The increases under "Medical General" Health Branch, Social Hygiene Branch, Hospitals and Dispensaries are mainly due to increases in the Personal Emoluments and other charges votes.

The increase under "Local Forces Military Expenditure" is mainly due to additional expenditure on the Straits Settlements Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1936.

H.M.S. "Laburnam" was put into commission only in June 1935 and therefore only seven months expenditure was included in the figures for 1935.

The decrease under "Miscellaneous Services" is mainly due to the following large payments being made in 1935:—

	$	c.
Cost of acquisition of the site of Europe Hotel ...	1,315,000	00
Government Contribution to Singapore and Penang Jubilee Fund	1,050,000	00

The decrease under "Museum and Library, Raffles" is due to an European Officer being on leave.

The increase under "Police" is mainly due to an increase in the personnel, and also in the Other Charges and Special Expenditure votes.

The increase under "Post Office" is mainly due to normal increments in Personal Emoluments and to Special Expenditure on the following votes:—

(i) New Carrier System between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore Colony Share.

(ii) Provision of 8-Channel Voice Frequency Telegraph Equipment.

(iii) Telephone and Telegraph Equipments.

The increase under "Printing Office" is mainly due to the Special Expenditure "Purchase of Machinery, Materials, etc." for printing the Straits Settlements Laws.

The decrease under "Prisons" is mainly due to vacancies on the European Warders Establishment not being filled.

The increase under "Public Works Department" is mainly due to the additional appointments of Aviation Officer, Senior Assistant Architect and Quantity Surveyor being made in 1936.

The decrease under "Public Works Recurrent Expenditure" is mainly due to the costs of all dredging works in the Seaplane channel being charged to the Singapore Aerodrome Vote under Public Works Extraordinary.

The increase under "Public Works Extraordinary is due to the return to better times and to a larger programme of Public Works being authorised and carried out.

The decrease under "Statistics" is mainly due to less expenditure in 1936 as compared with the 1935 Special Expenditure votes.

The increase under "Treasury" is mainly due to the appointment of a Collector of Estate Duty and to the filling of the appointments of Office Assistant in Penang and Malacca.

The increase under "Veterinary" is mainly due to the creation of new appointments in Singapore and Malacca in 1936.

(iii)—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1936

	$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities		
Deposits:—		
Accountant-General (Court)	2,135,711.42	
Accountant-General (Other)	2,200,178.00	
Bankruptcy	853,349.13	
Mercantile Marine Fund	765,890.16	
Police Reward Fund	2,787.83	
Savings Certificates Fund	55,120.00	
Companies Liquidation Account	244,476.86	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund	85,721.15	
Miscellaneous Singapore (including Labuan and Christmas Island)	2,865,191.65	
Miscellaneous Penang and Districts ..	440,691.27	
Miscellaneous Malacca and Districts ..	88,929.75	
F.M.S. Agency	59,063.60	
		9,797,116.82
Drafts and Remittances	..	36,282.12
Suspense Account — Coins for reminting, etc. ..	2,188,087.67	
Suspense Account — Interest, Currency Commissioners ..	..	
Suspense Account — Other items	6,312,951.72	
		8,501,039.39
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ..	..	61,160,386.42
Surplus	..	72,954,595.82
Total ..	..	152,449,414.57

The Surplus on 31st December, 1936, amounted to $72,954,595.82 of which approximately $51.17 millions were liquid. Against this, commitments on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other administrations amounted to $5,888,875 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounting to $5,881,252. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1937 amounting to $2,928,344 and further commitments amounting to $4,165,532 had to be met. The total commitments and contingent liabilities on 1st January, 1937, against the Surplus thus amounted to $18,864,003.

LIABILITIES

were as follows:—

		$ c.	$ c.
Assets			
Cash:—	$ c.		
Cash in Treasuries	4,558,232.93		
Cash in Banks	6,000,146.78		
Cash with Crown Agents	48,460.96		
		10,606,840.67	
Cash held in Kuala Lumpur		66,000.00	
Cash in Transit		88,149.01	
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents) ..		1,971,428.57	
Fixed deposits (Colony)		4,923,000.00	
Fixed deposits (Accountant-General) ..		508,900.00	
			18,164,318.25
Suspense Account Other items		..	7,446,245.93
Suspense Stores Account, P.W.D.		..	132,195.13
Investments (Surplus Funds):—			
Sterling Securities		37,474,733.12	
Dollar and Rupee Securities		915,375.05	
			38,390,108.17
Investments (Specific Funds):—			
Accountant-General (Court)		919,242.12	
Accountant-General (Other)		1,691,100.00	
Bankruptcy		710,445.52	
Mercantile Marine Fund		737,024.46	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		73,865.00	
Miscellaneous		1,535,686.41	
			5,667,363.51
Investments Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		..	61,160,386.42
Advances			
Boards:—			
Education		8,500.55	
Hospital		733.07	
Building Loans		609,735.79	
Other Governments		37,987.58	
Postal Stores		300,000.00	
Sinking Fund, Singapore Harbour Board ..		1,823,921.08	
Miscellaneous		331,970.00	
			3,112,848.07
Imprests		..	2,228.93
Loans:—	$ c.		
Municipality, Singapore	190,629.65		
Municipality, Penang	100,000.00		
Municipality, Malacca	317,373.47		
		608,003.12	
Kelantan Government		5,005,683.98	
Trengganu Government		3,500,000.00	
Singapore Harbour Board		6,477,131.30	
Penang Harbour Board		2,614,457.30	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		51,750.00	
Tanglin School at Cameron Highlands ..		13,300.00	
Penang Sports Club		25,000.00	
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ..		78,394.46	
			18,373,720.16
Total ..		..	152,449,414.57

(iv).—Public Debt

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the loan raised by the issue of 3½% Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provision of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted on the 31st December, 1936 to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302.

The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised is as follows:—

	$
Singapore Harbour Board	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
	55,869,097
Loan Extension and cost of conversion (1907) less interest received	3,388,205
	59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of this loan was $2,085,817 in 1936. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the Investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1936 was $23,136,593.

In August it was decided to redeem this loan on 15th May, 1937 and with this object in view a local loan of $30,000,000 bearing 3% interest redeemable on 15th April, 1972 was issued on 15th October. The issue was oversubscribed to the extent of over $1 million. The total cost of the issue including brokerage, management and redemption amounted to $75,000 *i.e.* ¼ of one per cent. The loan will be managed by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

The proceeds of the conversion loan will be allocated entirely to the Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards which will bear all charges for interest and Sinking Fund. The Municipalities agreed to pay off the balance of their shares of the 3½% loan after deducting the Sinking Fund and have then no interest in the conversion loan.

The Straits Settlements 6% Inscribed Stock 1936 to 1951 amounting to $44,185,714.29 (£5,155,000) was redeemed from 1st December, 1936 on the issue of the Federated Malay States 3% 1956/1966 Local Loan of $15,000,000.

(v).—Taxation

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony, and from the profits on the Government opium monopoly. The other main items are Stamp Duties, Estate Duties and Pawnbrokers' Licenses which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years.

The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from Licenses.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licenses for the year 1936 was $22,727,578.73 forming the greater portion of the

Colony's Revenue and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$	c.
Liquor Duties	3,231,933	17
Opium Revenue	8,360,384	81
Pawnbrokers' Licenses	719,932	00
Petroleum Revenue	3,191,198	51
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services) ...	925,013	40
Estate Duties	1,230,169	39
Tobacco Duties	4,269,996	46

The only fiscal measures approximating to a customs' Tariff is the imposition of duties on Liquors, Tobacco and Petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony. Excise revenue is comprised principally of the revenue from the Opium Monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of a similar brand. The only liquor manufactured locally which is subject to this duty is samsu and beer. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy, but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance 1929. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only	25 cents.
Bill of Exchange including Promissory Note ...	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof.
Cheque	4 cents.
Conveyance	$1.50 for every $250 or part thereof.
Mortgage	$1 for every $500 or part thereof.
Receipt	4 cents.

A Betting Tax was introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932 and the amount collected in 1936 was Singapore $259,752.50 and Penang $84,332.

CHAPTER XVI

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of many of the other settlers, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet, but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the South of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigrant Chinese population is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be:—

Hokkien 43·2%; Cantonese, 21·4%; Tiu Chiu, 17·4%; Hakka (Kheh), 7·9%; Hailam, 5·4%; Hok Chhia, 1·5%; Hok Chiu, 1·3%; and other dialects, 1·9%.

Nine-tenths of the Indian population are Southern Indians practically all of whom speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu, or Malayalam. Of these the vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil.

The rest of the Indian population consists mainly of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani. There are also a few hundred natives of the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

B.—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the leases for the term of nine hundrd and ninety-nine years issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first lease issued for a period of ninety-nine years, for land in the town, dates back to 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of grants in fee simple was issued for land outside the limits of the town, though for town lands the issue of leases for ninety-nine years still continued. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally acquired for agricultural purposes.

After the transfer of the Settlements to the control of the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were leases for terms of 99 or 999 years, but Ordinance No. II of 1886, now the Crown Lands Ordinance *(Chapter 113)*, introduced a statutory form of Crown Title, the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and to various implied conditions and covenants which before the passing of the Ordinance had to be expressly provided for in the document of title itself. This Statutory Grant became then, and until recently continued to be the usual form of title issued but the policy now is to restrict the issue of grants in perpetuity, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding ninety-nine years.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown under Grant in fee simple, Statutory Grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. Unoccupied Crown Land is now ordinarily alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. The remainder of the land in the Town is mostly held under Crown leases for 99 years, but there are a few leases for 999 years and a few Statutory Grants. Alienated land in the country is generally held under Statutory Grants or leases from the Crown for 99 years, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Customary Rights Ordinance *(Chapter 125)*. This is a small number of grants in fee-simple, both in town and country areas.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of the Labuan Ordinance *(Chapter 6)* and is alienated ordinarily by public auction. Titles are normally leases, for the term of 999 years or less; and, since 1919, leases for not more than 30 years have been granted. There are some titles which are redemptions of titles issued under a former system.

Throughout the Colony.—Temporary occupation of Crown Land is possible under licence for periods not exceeding a year at a time, and similar temporary occupation licences, as well as leases, may be issued for foreshore and sea bed under the provisions of the Foreshores Ordinance *(Chapter 122)*.

C.—CO-OPERATION

There was a general improvement in all types of Co-operative Societies during the year. In rural areas the improved prices for rubber and coconuts were reflected in the Credit Societies. The membership ceased to fall for the first year since the depression started in 1930. The paid-up share capital has started to rise again, as also have repayments of loans. The deposits made by members in the General Purposes Societies have increased and the members are making better use of their Societies. A General Purposes Society was formed at the end of the year amongst the inhabitants of the Malay Settlement, Singapore.

There was a big increase in the number, membership and capital of Societies amongst Indian labourers and further expansion may be anticipated, especially in Malacca.

The paid-up capital of the Salary Earner's Societies increased by $183,600 while the membership increased by 391. At the same time the amount of loans outstanding went down by $25,700 and the balance of deposits made by members in their Societies increased by $13,600. The general indications are that the financial position of salary earners who are members of Co-operative Societies improved during the year.

All Societies welcomed the loans floated by the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements Governments during the year and received substantial allotments in both.

Singapore.—The number of Societies for salary earners in Singapore rose from 21 to 23, membership from 6,717 to 7,091, subscription capital from $857,900 to $953,200 and investments in trustee securities from $585,100 to $788,900.

Societies for Indian labourers increased in number to 13 (one not working) with membership of 2,178 subscription capital of $86,884 and investments in trustee securities of $80,153, as compared with 11 Societies with membership of 2,347, subscription capital of $77,077 and investments amounting to $67,235 at the end of 1935.

Malacca.—There was very little change in the position of the eight Rural Credit Societies, the membership of which increased by 4 to 262 with share capital of $6,959. The holdings of the Societies in cash and in the Post Office Savings Bank came to $5,245.

The four Societies for salary earners increased their membership to 1,288 with subscription capital of $232,300 and investments amounting to $194,500, as compared with a membership of 1,219 with subscription capital of $211,700 and investments of $153,200 at the end of 1935.

Indian Labourers' Societies increased in number to 33 (three not working) with a membership of 5,319, subscription capital of $92,455 and investments of $90,301, as compared with 21 Societies with 4,427 members, subscription capital of $59,432 and investments of $48,194 at the end of 1935.

Penang and Province Wellesley.—The number of Rural Credit Societies remained unchanged. The five Societies had a membership of 112 with share capital of $3,523 and cash and deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank amounting to $3,139.

One new Society for salary earners was registered during the year. There were ten Societies with a membership of 3,782, subscription capital of $520,000 and investments of $407,300 at the end of the year as compared with nine Societies with membership of 3,834, subscription capital of $452,300 and investments of $290,000 at the end of 1935.

One Indian Labourers' Society was liquidated and seven new Societies registered during the year. The 20 Societies with a membership of 3,035 had subscription capital amounting to $58,975 and investments of $54,063 at the end of the year, as compared with the subscription capital of $38,951 and investments of $37,923 in the 14 Societies at the end of 1935.

D.—MUSEUMS AND GARDENS

The Raffles Museum and Library was an integral part of the Singapore Institution (later called the Raffles Institution) in 1823. In 1844, the Singapore Library, a proprietary concern, was established and in connection with this a museum was formed in 1849. The Government took over the Department, henceforth called the Raffles Museum and Library in 1874.

During the year under review the Museum continued to attract large crowds and it was estimated that 230,000 persons visited the exhibition galleries including the usual throng on the Chinese New Year holidays when the galleries were closely packed with people from morning to late afternoon. Except Sundays and a few public holidays such as Christmas Day when people, normally, do not wish to visit museums, the exhibition galleries were open to the public from 9 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. A number of striking additions to the ethnographical galleries much increased their popularity. The new features included a complete shadow-show from Kelantan. An important event was a temporary exhibition of Chinese porcelain. Fieldwork had a strong bias towards the excavation of prehistoric sites but some zoological work was also carried out. Nineteen papers were published concerning material in the Museum collections.

In the Raffles Library increases in all the important statistics have to be recorded, for the number of subscribers, the amount of the subscriptions

received and the number of books issued all reached new high levels. The number of subscribers was 1,880 and the revenue from subscriptions was $13,656. The total issue of books was 171,597 and 2,287 books were added to the Library.

The Botanic Gardens in Singapore were founded by a private society in 1858 and taken over by the Government in 1874. The total area is about 100 acres, including 12 acres of original forest. The Gardens provide both a public park, laid out on landscape lines, and a large named collection of plants of all kinds. Special attention is given to displays of ornamental plants, both local and introduced, which are suitable for general use in gardens, thus providing a practical demonstration to the local public interested in gardening. Many useful tropical plants are also represented. New introductions of plants from other countries, for trial purposes, are constantly made. During the past few years a considerable number of hybrid orchid seedlings have been raised, chiefly between species which are specially suited to local conditions, with the object of raising a greater variety of useful garden plants. During 1936 two of these hybrids, between white and red species of scorpion orchids, flowered for the first time, and give promise of being distinctive additions to the range of this group of plants.

The Waterfall Gardens in Penang were founded in 1884 and have a similar function to the Botanic Gardens at Singapore. They are very beautifully situated in a valley, with forest slopes rising above them. A new feature, the construction of which was largely completed in 1936, is a formal garden, representing an attempt to adapt modern ideas of garden design to a tropical setting and tropical plants.

The Botanic Gardens are also centres of research on the botany of Malaya, and perform a public function in disseminating information on that subject. Distinctive local plants are so far as possible displayed in the gardens and plant houses for the benefit of any visitors who may be interested in them. During 1936 classes for local school teachers on Malayan plant life, and on the systematic botany of Malayan plants, were held by a member of the botanical staff, at the request of the Education Department.

E.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The beginning and end of 1936 were marked by events of unusual significance. Few in this Colony will forget the sincere manifestations of personal loss that were exhibited by all members of the community when the news of the death of His Majesty KING GEORGE V. was received on the morning of the 22nd of January. The memory of His Majesty's Silver Jubilee was still a vivid one and grief at his passing was rendered all the more poignant by the recollection of that happy occasion. Memorial Services were held in all places of worship throughout the Colony and the official Service at the Singapore Cathedral was attended by such a large and numerous congregation that it was necessary to provide seating accommodation outside the building.

The proclamation of His Majesty KING EDWARD VIII. took place at the Municipal building on the 23rd of January. In accordance with custom on the demise of the Sovereign, the ceremony began with a procession in reverse order from the Government buildings to the place appointed. The proclamation was read by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of a large and distinguished assembly and the ceremony was timed to take place at 5.20 P.M. so as to synchronise with the actual ceremony in London itself. Detachments of the Services and of the local Forces took part and

were drawn up on the Padang in front of His Excellency. Transiations of the proclamation were also read in Malay, Tamil and Chinese and after a prayer by the Bishop the procession was reformed in the proper order of precedence and returned to its starting place where it dispersed.

The new reign had barely begun when it was brought to an untimely conclusion by the King's abdication on the 10th of December, 1936. The Duke of York was proclaimed as KING GEORGE VI. in his stead and the ceremony of proclamation was similar in all respects to that of the 23rd of January except that there was no procession. It took place at 12 noon on the 12th of December, 1936. These events passed in an atmosphere of calm dignity and the manner in which they were received was a matter of admiration frequently expressed by leading members of the foreign communities.

In June the Colony was visited by a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State to investigate the whole question of Mui Tsai in Malaya and any surviving practice of transferring women or children for valuable consideration whether on marriage or adoption or in any other circumstances. The Commission spent some five weeks in Malaya in the course of its investigations and left for Hong Kong in July.

Sir THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, proceeded to England on leave on the 26th April and Mr. A. S. SMALL, Colonial Secretary, officiated as Officer Administering Government until Sir SHENTON THOMAS's return to Malaya on the 4th September. Meanwhile Mr. J. A. HUNTER acted as Colonial Secretary.

Major-General W. G. S. DOBBIE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, was on duty throughout the year.

Commodore W. P. MARK-WARDLAW, D.S.O., M.C., R.N., Commodore-in-Charge, His Majesty's Naval Establishments relinquished his command on the 12th September and was succeeded by Commodore M. L. CLARKE, D.S.C., R.N. Air Commodore S. W. SMITH, O.B.E., was succeeded by Air Commodore A. W. TEDDER, C.B., as Officer Commanding the Royal Air Force (Far East) on the 11th November.

Units of the United States Asiatic Fleet, under the command of Admiral H. E. YARNELL, visited Singapore on the 16th November and remained until the 23rd November. Their arrival coincided with the visit of a Dutch naval squadron under the command of Commodore C. E. L. HELFRICH, which left on the 16th November. The German cruiser "Emden" commanded by Captain W. LOHMANN arrived at Singapore on the 11th December, and stayed until the 20th December. Her presence here evoked much interest, as she was the first German warship to visit Malaya since her famous predecessor's exploit at Penang in the early days of the Great War. The visit coincided with the proclamation of H. M. KING GEORGE VI. and in honour of the occasion the Emden fired a salute and her Commanding Officer was present at the proclamation ceremony.

New Year Honours contained the following awards:—

K.B.E. (Civil Division).—Mr. SONG ONG SIANG, C.B.E., V.D., M.A., LL.M.

M.B.E. (Civil Division)—Miss GERTRUDE OWEN.

M.B.E. (Military Division)—C.S.M. JOHN RHYS DANSON, D.C.M.

M.B.E. (Military Division)—Captain MOHAMED ALI BIN MAIDIN.

Medal of the O.B.E. (Military Division)—C.Q.M.S. H. A. L. ORCHARD.

Birthday Honours contained the following awards :—

Knight Bachelor—Mr. JOHN BAGNALL.

C.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. GEORGE PRESTON BRADNEY.

O.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. HORACE WALTER RAPER.

M.B.E. (Military Division)—Captain TAN SENG TEE.

Imperial Service Order—Captain NOOR MOHAMED HASHIM.

Honorary O.B.E. (Civil Division)—Reverend Mother TARCISIUS.

A. S. SMALL,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, 12*th July*, 1937.

APPENDIX "A"

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Dominions Office and Colonial Office List	35/-	Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London.
Blue Book (Straits Settlements)	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Annual Departmental Reports (Straits Settlements) ..	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Census Report, British Malaya, 1931	$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
Malayan Year Book, 1936 ..	$1.50 3/6	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore. The Malay States Agency, London.
Report by the Rt. Hon'ble W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit to Malaya, Ceylon and Java, 1928 ..	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 20th December, 1934 (Hartland)	2/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula (I. H. Burkill) 2 Vols. ..	30/-	The Crown Agents for the Colonies.
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50*cts.*	Dept. of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S., Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ..	Various prices	Forest Department, F.M.S. and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
The Geology of Malaya, 1931 (J. B. Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, 1925, 5 Vols. (H. N. Ridley) ..	£11-11-0	L. Reeve & Co., London.
Malayan Fishes, 1921 (C. N. Maxwell)	$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society and Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Oxford Survey of the British Empire, 1924. Vol. 2 (Editors: A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth)	15/-	Oxford University Press, London.
One Hundred Years of Singapore, 1921, 2 Vols. (General Editors: W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke, and R. St. J. Braddell) ..	out of print	John Murray, London.
One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore, 1923. (Sir Ong Siang Song)	30/-	John Murray, London.
Handbook to British Malaya, 1935 (R. L. German) ..	2/6	J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London.

APPENDIX "A"—*continued*

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—*continued*

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Historical Geography of British Dominions, Vol. 1. (C. P. Lucas)	not sold separately	Oxford University Press, London.
A History of Malaya (Sir Richard Winstedt)	$7.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1824-1867. 1925. (L. A. Mills)	$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1929. (Sir F. A. Swettenham)	12/6	J. Lane, London.
Papers on Malay Subjects. (Incidents of Malay life, Law, etc. Ed. by R. J. Wilkinson) ..	$1 each	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S. S.
Malaya. The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, 1923. Sir Richard Winstedt)	12/6	Constable & Co., London.
Report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya, 1932, 3 Vols. ..	$12	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to Malaya, 1932	50 *cts.*	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934, Vol. I	$5	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934, Vol. IV. (Appendices)	$10	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.

APPENDIX "B"

TABLE I

EXCESS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, DURING THE YEAR, 1936

Race	By Sea							By Air			By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
Europeans ...	2,073	849	7	13	34	...	1	18	− 24	2	−281	− 6	9	78	2,773
Eurasians ...	43	17	...	7	4	...	...	...	...	...	− 8	− 3	14	− 4	70
Japanese ...	342	24	..	8	...	...	...	25	− 2	...	4	2	17	9	429
Chinese ...	67,730	8,569	...	356	− 2,165	...	1	18	5	1	1,317	288	−1,093	775	75,801
Malays ...	1,664	− 1,016	...	153	17	− 10	1	4	− 1	...	182	− 5,402	−717	799	− 4,326
Northern Indians ...	783	1,273	11	5	− 86	...	...	8	...	...	257	− 154	− 42	6	2,061
Southern Indians ...	5,600	3,978	...	42	− 1,698	...	...	...	1	...	− 35	19	18	− 16	7,909
Others ...	510	− 1,168	...	− 62	21	...	2	− 1	...	...	223	− 2,058	− 6	631	− 1,908
Total ...	78,745	12,526	18	522	− 3,873	− 10	5	72	− 21	3	1,659	− 7,314	−1,801	2,278	82,809

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1935 AND FOR THE YEAR, 1936 ARE:—

	By Sea							By Air			By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
1935	96,134	21,471	3	533	12,363	42	– 5	– 28	2	– 13	1,446	–9,917	963	2,212	125,206
1936:—															
January ...	4,205	– 396	...	34	– 1,213	...	...	– 6	3	...	742	– 52	125	740	4,182
February ...	4,034	– 375	...	27	– 987	– 10	4	– 10	– 3	2	68	3,753	212	39	6,754
March ...	9,244	485	2	59	– 970	...	– 1	0	9	1	– 296	– 4,854	– 376	– 196	3,107
April ...	6,002	1,048	3	144	– 714	...	...	34	– 1	...	– 77	– 97	– 378	54	6,018
May ...	6,204	1,095	...	108	– 50	...	...	15	2	...	5	695	– 142	236	8,168
June ...	7,971	1,961	2	6	– 165	...	...	29	0	...	– 108	– 1,016	– 219	111	8,572
July ...	6,545	1,727	2	– 89	– 179	...	...	5	– 9	...	178	2,396	– 295	116	10,397
August ...	4,963	481	5	38	– 386	.	1	11	– 2	...	95	– 307	– 53	199	5,045
September ...	8,159	2,545	0	– 69	160	...	...	2	– 4	...	126	– 675	– 278	219	10,185
October ...	6,258	2,104	– 1	77	331	...	2	3	– 8	...	512	– 773	– 152	208	8,561
November ...	8,472	1,086	...	97	103	...	...	2	– 9	...	– 103	– 649	– 113	136	9,022
December ...	6,688	765	5	90	197	...	– 1	– 13	1	...	517	– 5,735	– 132	416	2,798
Total ...	78,745	12,526	18	522	– 3,873	– 10	5	72	– 21	3	1,659	– 7,314	– 1,801	2,278	82,809

TABLE III

Arrivals and Departures of Passengers by Sea, Land and Air, by Countries of Origin and Destination, during the Year, 1936

ARRIVALS FROM

BY SEA

Race	The Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	4,437	2,35[illegible]	522	455	7,766	2,200	916	70	57	3,243	1,108	676	59	57	1,900
Eurasians ...	274	274	5	5	558	8	10	1	...	19	35	36	1	4	76
Japanese ...	585	101	55	34	775	91	19	4	2	116	93	14	3	3	113
Chinese ...	50,912	8,850	4,040	2,756	66,558	78,050	51,522	14,535	10,602	154,709	491	145	53	43	732
Malays (5) ...	20,953	7,981	3,731	2,966	35,631	16	7	1	1	25	249	34	10	12	305
Northern Indians ...	2,279	210	122	117	2,728	184	19	15	11	229	8,855	1,455	816	552	11,678
Southern Indians (6)	1,886	89	89	54	2,118	23	9	11	8	51	37,407	5,991	4,529	2,604	50,531
Others ...	484	63	31	24	602	24	3	...	...	27	151	62	16	14	243
Total ...	81,810	19,920	8,595	6,411	116,736	80,596	52,505	14,637	10,681	158,419	48,389	8,413	5,487	3,289	65,578

BY SEA

Race	Siam					Other Countries					Total				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	487	199	22	27	735	8,650	5,056	859	746	15,311	15,882	9,199	1,532	1,342	28,955
Eurasians ...	5	4	5	4	18	51	34	5	8	98	373	358	17	21	769
Japanese ...	48	4	2	1	55	1,089	340	89	93	1,611	1,906	478	153	133	2,670
Chinese ...	1,224	264	282	126	1,896	7,797	1,760	671	495	10,723	138,474	62,541	19,581	14,022	234,618
Malays ...	52	15	6	13	86	2,337	990	337	220	3,884	23,607	9,027	4,085	3,212	39,931
Northern Indians ...	113	10	1	10	134	712	49	37	31	829	12,143	1,743	991	721	15,598
Southern Indians	92	4	2	1	99	405	37	20	19	481	39,813	6,130	4,651	2,686	53,280
Others ...	131	153	30	33	347	1,130	198	90	27	1,445	1,920	479	167	98	2,664
Total ...	2,152	653	350	215	3,370	22,171	8,464	2,108	1,639	34,382	235,118	89,955	31,177	22,235	378,485

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1936

ARRIVALS FROM

Race	BY AIR — Foreign Countries					BY LAND — Siam					Grand Total				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	679	138	17	2	836	1,227	395	29	22	1,673	18,788	9,732	1,576	1,366	31,464
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	91	76	14	12	193	464	434	31	33	962
Japanese ...	47	2	1	...	50	145	13	3	2	163	2,098	493	157	135	2,883
Chinese ...	60	4	...	...	64	35,651	6,879	3,291	1,796	47,617	174,185	69,424	22,872	15,818	282,299
Malays ...	2	3	...	1	6	41,789	20,311	5,380	3,370	70,850	65,398	29,341	9,465	6,583	110,787
Northern Indians ...	14	...	...	...	14	2,285	151	113	38	2,587	14,442	1,894	1,104	759	18,199
Southern Indians ...	1	...	...	...	1	2,099	64	29	9	2,201	41,913	6,194	4,680	2,695	55,482
Others ...	7	1	...	...	8	10,857	6,375	2,385	1,256	20,873	12,784	6,855	2,552	1,354	23,545
Total ...	810	148	18	3	979	94,144	34,264	11,244	6,505	146,157	330,072	124,367	42,439	28,743	525,621

DEPARTURES TO

Race	BY SEA — The Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	4,675	2,463	446	448	8,032	1,471	917	86	57	2,531	1,164	810	61	55	2,090
Eurasians ..	255	265	3	4	527	5	6	...	...	11	26	40	6	4	76
Japanese ...	444	47	27	18	536	60	6	...	3	69	97	19	9	4	129
Chinese ...	49,404	8,274	2,981	1,800	62,459	50,254	18,589	9,589	6,475	84,907	553	137	36	23	749
Malays (5) ...	20,146	6,784	2,885	2,416	32,231	45	...	.	...	45	169	5	2	3	179
Northern Indians ...	2,014	159	85	38	2,296	79	3	1	1	84	8,206	1,109	723	468	10,506
Southern Indians (6)	1,521	63	49	21	1,654	51	4	3	2	60	31,913	7,125	2,462	1,593	43,093
Others ...	609	56	41	19	725	35	4	...	...	39	882	166	82	51	1,181
Total ...	79,068	18,111	6,517	4,764	108,460	52,000	19,529	9,679	6,538	87,746	43,010	9,411	3,381	2,201	58,003

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1936

DEPARTURES TO

Race	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	521	194	19	23	757	6,714	4,246	868	740	12,568	14,545	8,630	1,480	1,323	25,978
Eurasians ...	10	6	1	5	22	40	14	5	3	62	336	331	15	16	698
Japanese ...	41	1	...	...	42	882	360	145	133	1,520	1,524	433	181	158	2,296
Chinese ...	1,192	275	303	109	1,879	7,046	2,191	520	376	10,133	108,449	29,466	13,429	8,783	160,127
Malays ...	36	14	3	5	58	3,865	1,788	565	391	6,609	24,261	8,591	3,455	2,815	39,122
Northern Indians ...	149	12	13	0	184	455	48	27	12	542	10,903	1,331	849	529	13,612
Southern Indians	86	15	9	9	119	336	60	23	13	432	33,907	7,267	2,546	1,638	45,358
Others ...	178	233	65	58	534	669	99	82	32	882	2,373	558	270	160	3,361
Total ...	2,213	750	413	219	3,595	20,007	8,806	2,235	1,700	32,748	196,298	56,607	22,225	15,422	290,552

Race	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	689	143	4	4	840	1,311	544	17	1	1,873	16,545	9,317	1,501	1,328	28,691
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	88	85	14	7	194	424	416	29	23	892
Japanese ...	27	...	...	...	27	127	3	1	...	131	1,678	436	182	158	2,454
Chinese ...	35	4	1	...	40	34,964	6,744	2,946	1,677	46,331	143,448	36,214	16,376	10,460	206,498
Malays ...	1	2	...	...	3	45,012	21,175	6,012	3,789	75,988	69,274	29,768	9,467	6,604	115,113
Northern Indians ...	6	...	...	...	6	2,299	111	87	23	2,520	13,208	1,442	936	552	16,138
Southern Indians ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,085	66	49	15	2,215	35,992	7,333	2,595	1,653	47,573
Others ...	7	2	...	...	9	12,093	6,512	2,158	1,320	22,083	14,473	7,072	2,428	1,480	25,453
Total ...	765	151	5	4	925	97,979	35,240	11,284	6,832	151,335	295,042	91,998	33,514	22,258	442,812

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1936

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

Race	BY SEA														
	THE NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1)		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans (4) ...	− 238	− 111	76	7	− 266	729	− 1	− 16	0	712	− 56	− 134	− 2	2	− 190
Eurasians	19	9	2	1	31	3	4	1	...	8	9	− 4	− 5	0	0
Japanese	141	54	28	16	239	31	13	4	− 1	47	− 4	− 5	− 6	− 1	− 16
Chinese	1,508	576	1,059	956	4,099	27,796	32,933	4,946	4,127	69,802	− 62	8	17	20	− 17
Malays (5) ...	807	1,197	846	550	3,400	− 29	7	1	1	− 20	80	29	8	9	126
Northern Indians ...	26[illegible]	51	37	79	432	105	16	14	10	145	649	346	93	84	1,172
Southern Indians (6)	365	26	40	33	464	− 28	5	8	6	− 9	5,494	− 1,134	2,067	1,011	7,438
Others	− 125	7	− 10	5	− 123	− 11	− 1	...	...	− 12	− 731	− 104	− 66	− 37	− 938
Total ...	2,742	1,809	2,078	1,647	8,276	28,596	32,976	4,958	4,143	70,673	5,379	− 998	2,106	1,088	7,575

Race	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans ...	− 34	5	3	4	− 22	1,936	810	− 9	6	2,743	2,337	569	52	19	2,977
Eurasians	− 5	− 2	4	− 1	− 4	11	20	0	5	36	37	27	2	5	71
Japanese	7	3	2	1	13	207	− 20	− 56	− 40	91	382	45	− 28	− 25	374
Chinese	32	− 11	− 21	17	17	751	− 431	151	119	590	30,025	33,075	6,152	5,239	74,491
Malays	16	1	3	8	28	− 1,528	− 798	− 228	− 171	− 2,725	− 654	436	630	397	809
Northern Indians ...	− 36	− 2	− 12	0	− 50	257	1	10	19	287	1,240	412	142	192	1,986
Southern Indians ...	6	− 11	− 7	− 8	− 20	69	− 23	− 3	6	49	5,906	− 1,137	2,105	1,048	7,922
Others ...	− 47	− 80	− 35	− 25	− 187	461	99	8	− 5	563	− 453	− 79	− 103	− 62	− 697
Total ...	− 61	− 97	− 63	− 4	− 225	2,164	− 342	− 127	− 61	1,634	38,820	33,348	8,952	6,813	87,933

TABLE III—*concluded*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1936

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

Race	BY AIR — Foreign Countries					BY LAND — Siam					Grand Total (7) (8)				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans	− 10	− 5	13	− 2	− 4	− 84	− 149	12	21	− 200	2,243	415	77	38	2,773
Eurasians	...	...	.	...	...	3	− 9	0	5	− 1	40	18	2	10	70
Japanese	20	2	1	...	23	18	10	2	2	32	420	57	− 25	− 23	429
Chinese	25	0	− 1	...	24	687	135	345	119	1,286	30,737	33,210	6,496	5,358	75,801
Malays	1	1	...	1	3	− 3,223	− 864	− 632	− 419	− 5,138	− 3,876	− 427	− 2	− 21	− 4,326
Northern Indians ...	8	...	...	...	8	− 14	40	26	15	67	1,234	452	168	207	2,061
Southern Indians ...	1	...	...	...	1	14	− 2	− 20	− 6	− 14	5,921	− 1,139	2,085	1,042	7,909
Others	0	− 1	...	...	− 1	− 1,236	− 137	227	− 64	− 1,210	− 1,689	− 217	124	− 126	− 1,908
Total ...	45	− 3	13	− 1	54	− 3,835	− 976	− 40	− 327	− 5,178	35,030	32,369	8,925	6,485	82,809

Notes:—

1. Children are under 12 (English) years of age.
2. China includes Hong Kong.
3. India includes Burma and Ceylon.
4. Europeans include Americans.
5. Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago.
6. Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore.
7. For movements *viâ* individual ports or land-routes, *see* monthly Return Statistics 3; for movements of deck passengers (Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indians) *see* monthly Return Statistics 13.
8. Net Arrivals, 1936: 82,809.
   Net Arrivals, 1935: 125,206.

TABLE IV

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE, JAVANESE AND SOUTHERN INDIAN DECK PASSENGERS DURING THE YEAR, 1936

Race	Singapore		Penang		Port Swettenham		Total		Net Arrivals during the year	Net Arrivals for the Years 1934 and 1935	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures		1934	1935
1. Chinese from and to China including Hongkong *(a)* ...	131,003	66,532	18,816	11,927	3	2,119	149,822	80,578	69,244	41,138	76,828
2. Javanese from and to Java *(b)* ...	66	28	...	...	...	...	66	28	38	– 459	– 6
3. Southern Indians from and to Presidency of Madras *(c)* ...	13,542	9,698	20,275	18,088	9,219	11,897	43,036	39,683	3,353	61,845	27,168
Total ...	144,611	76,258	39,091	30,015	9,222	14,016	192,924	120,289	72,635	102,524	103,990

(a) For Chinese: all deck passengers by all steamers.

(b) For Javanese: all labourers recruited for Malayan estates as reported by recruiting agencies and the Labour Department at Singapore.

(c) For Southern Indians: all deck passengers embarked and disembarked by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers between Malayan Ports and Madras as reported by the Labour Department.

TABLE V

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE DECK PASSENGERS FROM AND TO CHINA DURING THE YEAR, 1936

Port	Arrivals				Departures				Total Arrivals		Total Departures	
	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	1935	1936	1935	1936
Singapore	66,178	43,662	12,307	8,856	40,550	14,280	7,007	4,695	136,059	131,003	59,535	66,532
Penang	9,001	6,674	1,770	1,371	5,969	2,677	1,895	1,386	9,640	18,816	7,912	11,927
Port Swettenham ...	2	...	1	...	1,263	423	274	159	154	3	1,578	2,119
Total ...	75,181	50,336	14,078	10,227	47,782	17,380	9,176	6,240	145,853	149,822	69,025	80,578

(a) Under 12 (English) years of age

APPENDIX "C"

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1936

Nationality	SINGAPORE						PENANG					
	MERCHANT VESSELS				MEN-OF-WAR		MERCHANT VESSELS				MEN-OF-WAR	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	4,477	9,979,292	..	..	57	259,930	2,768	7,842,669	..	..	30	67,190
American ..	76	391,146	..	..	24	54,306	75	397,291	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	188	109,658	..	..	..	..	14	20,978	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	192	659,040	..	..	..	..	92	358,228	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	4,305	6,891,127	..	..	10	34,576	1,116	1,422,085	..	..	..	..
French ..	378	1,763,261	..	..	6	24,800	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	341	1,758,300	..	..	2	12,000	206	1,182,326	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	27	82,392	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	120	726,014	..	..	..	..	8	29,376	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	1,313	5,536,092	..	..	2	1,756	392	1,713,704	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	1,072	1,882,127	..	..	..	..	222	355,086	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	2	10,566	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	38	68,498	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	171	87,828	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	302	181,369	..	..	6	3,260	..	..	..	..	4	1,916
Swedish ..	61	232,715	..	..	..	..	22	81,282	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian ..	2	7,086	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	13,065	30,366,511	35,397	1,324,796	107	390,628	4,915	13,403,025	11,407	519,735	34	69,106
± 1935 ..	−530	+111,085	+2,217	+54,667	+17	+33,738	+81	+496,775	−569	−22,543	−34	−26,396

APPENDIX "C"—*continued*

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1936

Nationality	MALACCA						LABUAN					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	602	692,124	..	..	..	..	254	233,995	..	..	8	45,324
American ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belgian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	48	19,512	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	66	266,104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	30	89,406	..	..	..	..	4	1,512	..	..	..	..
Finnish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	2	18,800	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	26	123,538	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	182	147,910	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	692	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	10	7,880	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spanish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	966	1,365,274	5,749	111,895	..	..	262	236,199	2,835	35,950	8	45,324
± 1935 ..	−54	−43,646	+262	−8,216	−1	−9,750	−24	−6,067	−146	+3,648	+2	+21,332

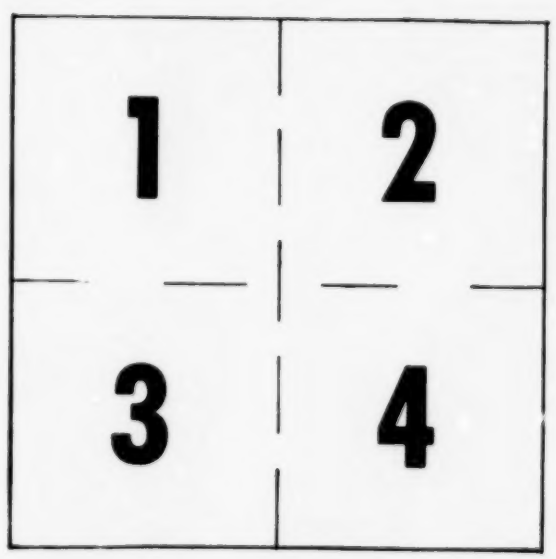
Note.—To the above figures must be added:—

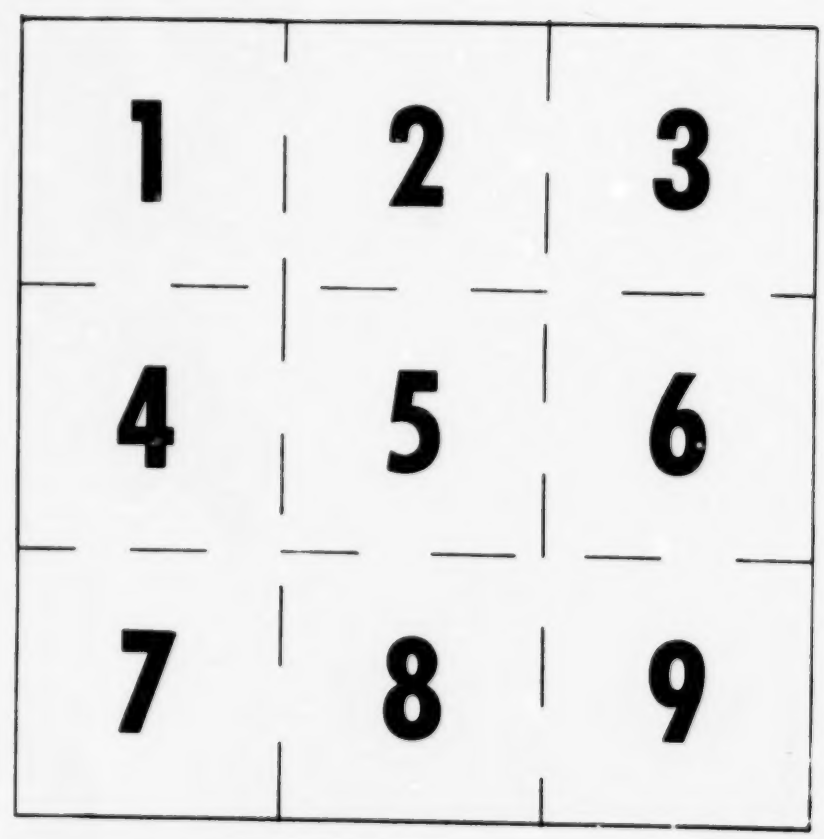
(*a*) Christmas Island: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1936 was 169,885 tons—an increase of 22,888 tons. (Including Men-of-War 10,000 tons).

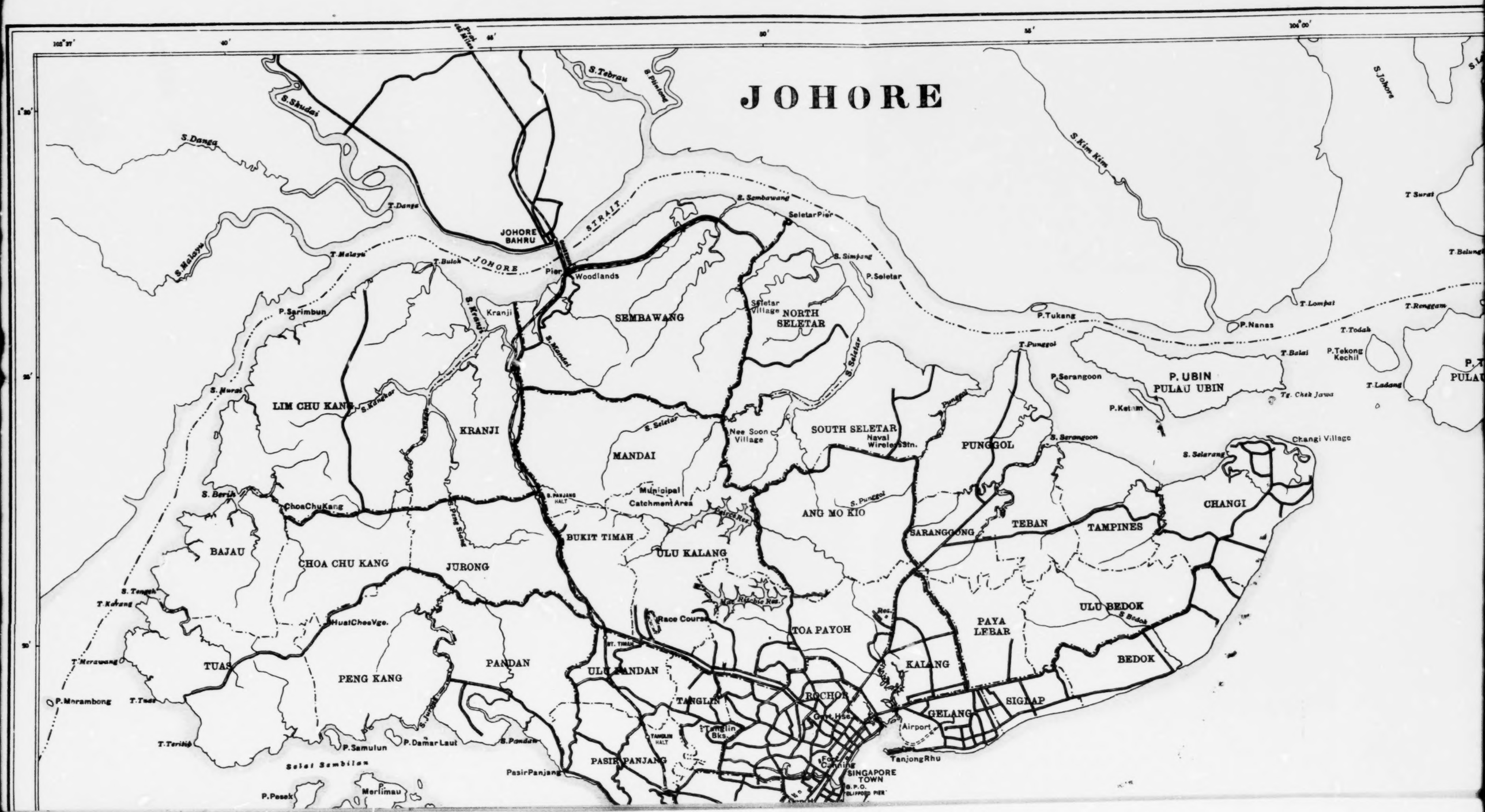
The total tonnage of vessels arrived and departed at the Straits Settlements ports during the year 1936 was 48,038,328 tons or an increase of 627,515 tons as compared with the year, 1935. This comprised (*a*) merchant vessels 47,523,270 tons of which

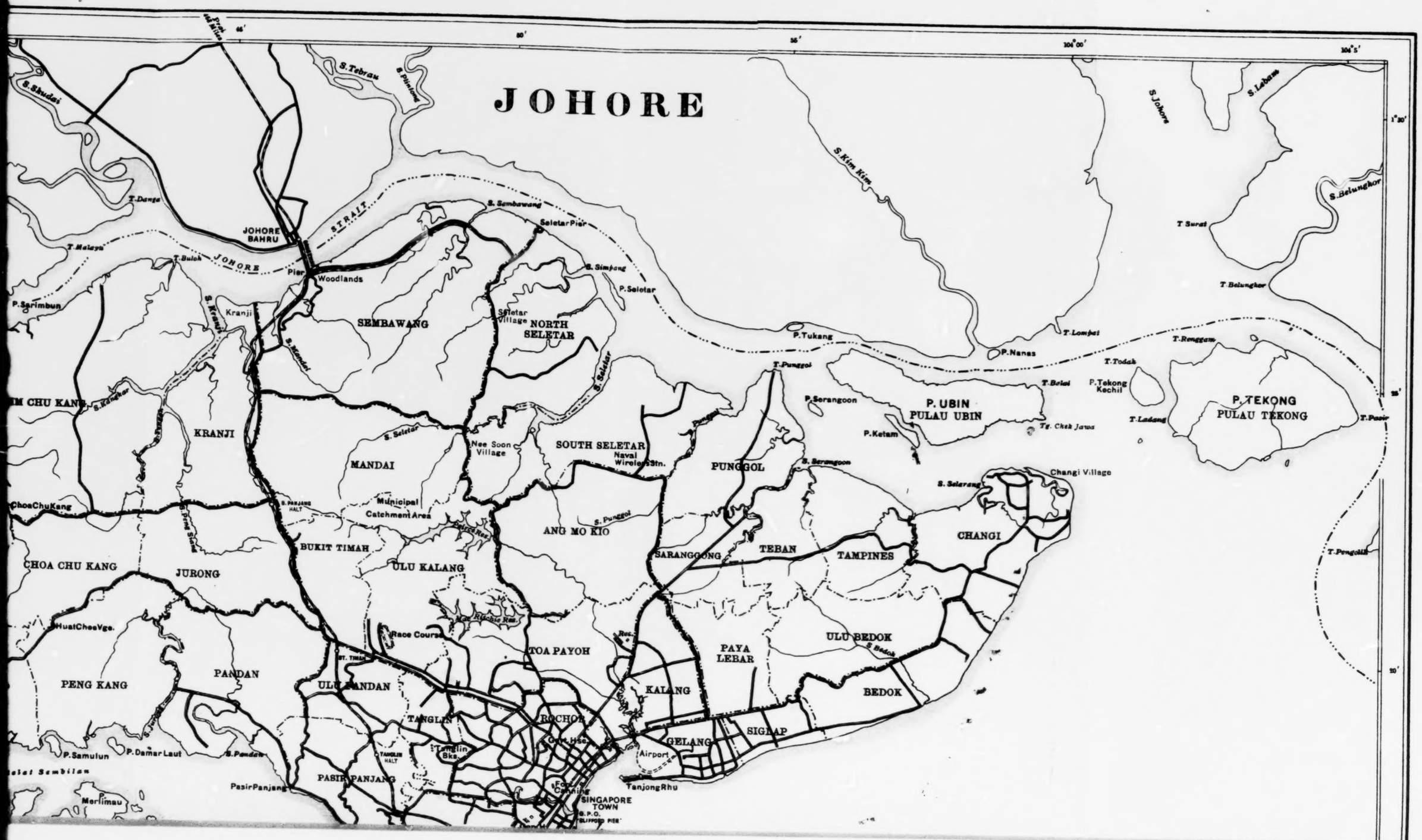
(i) over 75 tons ... ... 45,530,894 tons
(ii) 75 tons and under and native craft ... 1,992,376 tons
(*b*) warships ... ... 515,058 tons

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.






JOHORE
JOHORE BAHRU
STRAIT
JOHORE
Pier
Woodlands
Kranji
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
Seletar Village
Seletar Pier
S. Sembawang
S. Simpang
P. Seletar
S. Tebrau
S. Pisang
S. Skudai
S. Danga
T. Danga
S. Malayu
T. Malayu
T. Bulok
S. Kranji
P. Sarimbun
S. Mandai
S. Seletar
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
T. Surat
T. Belung
T. Lompat
T. Renggam
T. Todak
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
T. Ladang
P. Nanas
P. Tukang
T. Punggol
P. Serangoon
P. UBIN
PULAU UBIN
P. Ketam
Tg. Chek Jawa
S. Serangoon
S. Selarang
Changi Village
CHANGI
TAMPINES
TEBAN
SARANGOONG
PUNGGOL
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
Nee Soon Village
ANG MO KIO
S. Punggol
MANDAI
Municipal Catchment Area
S. Seletar
LIM CHU KANG
S. Kesekar
KRANJI
S. Berih
ChoaChuKang
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
S. Tengah
T. Kelang
HualChoaVge.
Race Course
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
BEDOK
T. Merawang
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
P. Merambong
T. Tuas
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
Govt. Hse.
GELANG
SIGLAP
Airport
Tanglin Bks.
T. Teriteh
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
Selat Sembilan
PASIR PANJANG
Fort Canning
SINGAPORE TOWN
G.P.O. (CLIFFORD PIER)
TanjongRhu
PasirPanjang
P. Pesek
Merlimau


JOHORE
S. Skudai
S. Tebrau
S. Plentong
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
S. Labam
S. Belunghor
T. Dangu
T. Malayu
T. Bulok
JOHORE
STRAIT
JOHORE BAHRU
Pier
Woodlands
S. Sembawang
Seletar Pier
S. Simpang
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T. Surat
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Tg. Chek Jawa
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T. Pengalih
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SARANGOONG
TEBAN
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CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
Race Course
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
BEDOK
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
SIGLAP
GELANG
Airport
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
Tanglin Bks.
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang
Tanjong Rhu
SINGAPORE TOWN
G.P.O.
Merlimau

SINGAPORE
1936
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Yards, 3000
0
2
4
6
GOVERNMENT COPYRIGHT IS RESERVED
REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
ST. TIMAH
Municipal Boundary
Mukim ,,
State ,,
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
SOUTH SELETAR
PUNGGOL
P. UBIN
PULAU UBIN
CHANGI
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
ANG MO KIO
SARANGOONG
TEBAN
TAMPINES
TUAS
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
KALANG
BEDOK
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
GELANG
SIGLAP
PASIR PANJANG
SINGAPORE TOWN
TELOK BLANGA
Selat Sembilan
Selat Pandan
Nee Soon Village
Municipal Catchment Area
Race Course
Airport
Tanjong Rhu
Changi Village
Keppel Harbour
Cyrene Shoal
Outer Shoal
P.Merambong
P.Samulun
P.Damar Laut
P.Pesek
Merlimau
P.Seraya
P.Ayer Chawan
P.Ayer Merbau
P.Sakra
P.Brani
P.Bukum Mati
P.Busing
P.Bukum
P.Sakijang Bendera or St.John's Island
P.Sakijang Pelepah
Quarantine Station
P.Semakau
P.Sudong
P.Sebarok
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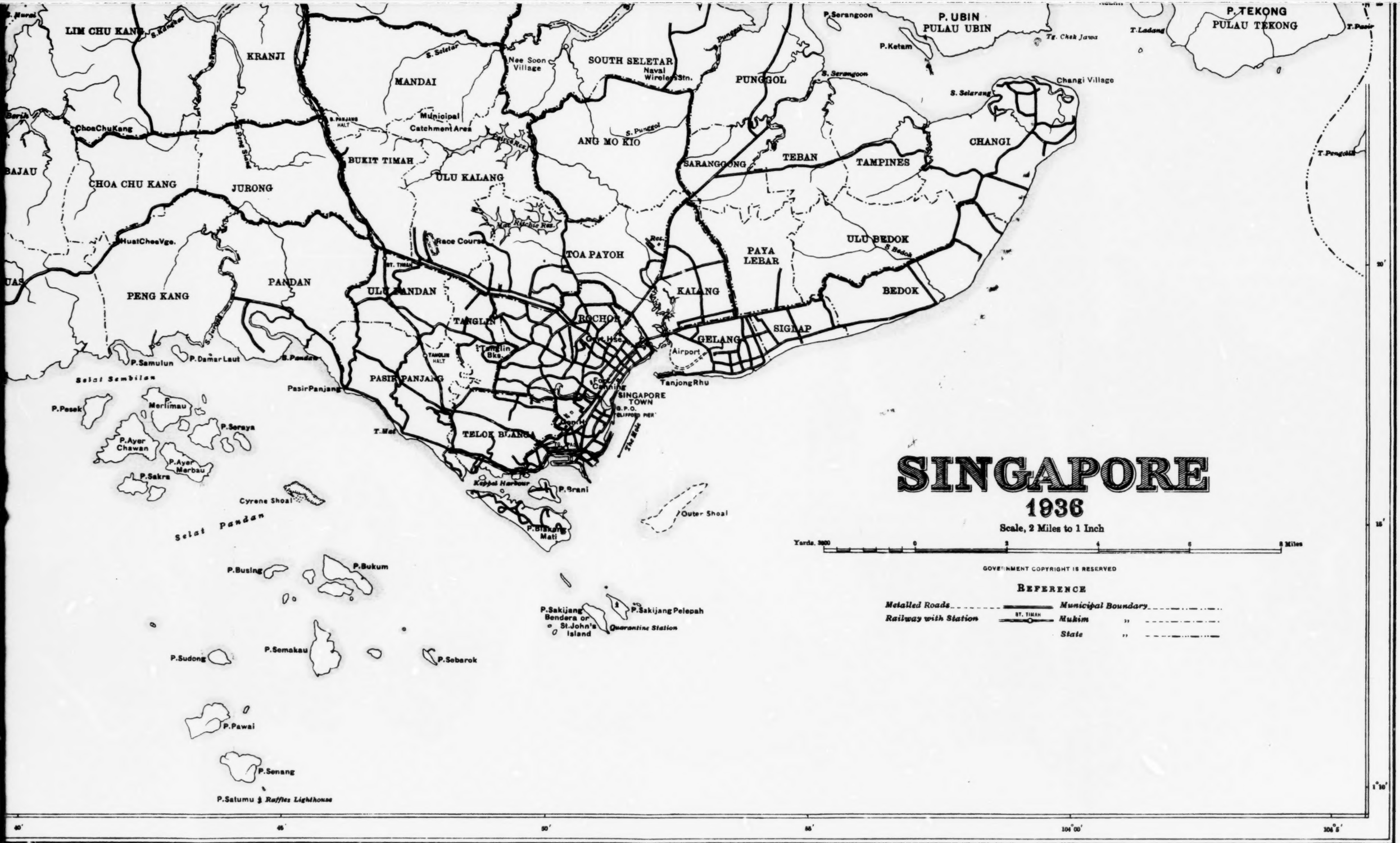
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AND
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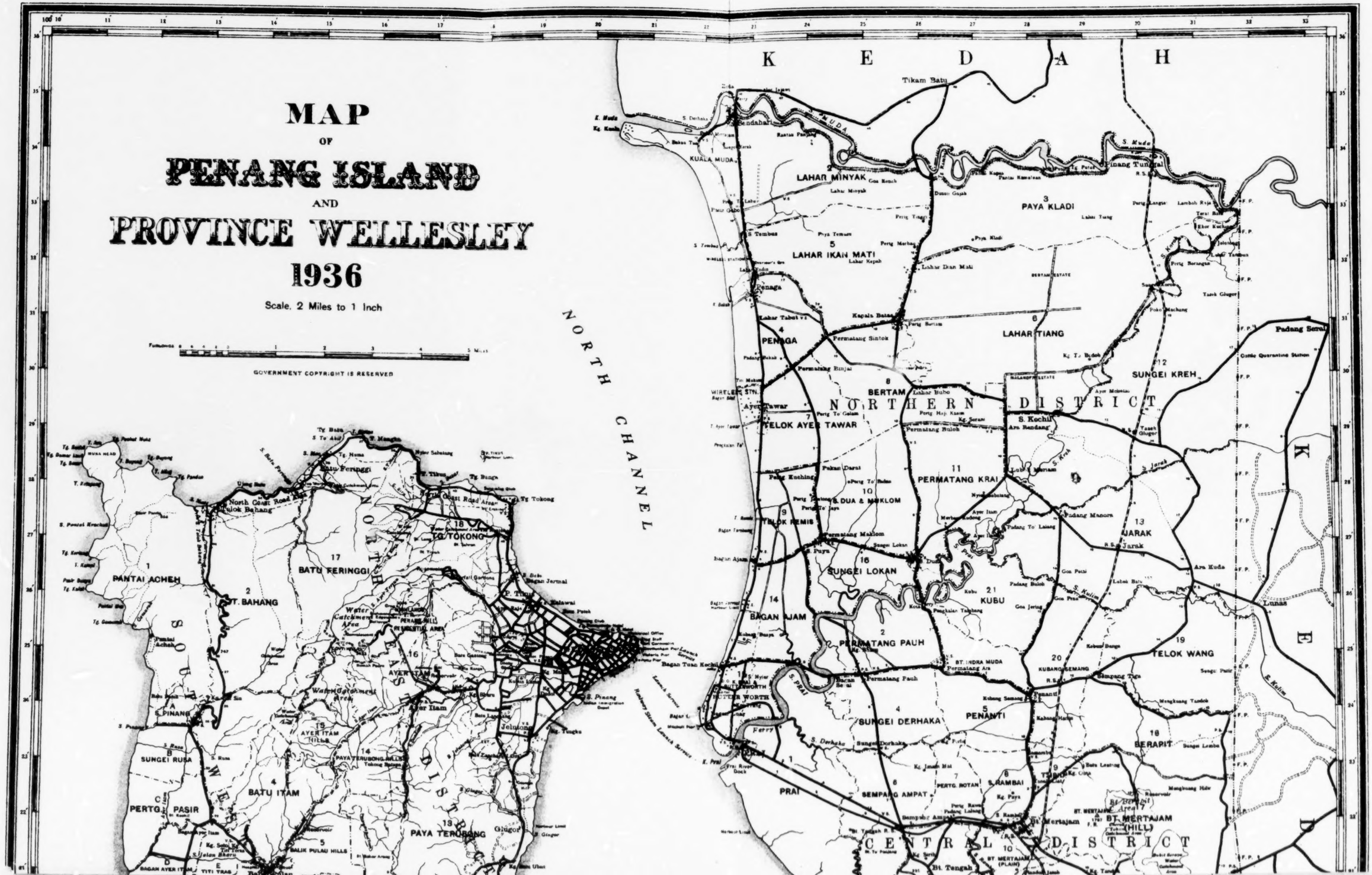

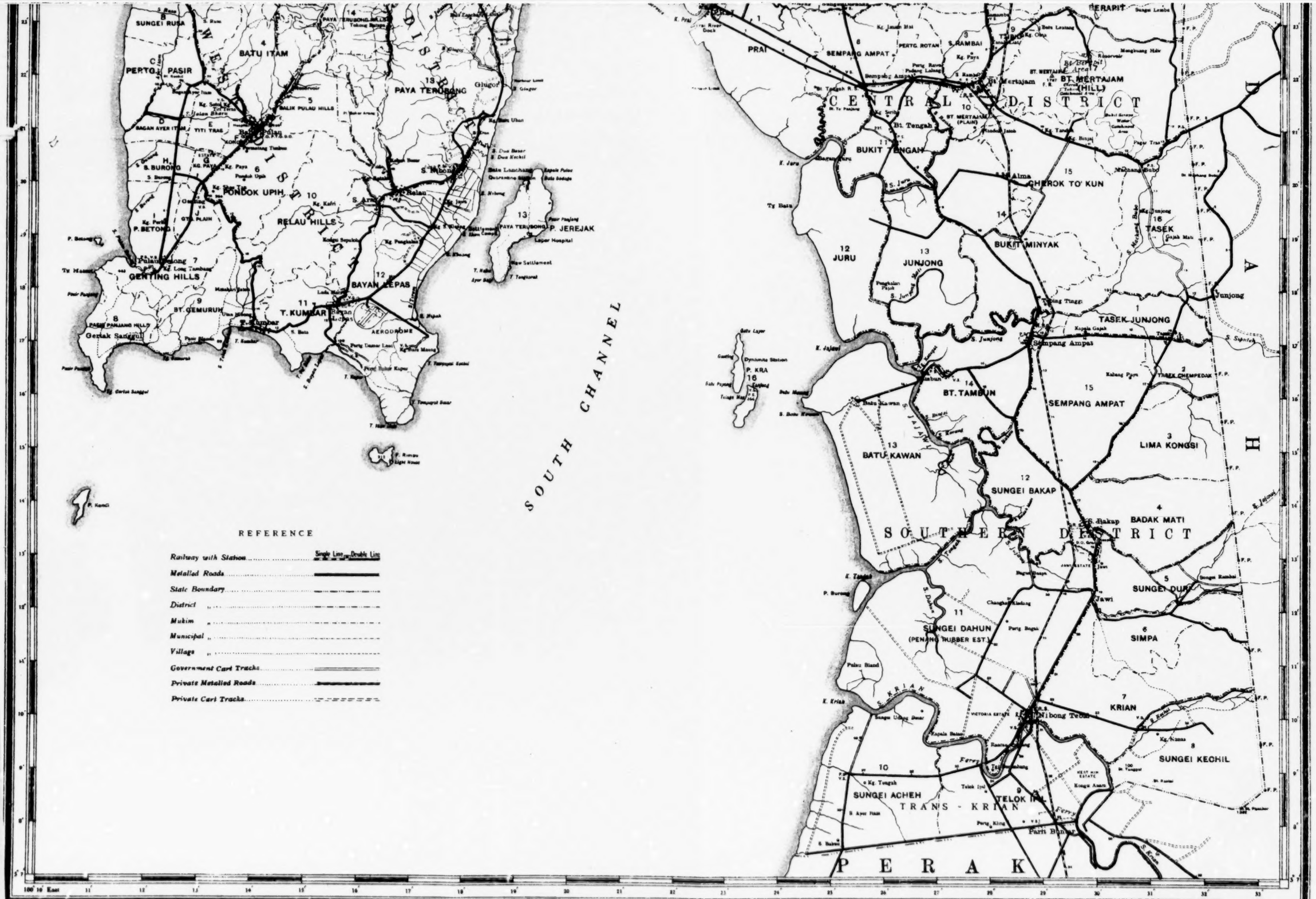
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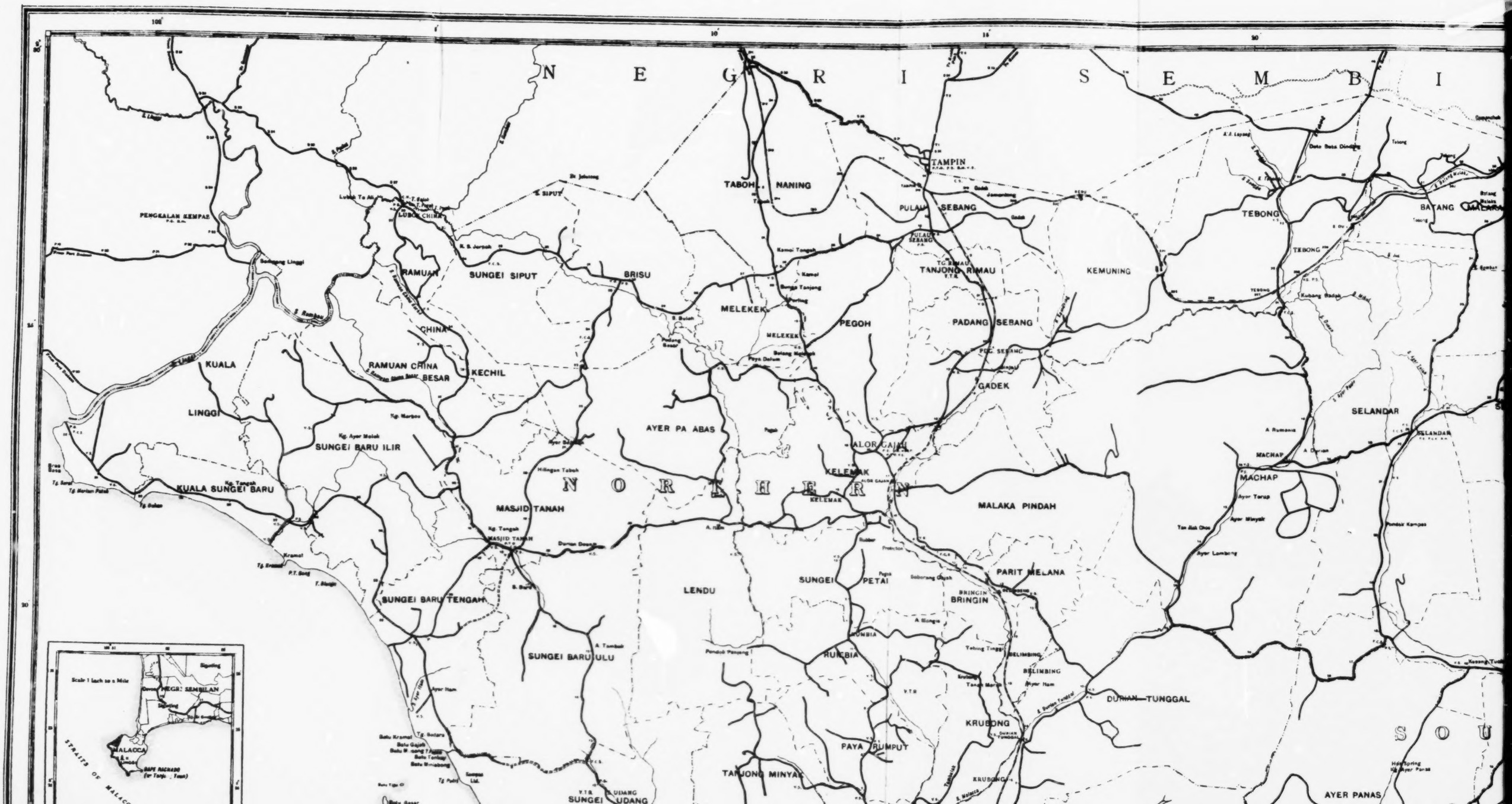
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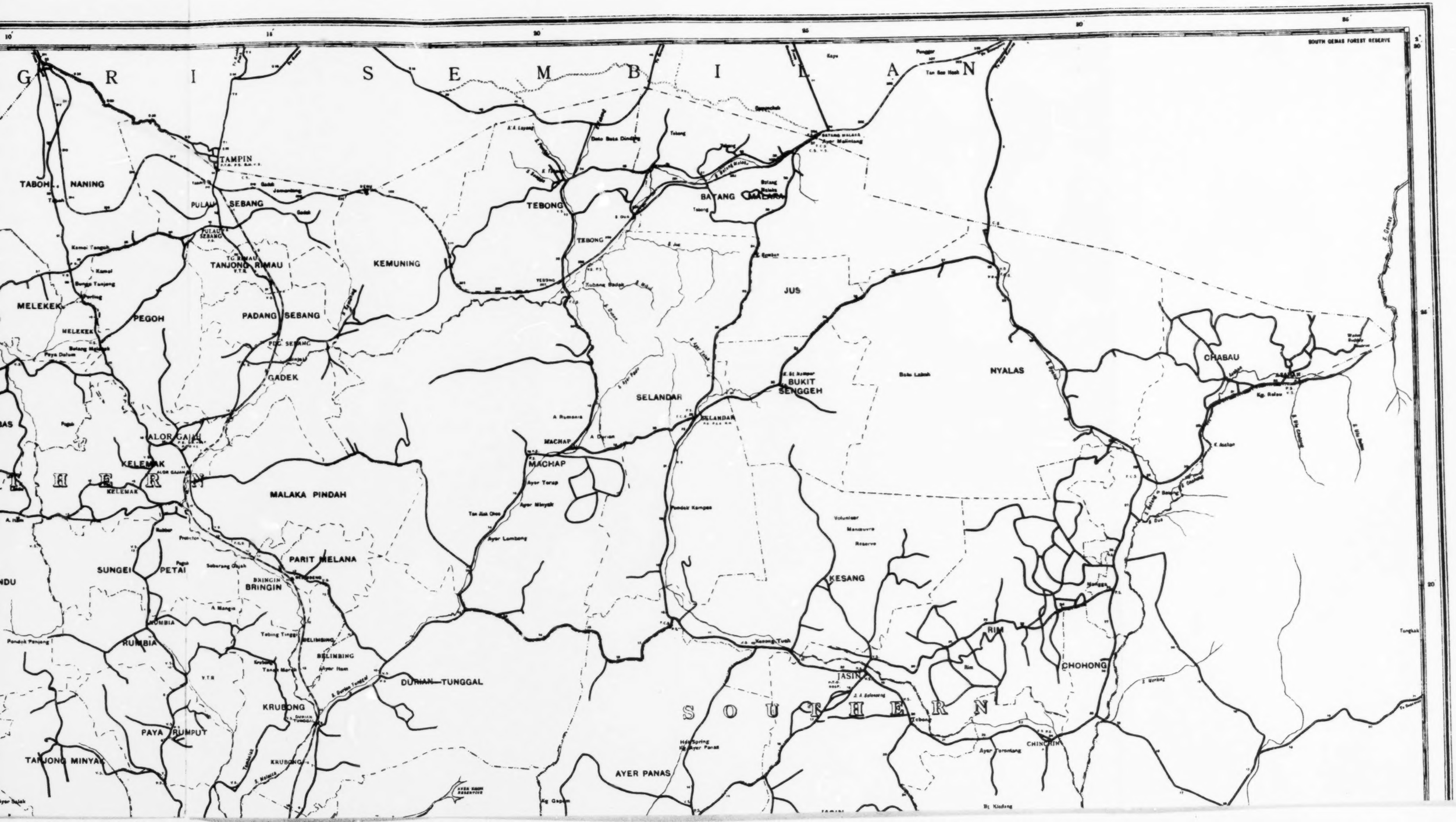
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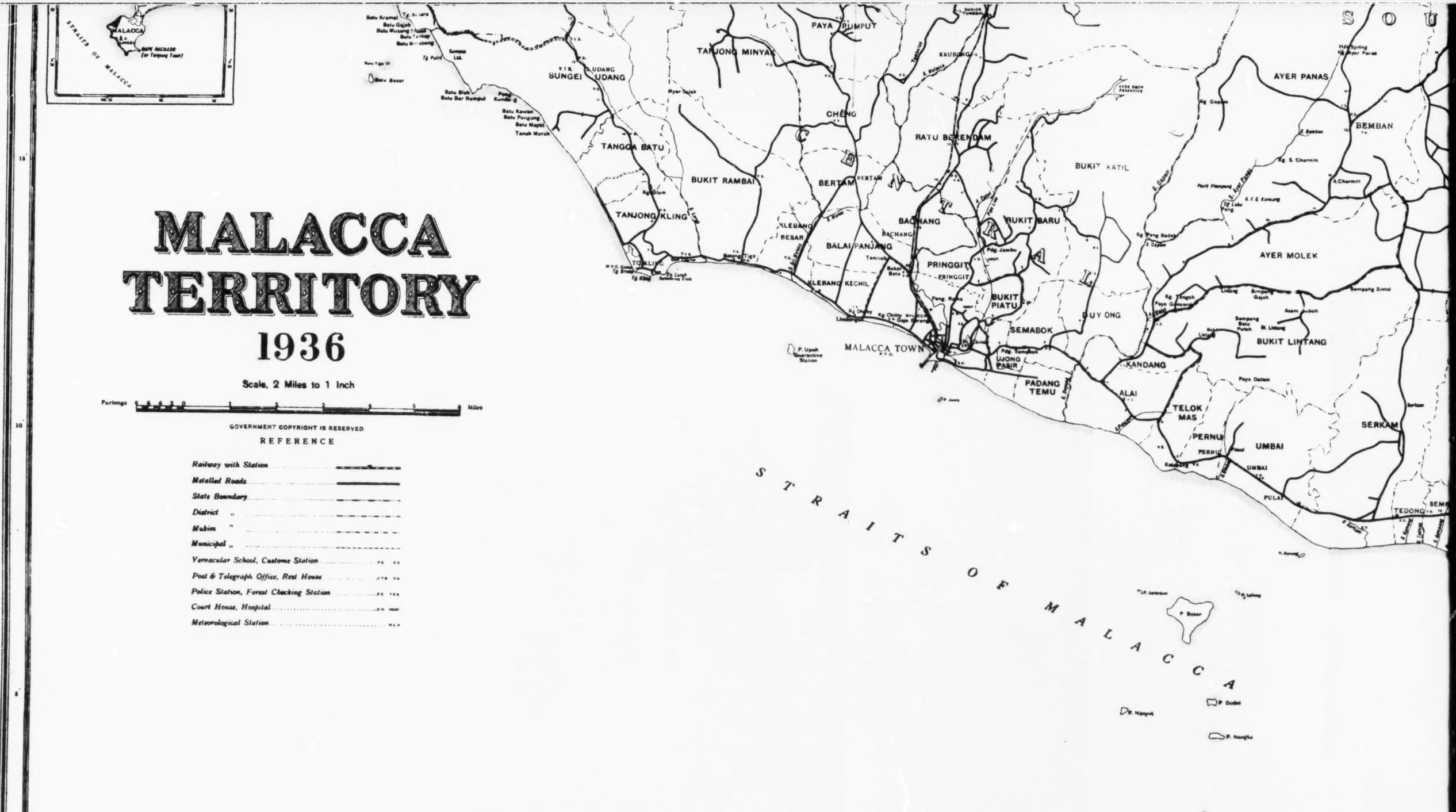

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BANDAR

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CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, and about 217 square miles in area. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore which also form part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 60 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime. It is largely undeveloped.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, a group of 27 small coral islands, lie about 700 miles south west of Batavia. The largest is five miles long and ¼ mile wide. Only two, "Home" and "Direction" Islands are regularly inhabited, the latter by the staff of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, which maintains a cable station there. Home Island houses the labour force for working the large coconut plantations on the Islands. The only export is copra.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, and about 108 square miles in area. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait varying in width from 2 to 10 miles, lies *Province Wellesley,* a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. The principal town of the province is Butterworth.

Malacca is a town situated on the west coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang. It gives its name to the Settlement of Malacca, a strip of territory about 42 miles in length and varying in breadth from 8 to 25 miles, with a total area of about 637 square miles. At one time it gave its name to the whole peninsula, which is still known to the French as the Presqu'ile de Malacca.

Labuan is an island, some 35 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria. The Settlement comprises seven smaller islands, some of them cultivated.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca, said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365 and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the great entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But, with the development of Dutch commerce in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade dwindled and it has never recovered its old commercial pre-eminence although the development of plantation rubber in the present century has restored to town and territory a large measure of prosperity.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British and remained a part of the Settlement of Penang until its retrocession to the State of Perak in February, 1935.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield first place to the port with the better strategic position and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable that trade has become large and important with the expansion of tin mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, and the development of trade with neighbouring countries.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement

there in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired the whole island for the East India Company. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal and in 1826 was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands—Captain John Clunies Ross, a Scot, first settled on the Islands in 1827, where members of his family have lived ever since. In 1857 the Islands were declared a British possession. In 1886 a perpetual grant of the lands in the Islands was made by H.M. Government to George Clunies Ross and his descendants who still work the plantations. In 1903 they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore..

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1891 a 99 years lease of the Island was granted to George Clunies Ross and John Murray, and 6 years later Christmas Island Phosphate Company was formed and took over the lease, to work the deposits of phosphate of lime. The Company pays to the S.S. Government an annual rent and a royalty on all phosphate exported.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The characteristic features of the Climate of the Straits Settlements are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures found in continental tropical areas are never experienced.

The mean temperature during 1937 was:—

Singapore (Kallang Aerodrome)	81·1°F
Penang (District Hospital)	82·1°F
Malacca (Bukit China)	79·9°F

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperature varied as follows:—

	Mean Monthly Maximum		*Mean Monthly Minimum*	
	Highest (°F)	*Lowest (°F)*	*Highest (°F)*	*Lowest (°F)*
Singapore	87·9 Mar.	85·3 Sept. Oct & Dec.	78·4 Aug.	74·2 Jan. and Dec.
Penang	91·9 Feb.	88·1 Oct.	76·0 Apr.	73·5 Jan.

The extremes of temperature (highest maximum and lowest minimum) recorded were:—

	Highest °F	*Lowest °F*
Singapore	93 17th April	70 6th January
Penang	95 22nd February	65 6th January

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.

Records for 64 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September are the dry months with between 6½ and 7 inches. Rain falls on the average on half the days in the year.

The wettest year recorded was 1913 with 135·92 inches and the driest 1888 with 63·21 inches.

Records of 50 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107½ inches, October being the wettest month with nearly 17 inches and February the driest with three inches; rain falling on the average on about 165 days in the year.

The force of the monsoon is not much felt though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz.* :—

S.W. from May to October,

N.E. from November to April.

At coastal stations, however, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The Rainfall recorded was as follows :—

	1935	*1936*	*1937*	*No. of Rainfall days in 1937*
Singapore	72·76	85·51	89·19	192
Penang	107·98	96·20	93·68	174
Malacca	95·92	92·44	96·53	195
Butterworth Hospital	91·02	94·15	83·00	115
Labuan	140·59	127·82	132·76	154

Although the days are hot, and, on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The effect of the heat and humidity, without seasonal change, is however cumulative, and after a few years a change to a bracing climate becomes imperative for Europeans if health is to be maintained.

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924, the 18th March, 1935 and the 19th July, 1937, respectively.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Financial Secretary and the Resident Councillor, Malacca, all of whom are *ex-officio* Members, together with two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed, under the

Letters Patent mentioned above and the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931, the 12th February, 1932 and the 19th July, 1937, respectively. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

The Legislative Council is constituted by the Letters Patent and the Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by its own Standing Orders. Under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, the constitution of the Legislative Council was enlarged when for the first time it contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for Signification of the Royal pleasure. The King has the right to disallow the Ordinances of the Colony.

The administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident.

The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the rural areas within the three Settlements. The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under the Municipal Ordinance which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

The method of estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements inaugurated in 1935 has been followed in 1937; the final figures being the result of calculating the excess of births over deaths and immigration over emigration, or *vice versa*, since the previous census.

On this basis it is estimated that the population of the Straits Settlements on June 30th, 1937, was 1,245,739; this figure being the population of 1936, 1,168,197 corrected by adding the excess of births over deaths, 21,884, and immigration over emigration, 55,658, to the end of the period.

The Straits Settlements also includes the Cocos and Keeling Islands and Christmas Island but this part of the Settlements is not included in the above statistics. The return of population for these islands is given for 1937 as

2,379, out of which 1,237 inhabit Christmas Island, so that the population of the Straits Settlements, further adjusted by adding the above figure, is 1,248,118.

The distribution of the different races amongst the various Settlements on June 30th, 1937, is estimated to be as shown in the following table:—

	Singapore	*Penang*	*Province Wellesley*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*	*Total*
Europeans ...	10,452	1,747	284	422	31	12,936
Eurasians ...	7,437	2,177	288	2,205	44	12,151
Malays ...	69,972	40,781	73,902	104,261	5,131	294,047
Chinese ...	455,191	131,183	48,394	71,239	2,693	708,700
Indians ...	51,740	28,347	24,996	24,085	149	129,317
Others ...	8,371	1,759	541	616	63	11,350
Total ...	603,163	205,994	148,405	202,828	8,111	1,168,501

In the Singapore Municipal area, the Municipal Health Officer has estimated the population on the basis advocated by MR. VLIELAND, which is in short a method of estimating the population from births and deaths, on the assumption that the maternal fertility rate and the death rate are fairly constant.

In the year 1937, the movements of population through Singapore were so great that this probably gives a more accurate estimate of the population than any other method. According to this method, the racial distribution of the population in the Singapore Municipal area was as follows:—

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Europeans ...	5,515	2,963	8,478
Eurasians ...	3,528	3,720	7,248
Chinese ...	231,513	167,360	398,873
Malays ...	28,321	22,044	50,365
Indians ...	37,224	9,609	46,833
Others ...	4,670	3,697	8,367
Total ...	310,771	209,393	520,164

BIRTHS

There were 52,483 births registered during 1937 compared with 51,788 in the previous year, representing a birth-rate of 42·13 per thousand of the population as against 44·33 per thousand respectively.

The number of male infants born was 108 to 100 female births, an increase over 1936 when it was 105 males to 100 females.

DEATHS

The crude death rate decreased during the year to 22·45 per thousand compared with 24·91 per thousand in the previous year and 25·09 for the ten year period 1928–1937.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate declined from 170·85 per thousand in the previous year to 155·80 per thousand which is less than the previous lowest recorded figure of 165·25 in 1935, and compares favourably with the average of 176·68 for the ten year 1928–1937.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

In the absence of any control between the various administrative units of the Straits Settlements and the Malay States, measurements of migration are dealt with on a Malayan basis. It may be said that migration in Malaya is a subject of special interest owing to the attraction of the country for foreign capital and for labour from India, China and the neighbouring countries of the Archipelago, and also to the situation of Singapore and Penang at the junction of ocean trade-routes. Until 1930 immigration was practically free, and one of the important activities of Singapore was the importation of labourers from China. In that year a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China with the objects of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 the Aliens Ordinance which is administered by the Immigration Department extended this control, subject to certain temporary exceptions, to all adult male immigrants who were neither British subjects nor British-protected persons.

Statistics of migration between Malaya and foreign countries by land, sea and air are collected by the Statistics Department and published monthly in the *Gazette*. These include particulars as to race, sex, proportion of minors, country of original departure or ultimate destination, and the Malayan port of entry. Tables are also published to show arrivals and departures of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers, as indicating movements of labour. Copies of the summaries for the year are included in the Appendices.

Migration statistics are also, as already indicated, of importance as an aid to an estimation of the population in the periods between censuses.

The population of Malaya as ascertained by the census on the 1st April, 1931, was 4,385,346, that of the Straits Settlements being 1,114,015 or approximately one quarter. The populations on the 30th June, 1937, were estimated as 4,934,029 and 1,248,118 respectively. The immigration surplus for the year was 267,206 persons as compared with 82,809 in 1936. The total gain in the population for the two years was 350,015 persons. This gain together with an immigrational surplus of 267,295 persons for the years 1934 and 1935, has more than counterbalanced the emigration surplus of 353,436 persons during the period from the 1931 Census to 31st December, 1933, the net gain to the population through migration from the Census of 1931 to the end of 1937 being 263,874 persons. The dominant factor in Malayan migration statistics is the movement of Chinese and Southern Indian labourers which is largely dependent on the welfare of Malaya's two major industries, rubber and tin. Arrivals of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers amounted to 365,596 persons as compared with 192,924 in 1936; the figures for departures were 110,600 and 120,289 respectively. The net surplus of arrivals was thus 254,996 in 1937 as compared with 72,635 in 1936. The surplus increased sharply from 7,791 in January and 5,614 in February to 15,843 in March, 30,829 in April and 31,912 in May due to an increased demand for labour on rubber estates following increased releases of rubber under the International Rubber Regulation Scheme. During the remainder of the year the monthly surplus oscillated between 17,657 and 27,789. A further reference to movements of Southern Indian and Chinese labour is made in the following sections of this chapter.

The following table shows the racial composition of the migrational surplus or deficit during the last three years:—

MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

Race		*1935*		*1936*		*1937*
Europeans and Americans ...	+	1,674	+	2,773	+	667
Eurasians	+	145	+	70	+	168
Japanese	+	365	+	429	+	208
Chinese	+	90,986	+	75,801	+	180,502
Malays	−	3,060	−	4,326	−	3,850
Northern Indians ...	+	3,848	+	2,061	+	5,280
Southern Indians ...	+	33,045	+	7,909	+	84,365
Others	−	1,797	−	1,908	−	134
Total ...	+	125,206	+	82,809	+	267,206

For the year 1937 the total number of arrivals (to the nearest thousand) was 760,000, an increase of 44 per cent. and of departures 493,000, an increase of 11 per cent.

The majority of passengers travelled by sea. Penang and Port Swettenham were the main ports of entry for Southern Indian labourers, but for other races Singapore was the main port of entry and departure. Migration by land hardly exists, except for the ebb and flow of Malays, Chinese and Siamese resident on either side of the border between Siam and Malaya, and over a period of years the population of Malaya is little affected by it. Passenger transport by air is steadily growing, the figures for arrivals and departures being 1,411 and 1,324 respectively, as compared with 979 and 925 in 1936. Most of the passengers travelling by air were Europeans, but increasing numbers of Japanese, Chinese, Malay and Indian passengers were recorded.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—INDIAN IMMIGRATION*

(*a*) The total number of immigrants from Southern India who arrived at Penang by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1937 was 122,566. This is an increase by 79,375 on the figure of 43,191 for 1936.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (labourers and dependants assisted to emigrate at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates etc., in Malaya) ...	54,849
Non-assisted immigrants (traders and others who paid their own passages)	67,717
Total ...	122,566

Of the non-assisted immigrants 50,128 (74%) were of the labouring classes, the remaining 17,589 being traders and others. It is estimated that about one-third of the non-assisted immigrants remained in the Colony, the remainder proceeding to the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay

* The word immigrant, as used here in connection with Indian Immigration, means a deck-passenger only, and does not include first or second class passengers.

States. Of the assisted immigrants, 2,865 arrived to work in the Colony. The following table shows the number of assisted passages taken during the last five years, for labourers and their families from Southern India to Malaya, and paid for from the Indian Immigration Fund :—

1933	13
1934	36,712
1935	16,709
1936	3,097
1937	45,518

(*b*) In addition to the immigrants who arrived by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 1,166 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line.

(ii).—Indian Emigration

(*a*) The number of deck passengers who left Penang for Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1937 was 44,486 (39,009 adults, 2,819 minors and 2,658 infants) as against 40,075 (34,596 adults, 2,927 minors and 2,552 infants) in 1936.

Of the above, 34,211 adults, accompanied by 1,617 minors and 2,092 infants, paid their own passages, while 4,798 adults, 1,202 minors and 566 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department.

Of those repatriated through the Labour Department 3,588 adults, accompanied by 117 minors and 62 infants received repatriation because they claimed to be unfit for work or were physically unsuited for life in Malaya, while 627 adults, 953 minors and 450 infants were repatriated on other grounds. The remaining 583 adults, 132 minors and 54 infants received free passages from private employers or Government Departments at the termination of service or on free passages granted by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows :—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
1. Sent at the expense of the Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund	822	89	48
2. Sent at the expense of estates and Government Departments	129	26	7
3. Carried free of charge by the British India Steam Navigation Company ...	63	8	5
	1,014	123	60

The number of adult labourers who returned to India paying their own passages was 20,447 as against 14,916 in 1936 while the number of traders and other non-labourers was 13,764 as against 13,384 in 1936.

(*b*) In addition to the above 681 deck passengers left for South India by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line.

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese aliens arriving in Singapore from China ports (including Hong Kong) was restricted by Proclamation under the Aliens Ordinance. The quota remained at 4,000 a month in January, was raised to 5,000 a month on 1st February and was further increased to 6,000 a month on 1st April at which figure it remained until the end of the year. This restriction applies to adult male Chinese arriving on the ships of the six quota companies. Other shipping companies are restricted to a total of 25 a month each.

Alien Chinese in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence issued under the Aliens Ordinance in the Colony or under a corresponding Aliens Enactment in a Malay State are exempted from the provisions of Part I of the Aliens Ordinance, and are, therefore, not counted against the quota.

One permit was issued under section 13 of the Aliens Ordinance, but use could not be made of it owing to difficulties in China.

The total number of Chinese entering Singapore under the quota during the year was 67,666, as compared with 47,859 in 1936.

The total number of Chinese who arrived on non-quota ships was 3,826, as compared with 2,760 in 1936.

The total number of Chinese who arrived in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence was 28,206, as compared with 18,939 in 1936.

The total number of male Chinese from China ports (including Hong Kong) who arrived during the year was, therefore, 99,698, compared with 69,558 in 1936, 81,775 in 1935, 52,023 in 1934, 13,535 in 1933 and 18,741 in 1932.

No restriction is placed on the immigration of women and children. 94,548 women and 44,860 children entered Singapore from China ports. The corresponding figures for the last 5 years were :—

	Women	*Children*
1932	8,652	6,141
1933	8,199	6,062
1934	29,678	17,163
1935	38,621	21,496
1936	49,632	24,141

The number of women to a thousand men arriving from China ports during the years 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937 was 462, 605, 570, 472, 713 and 948 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 66,502 as against 80,578 in 1936.

Fares for deck passengers to and from China were as follows :—

The fares from Singapore to China ports during the first nine months of 1937 were from $12 to $18 to Hong Kong and $14 to $22 to Amoy and Swatow. From October to the end of the year the rates were raised to $22 to Hong Kong, $24 to Swatow and $26 to amoy (Straits Currency).

For passengers counted against the quota from China ports to Singapore the fares varied as follows:—

Amoy to Singapore	...	$61 (China currency).
Swatow to Singapore	...	$50 to $55 (China currency).
Hong Kong to Singapore	...	$35 to $40 (Hong Kong currency).

For passengers not counted against the quota the fares to Singapore from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong were $45 (China currency), $40 (China currency) and $35 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

All the fares above quoted were subject to broker's commission.

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM THE PRINCIPAL DISEASES

(i).—General

(1) *Pneumonia* (all forms) was responsible for 2,712 deaths as against 2,624 in 1936, giving a percentage of 97 per thousand deaths from all causes.

(2) *Tuberculosis.*—2,464 deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis (all forms) as compared with 2,362 for 1936. Pulmonary tuberculosis alone was responsible for 2,268 deaths equivalent to 81 per 1,000 of the total deaths from all causes. The measures taken for prevention of tuberculosis include:—

(*a*) *Education.*—Every endeavour is made by means of films, posters, leaflets, informal talks, etc., to educate the people in methods of cleanliness and personal hygiene with a view to avoiding infection and limiting its spread.

(*b*) *Improvement of housing and general sanitation.*—The Singapore Improvement Trust's policy of constructing backlanes in the congested areas was continued during the year. There are also schemes for the demolition of slums, the building of cottages and tenements and the establishment of open spaces. But overcrowding in the towns, and especially in Singapore, is a grave problem which is becming increasingly acute.

(*c*) *Hospital treatment.*—Beds for tuberculosis cases are available in Government hospitals and beds for the special treatment of tuberculosis exist in the General Hospitals in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and also in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore.

(3) *Malaria and unspecified fevers* accounted for 1,185 and 3,319 deaths respectively as compared with 1,315 and 3,562 deaths for the year 1936. This is equivalent to 161 per thousand deaths from all causes, showing a progressive diminution in comparison with previous years.

(4) *Beriberi* caused 853 deaths compared with 1,080 deaths in the previous year.

(5) *Dysentery* caused 275 deaths and *diarrhœa* and *enteritis* caused 1,373 deaths or 59 per thousand deaths from all causes, a decrease on the previous year.

(ii).—Dangerous Infectious Diseases

There were no cases of plague or cholera and only one case of small-pox, which was imported.

(iii).—Venereal Diseases

The treatment of this disease is supervised by the Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene, who is in immediate charge of the work of this special branch of the Medical Department.

The treatment centres in the Straits Settlements, which number 26, are distributed as follows:—

Singapore	7
Penang (including Province Wellesley)	12
Malacca	7

Singapore.—The number of new cases treated shows an increase on the previous year:—

1936	11,051 cases
1937	11,986 ,,

Penang.—The figure for 1937 shows a decrease of 412 as compared with that of 1936:—

1936	7,152 cases
1937	6,740 ,,

Malacca.—There was also a decrease in the Settlement of Malacca, as shown in the following figures:—

1936	4,477 cases
1937	4,155 ,,

Number of Seamen treated.—The new admissions to the clinics for sailors totalled 1,099, of whom 357 were British and 161 non-British Europeans. Of the remainder, 493 were Chinese, 14 Malays, 41 Indians, 3 Americans and 30 other races.

Serological Reactions.—The results of these tests are summarised as follows:—

	Specimens examined	*Positive*	*Negative*	*Doubtful*
Wasserman tests ...	6,281	1,625	4,637	19
Kahn tests ...	14,747	5,144	9,534	69

Propaganda.—Pamphlets and leaflets were freely distributed to the public, and posters drawing the attention to the dangers of venereal disease and the facilities for free treatment, have been displayed throughout the town of Singapore.

(iv).—Yaws

There was a decrease in the number of cases of yaws treated during the year:—

Cases of yaws treated in 1936	5,711
Cases of yaws treated in 1937	5,337

The travelling dispensaries which visit the rural acres afford full facilities for the treatment of this disease which occurs chiefly among the Malays. Few cases now remain untreated for long in the areas where there are Government hospitals and dispensaries.

(v).—Buildings

The construction of a new dental clinic for Singapore was undertaken in 1937, and it is hoped that the building will be ready for occupation during 1938.

B.—HOSPITALS, ETC.

(i).—HOSPITALS

The total number of in-patients treated in the hospitals of the Colony was 78,586 as compared with 72,135 in the preceding year. The malaria admissions accounted for 7,926, those for the preceding year being 9,502.

Admissions for venereal disease totalled 2,657 with 95 deaths, as against 2,595 with 109 deaths in the previous year.

Admissions for tuberculosis decreased to 2,843 with 984 deaths as compared with 2,876 with 1,108 deaths in 1936.

There were 1,861 admissions for pneumonia with 1,044 deaths as against 1,684 admissions with 974 deaths in the previous year.

(ii).—DISPENSARIES

The number of out-patients treated at Government dispensaries and the number of attendances were as follows:—

		1936	*1937*
Number of out-patients	...	265,674	278,522
Number of attendances	...	542,666	506,879

The attendances at the more important of the special dispensaries for women and children were as follows:—

		1936	*1937*
Singapore (Kandang Kerbau)	...	59,183	55,503
Penang	...	25,415	22,765
Malacca	...	13,529	12,889

(iii).—MOTOR TRAVELLING DISPENSARIES

There are motor travelling dispensaries in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley.

Men, Women and children of all nationalities who are suffering from minor ailments and who reside in the outlying districts of each Settlement, obtain treatment from these dispensaries.

The attendances for the whole Colony totalled:—

1936	...	...	...	107,896 attendances
1937	...	...	...	100,626 ,,

(iv).—LEPER SETTLEMENTS

Pulau Jerejak Settlement.—There were 1,205 patients at the end of the year as campared with 1,217 remaining at the end of 1936. 234 were admitted during the period under review, this number including transfers from the Singapore Settlement numbering 105, and 246 died, absconded or were discharged.

Every encouragement is given to the inmates to work in the Settlement.

Those who are strong, are generally employed as artisans, woodcutters, dhobies, etc. Educated inmates are given employment as teachers, dressers, etc. Many do carpentry, vegetable and fruit gardening, fishing and poultry farming, while a few maintain shops, financed and subsidised by the inmates.

Education.—The good standard of education provided by both the English and Chinese schools, has been maintained. There is an active Boy Scout troup with 29 members.

Several successful performances were given by the dramatic troupes of the Settlement. The Brass Band of 12 musicians continued to be popular and has given much pleasure to the inmates.

The health of the inmates was good and there were no cases of infectious disease.

Discipline among the inmates continued to be excellent.

Singapore Settlement.—The Singapore Settlement has separate accommodation for male and female lepers, in the former there were 86 patients remaining on December 31st, 1936, and 102 at the end of the year under review, while during the year 150 cases were admitted and 105 were transferred to Pulau Jerejak. Three patients were discharged and 3 died.

In the female camp the number at the beginning of the year was 138 patients; 43 were admitted during the year while 29 were transferred to the Leper Settlement, Sungei Buloh, Selangor; 4 cases were discharged and 5 died.

During the year the employment of lepers on useful and productive work was extended with a view to improving their morale and providing them with an interest in life. This experiment has been so successful that the number of volunteers for work outnumbers the requirements.

A Leper Aid Fund was inaugurated at the beginning of the year in order to provide the inmates with comforts and amusements which cannot be charged to Government expenditure. The fund was well supported and the benevolence of the donors has been rewarded by the appreciation of the inmates.

(v).—Mental Hospital

There were 1,409 patients remaining in hospital at the beginning of the year; the admissions numbered 644 in 1937. Discharges, deaths and abscondings totalled 549. The number of patients remaining at the end of 1937 was 1,504. The admissions showed an increase of 25 over those for 1936. The recovery rate was 43·63 per cent. of the admissions.

C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i).—Quarantine

814 visits in Singapore and 391 visits in Penang (as against 885 and 536 respectively in 1936) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers. 527,726 persons were examined during the year as compared with 428,194 in 1936.

71,505 persons were detained under observation in the Quarantine Stations at Singapore and Penang.

The number of persons from ships treated for dangerous infectious diseases at Singapore Quarantine Station was 7 of which 1 was small-pox and 6 cholera. At the Penang Quarantine Station 1 was treated for cholera.

The Port Health work of Malacca is carried out by the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer. 189 vessels visited Malacca during 1937 and 6 of these were inspected.

(ii).—Quarantine (Aircraft)

In Singapore, 159 aircraft were examined and a total of 1,112 persons both passengers and crew. No cases of infectious disease were discovered at the Civil Aerodrome, Singapore.

In Penang, 138 aircraft were visited by Health Officers.

(iii).—Rural Conservancy

Singapore.—In all areas a system of nightsoil removal by contract is carried out. Bore-hole latrines are constructed where sites are suitable. A total of 182 bore-hole latrines were constructed during the year.

In kampongs near the main roads and more populous areas the bucket latrine system is required. There are 4,992 houses on the night-soil removal list. The night-soil is collected and in most cases carried to trenching grounds where it is properly trenched under the supervision of Sanitary Inspectors. In other cases it is carried to three "public" septic tanks fed by subsoil water.

In addition to the bucket system there are houses equipped with a water-borne sewage system. The method of disposal is by septic tank in most cases with filters. There are 105 of these disposal plants in the Rural Area.

Every householder is required to have a sanitary dust bin. The contents of these bins are removed every morning by handcarts. At the roadside collection stations there are large iron dust bins wherein all domestic and street refuse is deposited. The removal from these stations is carried out by motor lorries under contract. There are 25 small type slow combustion incinerators in use and 5 "controlled tipping" grounds. An experiment in the manufacture of "Compost" using liquid night-soil and organic refuse was in progress at the end of the year.

Penang.—Pail latrines are obligatory in places where buildings are close together; elsewhere in villages and throughout the rural area bore-hole latrines or corresponding types of sanitary conveniences are provided by the responsible occupier. Throughout the residential area of Penang Hill and in a number of residences along the coast road, water carriage and septic tank systems are installed.

During the year 350 latrines have been constructed or reconditioned. Insanitary latrines to the number of 167 have been demolished. 179 bore-hole latrines have been constructed and 31 pit latrines have been dug.

There are 41 village incinerators within gazetted areas and 3 on Penang Hill most of which have given good service throughout the year. Domestic refuse together with road sweepings is collected in refuse bins placed on concrete platforms along the roadside and disposed of either by incineration in the village incinerators or by "controlled tipping".

Malacca.—Sewage disposal in the rural area is carried out by direct Chinese labour. In most villages the night-soil is disposed of by trenching or by dumping in bore-holes or deep covered pits, but two villages (Jasin and Sungei Rambei) have septic tanks for the disposal of night-soil.

South Indian labour under the control of the Health Officer is employed for the disposal of refuse. The rubbish is disposed of by incineration and new Horsfall incinerators with large concrete sorting platforms partially covered by asbestos roofing were installed during the year.

Labuan.—Night-soil is collected by coolies and disposed of by proper trenching under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and the Rural Board Overseer. Bore-hole latrines are being constructed where suitable. Three have been constructed in 1937.

(iv).—Anti-Malarial Work

The protection of the population from malaria in towns and villages of the Straits Settlements is an important duty of the Government and Municipal Health Authorities in their respective areas.

The total expenditure by Government on anti-malarial measures undertaken in the rural areas during the year was $190,089.77.

The establishment of anti-mosquito and malaria protection zones in the rural areas continues to be a major undertaking for the Government Health Department due mainly to the extension of the areas occupied by the Naval, Military and Royal Air Forces in Singapore and greater private building activity in the rural areas of Singapore and Penang.

Considerable work has been carried out in connection with the sluicing of ravines and streams. Automatic sluices have been designed and constructed and experiments conducted up-to-date have indicated that this is a very useful addition to existing methods for anti-larval control.

Progress has also been made in the use of naturalistic methods of control in certain selected areas.

CHAPTER V

Housing

In the principal towns of the Colony the various types of houses may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) Houses with gardens occupied by the well-to-do residents.

(*b*) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by less prosperous, or the less well-paid of the salaried classes.

(*c*) Terrace houses for clerks and people of similar standing.

(*d*) Shop-houses.

(*e*) Common lodging houses, which are frequently over-crowded.

(*f*) Tenements in closely built areas, and

(*g*) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses on the outskirts of the city.

The houses in the first category are occupied by the European residents and the wealthier Asiatics. The old Colonial style mostly built of wood, with its wide verandas and large rooms is still to be seen, but is gradually disappearing and giving place to more modern types built substantially of brick or concrete, and designed for economical household management. In many cases the external features of the latest types of houses reflect the trend of modern architectural ideas. Whether the comfort and arrangements inside compensate for their unusual outward appearance is a matter best left to the expert—a mere layman hesitates to express his feelings on such a subject. The small semi-detached houses and bungalows generally differ from the houses of the wealthier only in size, and nearly all in Singapore at least have the advantages of modern lighting and sanitation. In Singapore, flats are becoming increasingly popular with both the above sections of the community and the considerable increase that has taken place in the garrison is likely to encourage this development. The terrace houses occupied by the clerical classes are necessarily humbler in character than the "compound" and semi-detached houses. Even these, however, afford good accommodation, are well ventilated and in some areas in the larger towns at least have modern sanitation as well as lighting.

Shop-houses in the older parts of the towns are generally built in rows, of solid construction and two or more storeys in height, but too frequently they are insufficiently ventilated and for many streets no back lanes are provided. The upper stories of many of the houses are divided into small cubicles with temporary partitions, erected without regard to need of light and air, and it is in these that the worst overcrowding is found. Unfortunately, too, many of the labouring and artisan classes find their homes in such cubicles or in the common lodging houses of the most densely populated areas which frequently consist of just an overcrowded dormitory above a shop or a store. The problem of slum clearance and re-housing is thus of major importance but it should be realised that extra difficulties attend its solution in a country where the main areas affected are occupied by a transient Asiatic population inured for generations to a standard of living compared with which their present circumstances give little cause for complaint.

In Singapore, where the problem is most urgent, measures for re-housing fall within the scope of the Singapore Improvement Trust, a body specially incorporated for the purpose by an Ordinance passed in 1927. The amount of housing has been inadequate for many years to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population which has increased to nearly 600,000 as compared with 445,719 at the 1931 Census and 351,461 in 1922. This has brought in its train a progressive increase in the density of the population in the built-up areas of the town and, until this state of affairs is remedied, there is little prospect of effecting any substantial reduction in the incidence of pulmonary diseases like pneumonia and tuberculosis.

New housing has failed to keep pace with this growth—private enterprise has been lacking—and it has been left to the Trust to do as much as possible with its necessarily limited resources of funds and staff to relieve the situation.

Hitherto, the Trust's main efforts have been directed towards providing cheap houses suitable for the lower paid class of artisan. There are many of this class in Singapore who, while being useful members of the community, cannot afford to pay the rental demanded for even the poorest accommodation in the heart of the town. No private landlord is interested in housing people of this class and the Trust has perforce undertaken the task itself. The dwellings provided by the Trust have proved extremely popular but are let at low rents which do not yield an economic return on the investment and to that extent they may be said to be subsidised.

More recently, the Trust has turned its activities towards the erection of modern blocks of tenements and flats suitable for a more prosperous type of tenant. These, too, are extremely popular and could be filled several times over at much higher rentals than those the Trust demand. The Trust has contented itself, however, with an economic return on its capital investment. It was hoped that this example would serve to stimulate private enterprise to assist in the development of the new suburb at Tiong Bahru thus relieving pressure on the overcrowded areas but so far there is little sign of it.

Opinions on the root causes of this unsatisfactory state of affairs are divided and it would, therefore, be unprofitable to discuss them at this stage. But one satisfactory feature of the situation is that public opinion is becoming increasingly aroused while the Government and the public bodies concerned are fully alive to the need for remedial measures.

The record of the Trust's achievements in the matter of new housing during 1937 and up to the end of that year is as follows. Work was commenced on one block of flats comprising 39 flats and 4 shops, and on two tenement blocks comprising a total of 135 rooms and 10 shops. An innovation in the planning of the new tenement blocks is the provision of one common room to serve each set of rooms. It was anticipated that all these houses would be completed early in 1938. In addition, 60 artisans' houses at Balestier were commenced during the year and were expected to be completed by the end of March, 1938. At the end of the year the Trust owned buildings comprising a total number of 275 rooms, 43 flats, 508 houses and 14 shops.

Steady progress also continued to be made in the opening up and construction of back-lanes through old back-to-back property. This work has made possible the introduction of modern sanitation to many of the houses affected and has in every case given them a modicum of sunlight and ventilation. In 1937, 19 back-lanes were sewered in areas already provided with sewerage and 52 back-lanes were sewered in areas which will be served by the new sewerage works which it is hoped will be completed in 1939. The total number of houses newly connected to sewers in 1937 was 360.

In Penang and Malacca, where the problems are neither so great nor so pressing as those of Singapore, all measures of town-improvement are undertaken by the Municipal Commissioners under the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance and, while development has not been possible on the same scale as the work undertaken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore, much has been accomplished and work is still progressing. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings, and strict control of common lodging houses is maintained to prevent overcrowding and preserve a decent standard of sanitation.

In rural districts brick shop-houses with tiled roofs are found in the larger villages, but the houses are generally of old Malay or Chinese types, built of planks with roofs of attap, a very efficient local type of thatching with dried palm fronds. The wood and attap houses are usually owned by the occupiers, and as a general rule are clean and well-ventilated, besides being admirably suited to the climate and cool and comfortable to live in. Those of the Malay small-holder or peasant are raised about four to six feet above the ground level, and are especially well-ventilated, cool and comfortable. The brick and tile shop-houses in the villages, like those in the towns, lend themselves to overcrowding, but the evils are less pronounced in rural areas. Planning schemes have been evolved for most gazetted villages, demolition notices are enforced against insanitary buildings whenever necessary, and the work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. For all new buildings, in Municipal and Rural Board areas, strict compliance with the building by-laws is now enforced, although it is impossible, and indeed unnecessary, to insist on the standards devised for the wealthier municipal areas in the rural areas where expense is a much greater consideration. There are no building societies in the Straits Settlements.

Labourers on rubber estates are usually housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. Nearly all of these buildings conform to an approved standard design and frequent inspections by the health authorities and the officers of the Labour Department, prevent overcrowding and ensure decent upkeep and cleanliness.

CHAPTER VI

A.—AGRICULTURE

General

The principal crops grown in the Colony are rubber, coconuts, rice and pineapples; the areas cultivated thereunder in each Settlement during the year were as follows:—

Crop.	*Province Wellesley and Penang*	*Malacca*	*Singapore*	*Labuan*	*Total Straits Settlements*
	(acres)	*(acres)*	*(acres)*	*(acres)*	*(acres)*
Rubber ...	87,659	194,295	52,748	1,825	335,527
Coconuts ...	46,806	13,498	8,326	3,422	72,052
Rice ...	36,780	32,310	nil	1,182	70,272
Pineapples	612	447	4,700	nil	5,759

Crops of secondary importance are fruits, vegetables, arecanuts, tobacco, derris, spices, coffee and tapioca. Only rubber and coconuts are grown by Europeans and Asiatics on a large scale.

(i).—Crops Grown by Europeans and Asiatics

Rubber.—The total area under rubber in the Straits Settlements at the end of 1937 was estimated to be 335,527 acres, distributed as follows:—

Settlement	*Estates of 100 acres and over*	*Small-holdings of less than 100 acres*	*Total*
P. W. and Penang ...	47,995	38,664	86,659
Malacca	126,615	67,680	194,295
Singapore	33,180	19,568	52,748
Labuan	nil	1,825	1,825
Total ...	207,790	127,737	335,527

Of the area cultivated on estates 133,032 acres were grown on European owned estates and 74,758 acres on Asiatic-owned estates.

The average price per pound of standard smoked sheet in Singapore for the year was 32·09 cents, as compared with 27·04 cents in 1936.

The monthly average Singapore spot price of No. 1 smoked sheet was 36·47 cts. per lb. in January. The price rose to 40·25 cts. in April and thereafter fell steadily throughout the remainder of the year.

The International Rubber Regulation continued in force throughout the year. Under this Agreement Malaya received a quota of 589,000 tons. The international quota releases were for the first quarter of the year 75 per cent., second quarter 80 per cent. and for the third and fourth quarters 90 per cent. The greater part of the crop was produced in the form of standard smoked sheet, but there was also an appreciable export of rubber in the form of latex; the quantity exported in this form from Malaya was estimated to amount to 19,408 tons on the basis of dry rubber content.

Replanting on estates almost invariably is carried out with budded stock. The total area of budded rubber in the Colony in now 4,634 acres.

The area out of tapping on estates in the Straits Settlements was estimated to be 63,872 acres at the end of the year. Surveys of small rubber holdings showed that 10·1 per cent. of their total area was out of tapping in December 1937.

Manuring of rubber continued to engage the attention of estates and convincing results are now being obtained from the experiments started a few years ago by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya and other concerns. The generally improved conditions of small holdings has been well maintained, particularly with regard to disease control and methods of preparation of the product. Small-holders both Malay and Chinese have responded well to the advice of the Asiatic Rubber Instructors and departmental officers.

There were 2 Asiatic Rubber Instructors stationed at Malacca and 2 in Penang during 1937.

The position in regard to pests and diseases on estates and small holdings was normal. Increased attention is being devoted to the control of root diseases.

Coconuts and Coconut Products.—The total area under coconuts in the Straits Settlements is estimated to be 72,071 acres of which 46,806 are in Province Wellesley and Penang, 13,498 acres in Malacca, 8,326 acres in Singapore, 3,422 acres in Labuan and 19 acres in Christmas Island. Of the total area, estates of over 100 acres account for about 18,000 acres.

The crop from estates is almost entirely used for the preparation of of copra. On small holdings, however, the disposal of the crop varies in different districts, and large quantities of nuts are consumed in the fresh state by the owners and local buyers. In parts of Province Wellesley most of the crop is exported in the form of fresh nuts to Burma: in other parts copra manufacture is usual. In Malacca, copra making remains of secondary importance as nuts can be sold at a high price for consumption as food. In Singapore too there is a ready market for fresh nuts although in some areas copra kilns were in operation throughout the year. The palms in Singapore are mostly very old, in consequence of which yields are stated to be steadily decreasing.

The Singapore prices for sundried copra opened at $9.50 per picul and improved during January to $10.30 but dropped to $7.50 at the end of the month. During February, March and the first half of April the price was between $7.50 and $8.50. Thereafter, with minor fluctuations, the price fell steadily to $4.50 in early December. The price at the end of the year was $4.75 per picul. The average price for the year for sundried copra being $6.45 as compared with $5.81 in 1936. Coconut oil obtained a price of $15.37 in January but declined steadily during the year; the price in December was $8.40 per picul. The average price per picul for the year was $11.13 as compared with $11.96 in 1936.

The annual production of coconut products is unknown and can only be judged by export figures. In 1937 the total exports of copra from Malaya amounted to 75,592 tons valued at $9,207,112 as compared with 76,681 tons valued at $8,235,000 in 1936. Corresponding figures for coconut oil are 39,762 tons valued at $7,630,993 in 1937, and 46,507 tons valued at $7,643,849 in 1936. Total Malayan exports of fresh nuts in 1937 were 6,802 tons as compared with 8,165 tons in 1936. The value of the net exports of coconut products in 1937 was greater than in any year since 1930, as a result of the more favourable prices realised.

There has been a marked improvement in recent years in the general standard of Malayan copra. The premium lately acquired for Straits f.m.s. copra over Netherlands East Indies f.m.s. copra has been maintained and it has closely approached that for Ceylon f.m.s. copra.

There is nothing noteworthy to report concerning pests and diseases of this crop.

Coffee.—The total area under this crop in the Straits Settlements (mainly in Malacca) during 1937 was 345 acres, 235 acres of which was interplanted with other crops. The coffee is sold for local consumption, and not imported.

(ii).—CROPS GROWN EXCLUSIVELY BY ASIATICS

Rice.—The cultivation of rice is the most important of the crops grown exclusively by Asiatics, most of whom are Malays. The main centres of cultivation are on the coastal alluvial lands in Province Wellesley and Malacca, and the shallow valleys in the inland districts of Malacca and Penang Island.

The area planted with rice in the Straits Settlements in the season 1936–37, and the yields were as follows:—

Territory	Wet		Dry		Total	
	Acres	Gantangs*	Acres	Gantangs	Acres	Gantangs
Province Wellesley	32,500	11,202,000	300	60,000	32,800	11,262,000
Malacca ..	32,310	12,275,000	..	..	32,310	12,775,000
Penang ..	3,980	1,519,000	..	..	3,980	1,519,000
Total ..	68,790	24,996,000	300	60,000	69,090	25,556,000

The total area planted was 1,340 acres more than in the previous season, while the total crop harvested was down by 131 gantangs.

Two systems of padi cultivation—the wet and the dry—are in vogue in Malaya; the latter system in which the seed is sown on dry land, is relatively unimportant. Under the wet system, the seed is sown in a nursery and later transplanted in inundated fields where the soil has been prepared by puddling. The crop may take about six months to reach maturity, but only one crop a year is removed from the land.

Floods in the 1936–37 season caused a reduction of the crop in Malacca, the Alor Gajah District and land in the vicinity of the Muar river were the areas principally affected. In the 1937–38 season, the continuance of dry weather until mid-September caused rice planting in Province Wellesley to be late and irregular. In consequence the crop there is expected to be lower than that of the previous season. The prospects in Malacca are good.

Despite the efforts of rat control organisations in Province Wellesley and Malacca, rats did considerable more damage to the rice crop than they have done for many years. In Province Wellesley a contributing factor was undoubtedly the irregularity in clearing the fallow growth from the fields, as a result of unfavourable weather.

* A gantang is an Imperial gallon. About 700 gantangs of padi (rice in the husk) will produce 1 ton of cleaned rice.

Pineapples.—Pineapple canning is an important industry in Singapore. Some fruit for canning is grown on Singapore Island, but the major portion is obtained from South Johore. Smaller areas exist in Malacca and Penang, the fruit being sold for local consumption in a fresh state. The total area in Singapore cultivated with pineapple during 1936 was 7,850 acres, 3,000 acres of which were planted as a sole crop, and 4,850 acres interplanted in mixed cultivation; the planted area showed a decrease of 550 acres as compared with the previous year.

There were 4 pineapple factories in operation in Singapore, two of which were newly opened at the beginning of the year. The factories were built to the specifications laid down under the Pineapple Industry Ordinance, under which legislation insanitary factories are refused registration. In consequence of reconstruction and close supervision, a further improvement took place in factory conditions.

Total exports of Malayan canned pineapples amounted to 80,504 tons valued at $825,551 as compared with 76,405 tons valued at $8,686,549 tons in 1936.

The average Singapore prices per case of 48 cans of 1½ lb. each of Malayan pineapples were as follows:—

Year	Cubes	Sliced flat	Sliced tall	Fresh fruit per 100	
				First quality	Second quality
	$	$	$		
1934	3·10	3·01	3·19	2·52	1·38
1935	3·47	3·27	3·51	3·25	2·52
1936	3·29	3·09	3·29	3·29	2·78
1937	3·02	2·92	3·10	2·27	1·74

The depressed market was reflected in the lower standard of upkeep on plantations.

The Pineapple Experiment Station at Lim Chu Kang, Singapore, was maintained, though it has been found that the soil on the station is too poor to serve as a guide for pineapple cultivation on ordinary land. The growth of the plants in the selection area has been so unsatisfactory that all of the most promising lines have been duplicated at the Kota Tinggi Station in Johore. The Station at Lim Chu Kang is, however, valuable in that it provides an opportunity to study whether, and if so how, pineapples can be grown on such thoroughly exhausted and eroded soil. A long range experiment designed to provide information about the period of green dressing fallow was commenced and minor experiments to ascertain the effect of shade on the growth of the plant and upon wilt incidence were laid down.

In April the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Johore undertook to provide funds for the erection of a Canning Research Station near Johore Bahru. At the time of writing good progress has been made in the erection of the buildings. The Canning Officer of the Department of Agriculture was transferred from Kuala Lumpur to Johore Bahru in August.

Miscellaneous fruits.—The total area under fruits other than pineapples in the Straits Settlements was 10,441 acres (of which 1,373 was under bananas) as compared with 9,048 acres in 1936.

Greater attention was given to the selection of good stock for planting. The range of fruits cultivated is extensive and includes mangosteens, pulasans rambutans, bananas, durians, papaya, chikus, belimbings and langsats. Usually individual holdings are small, but there are a number of extensive fruit orchards owned by Chinese in Penang Island and Malacca. Local supplies of fruit are insufficient to satisfy the demand and large quantities of fruits are imported.

Vegetables.—Market gardens cultivated by Chinese are found near all centres of population. It is estimated that there are over 3,000 acres on Singapore Island, and almost as much in Malacca, the total area in the Colony being 6,486 acres. The quantity of vegetables produced is unknown but certainly exceeds 10,000 tons during the year. The total Malayan imports of vegetables in 1937 amounted to 66,561 tons.

Derris.—The cultivation of this crop is still on the increase although the demand is not. The area under derris in the Straits Settlements in 1937 was 1,593 acres as compared with 1,405 acres in 1936. Net exports in 1937 were 573 tons, valued at $384,000 as compared with 599 tons valued at $488,600 in 1936.

The average prices of the dried root were $40.50 per picul, sold on basis of rotenone content, and $23.92, sold on ether extract basis. Corresponding prices for 1936 were $48.58 and $31.54 per picul respectively.

Farm School, Malacca.—In Malacca investigations were made into the circumstances of the pupils who passed out at the beginning of 1936 after the first year of the school.

Many of the boys had not made use of the knowledge gained at the school and had left their districts in search of employment, but some 33 per cent. had returned to their kampongs and had there effected improvements in cultivation and stock with financial benefit to themselves and their families. These boys were also exerting a good influence, as was evidenced by improvements made in neighbouring holdings. All of these successful pupils, in contrast to the remainder, came from rural areas far distant from Malacca town.

The enquiries made showed further that most of the parents of boys most likely to benefit from the school training could not afford to maintain their sons at the school for a year in order to take the course.

As the result of these investigations proposals have been put forward providing *inter alia* that recruitment of pupils should be only from the rural districts of Alor Gajah and Jasin, that a certain number of selected pupils should be paid a subsistence allowance whilst at the school and that, instead of building a hostel to accommodate the pupils, the money provided for this building should be utilised to build a number of small houses of the rural Malayan type, each being intended to house two pupils who will be responsible for cultivating a small area of land surrounding the house.

The encouraging fact brought out by the investigations was that boys of a suitable type had distinctly benefited from what they had learnt at the school, which proves the suitability of the training given and indicates that there is a real need for its continuance.

Penang.—A Farm School was erected at Ayer Itam Station in Penang during the year. This is expected to benefit chiefly the sons of small Chinese agriculturists.

(iii).—Livestock

The Colony still depends to a large extent on foreign sources for its supply of livestock for slaughter and for certain of its requirements of animal products such as milk, butter, eggs, etc. Certain restrictions were imposed on neighbouring exporting countries during the year on account of animal disease there but the deficiency in supply resulting from the necessary cessation of such imports was in part met by increased local production, particularly of fresh pork, and in part by importations from neighbouring Malay States, for instance of Kedah oxen and buffaloes for slaughter in Penang. Malacca, Penang and Province Wellesley are now supplying their own requirements of swine for slaughter whilst the Settlement of Singapore produced more than 60 per cent. of the 304,682 swine slaughtered during 1937 in the Municipal Abattoirs and Rural Board licenced slaughter houses.

Singapore and Penang Municipal abattoirs provide an essential service for the humane handling of slaughter animals and the inspection of meat for human consumption, but more attention could profitably be paid, in all Settlements of the Colony, to private slaughter houses in the Rural Board Area. An endeavour is being made to provide for centralised slaughter in those Settlements where this is considered necessary.

The two dairy farms under European management in Singapore, namely the Singapore Dairy Farm and Malayan Farms Ltd., continued to supply first class produce which meets the requirements of the health authorities. The number of cows now being milked at these two farms totals about 264 in addition to numbers of dry cows, bulls and calves. Considerable attention is given to the growing of fresh fodder grasses for supply to animals, the areas under cultivation continually being improved and increased. The total area of land cultivated for this purpose is more than 100 acres, which yielded from 35 to 50 tons per acre of guinea grass and about 75 tons per acre of 'Napier' grass. Concentrated foods are imported from Europe, Australia and the United States of America. The dairy cattle include Ayrshire, Guernsey, Jersey, Illawarras and Friesians. Opinion is not unanimous as to which type of European animal is best suited for the conditions obtaining in the Settlement and it is likely to be some time before any definite conclusion can be arrived at. At present it is noted that individual animals from each breed proved satisfactory. Heifers bred at these farms are now being included in the milking herds and it will be interesting to note just how satisfactory they prove to be as milk animals and to observe whether their cost of production justifies their breeding in Malaya. One difficulty reported is that of getting certain of these European stock to breed in the tropical climate. It has been noted that hitherto non-breeders actually do breed if moved to a higher altitude such as Cameron Highlands. Such movements of course involve difficulties connected with susceptibility or otherwise of animals kept in Singapore to diseases which may be picked up en route to the Highlands or at the Highlands itself. This applies particularly to tickborne diseases.

Dairying as carried on by the Indian community throughout the Settlements leaves a great deal to be desired. The hygienic standard of the milk is low and cows are usually of very poor type there being little or no selective breeding, whilst as yet there are no importations of improved dairy bulls of tropical breeds from other countries. This matter is receiving close attention and there is definite evidence that the Indians are responding to some extent to the efforts towards improvement.

In March, 1937, Foot and Mouth disease spread through the Indian-owned dairies in Singapore. The conditions under which these animals are kept made this outbreak difficult to control. Amongst 1,500 animals kept under observation a total of 442 cases were noted before the epizootic was finally suppressed in June.

During the year there were two minor outbreaks of this disease amongst imported beef-cattle undergoing quarantine.

Pig farming in all Settlements continues to thrive but there is need for improvement in housing conditions and in transport of swine to the slaughter houses. Serious epizootic diseases occasionally account for losses but the more important losses concern those associated with less demonstrable disease conditions. As regards breeding, to a certain extent this proceeds satisfactorily so far as numbers are concerned, but there is no doubt that the economics of pig production could be vastly improved by the more general use of sires of European breeds, either cross-bred or pure-bred.

The raising of poultry in the Settlements continues more or less haphazardly as a side line to other occupations. Local production of birds for the table and eggs for home use or for sale on the market is, however, carried out on a greater scale than is usually realised.

The following table gives the census of livestock in Singapore, Penang and Province Wellesley, and Malacca :—

Settlement	Buffaloes	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Swine
Singapore* ..	777	4,916	† 3,000	3,461	127,468
Penang ..	29	2,283	‡ 2	‡ 1,748	20,111
Province Wellssley	5,761	5,878	22	10,959	32,716
Malacca ..	12,280	6,134	88	15,723	32,421

Canine Rabies made its appearance in Singapore at the end of August after the Settlement had been free from this disease for 30 years. Anti-rabies inoculation of all registered dogs, stringent control measures, and the destruction of stray dogs, seemed to have suppressed the outbreak at the close of the year. In all, 12 cases occurred amongst dogs; over 12,000 dogs were vaccinated and about 8,000 uncontrolled dogs were destroyed.

(iv).—Methods and Conditions of Recruiting South Indian Labour

The elaborate machinery which exists for the recruitment, in normal times, of South Indian labourers, required for work on rubber, coconut and oil-palm estates, is utilised also to supply labour required for the Railways, the Municipalities and such Government Departments as the Public Works Department.

* These are January, 1936, figures; no census of animals has been taken since then.

† Estimated.

‡ Excluding animals in importers' sheds, awaiting sale for slaughter or re-export—average 300 sheep and 180 goats.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, and the Rules made thereunder. There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labourers for skilled work, but very few skilled labourers are recruited in this way.

The basis of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labourers is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is maintained by contributions from all employers of South Indian labourers including the several Governments of Malaya. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may only be used to assist immigration or for the welfare, protection or repatriation of South Indian labourers.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being (*a*) cost of the train fares of recruited emigrants from their homes to the Depots at Negapatam and Avadi, (*b*) care and diets of all assisted emigrants in the Emigration Depots at Negapatam and Avadi while awaiting shipment, (*c*) steamer passages (from Madras or Negapatam) to the Straits, (*d*) expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang and Port Swettenham, (*e*) transport from ports of disembarkation to places of employment in Malaya and (*f*) payment of recruiting allowances to employers by whose agents the emigrants have been recruited.

Recruiting agents, known as Kanganies, are sometimes sent to South India by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. A "recruiting allowance" is paid to the employer in reimbursement of this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

(i) he must be a South Indian of the labouring classes

(ii) he must have been employed as a labourer for a period of not less than three months on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit.

Licences are issued by the Controller of Labour, Malaya, and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty and the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments with the approval of the Government of India, to supervise emigration to Malaya, or to the Assistant Emigration Commissioner in Negapatam. Only on endorsement by one of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually six months and is limited, in any case, to one year.

After registration of his licence the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents, where he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) before leaving for his own village to inform his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate.

When the kangany finds, people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and must obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Headman whose duty it is to satisfy himself that there is no

valid objection to their emigration. If so satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman, he takes them to the Emigration Depot at or near the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Avadi or Negapatam, either himself pre-paying the train fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents employed at the charge of the Fund. These two depots are maintained by the Fund and intending emigrants are housed and fed in them, free of charge, until they embark for Malaya.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government, the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped the kangany receives his commission, less the amount of his advance from the financial agents unless he is himself returning to the Colony in which case he is paid the balance due to him on arrival at the estate.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charge and is purposely kept low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from $3 to $20 and is at present fixed at $10 for every female recruit or male recruit accompanied by his wife and $8 for every male recruit not accompanied by his wife. The amount of the allowance now fixed is designed to cover all legitimate out-of-pocket expenses leaving a margin just sufficient to induce employers to recruit up to their requirements.

Assisted emigration however is not confined to labourers recruited by kanganies for individual employers. An agricultural labourer who is physically fit can, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant and on production, where necessary, of a certificate from his Village Headman, obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing during recent years. They are usually labourers who have been in Malaya before and are returning to their old places of employment. As they are not recruited, neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable on their account but each receives a gift of $2 and a free railway ticket to his destination on discharge from the immigration depots in Malaya. This gift of $2 is made to ensure that each labourer will not suffer from lack of food while seeking employment.

Assisted immigration from India was suspended in August, 1930, but was resumed in May, 1934, since when recruiting licences have been issued only in a limited number of special cases, the great majority of assisted emigrants to Malaya being non-recruited labourers. Since 1934 the number of people applying for assisted passages to Malaya has been in excess of the number of those for whom work would have been available. Accordingly the non-recruited assisted emigration system has been improved by the issue to persons in India of "bearer-letters" asked for by their friends and relatives in employment in Malaya. The issue of these letters by employers is strictly controlled by the Labour Department with the result that every newcomer assisted to emigrate is assured of employment amongst friends.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as ex-officio Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee which is partly composed of unofficials, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no "contract" or indentured labour in the Colony.

There were 72 European-owned, and 274 Asiatic-owned estates in the Colony, employing 15,315 and 2,018 South Indian labourers respectively, on the 31st December, 1937.

B.—Forestry

The organization remained as before. The Commissioner of Lands was nominally responsible for the forests of Singapore, the State Forest Officers,, Negri Sembilan and Perak North exercising general supervision of Malacca and the northern Settlement respectively. The Forest Officer, Singapore, continued to grade timber for export, to inspect material on behalf of Government departments, and to act as an intermediary between the mills and consumers generally. The forests of Malacca were in the full-time charge of an Assistant Conservator stationed at Jasin, and those of Penang and Province Wellesley were looked after by the District Forest Officer, Matang (Perak). This joint control ceased at the end of the year however, and the Straits Settlements forest organization will henceforward be self-contained.

The area of gazetted reserves totalled 81,492 acres, or just over 10 per cent. of the total land area of the Colony. In Singapore there were small excisions for agricultural purposes amounting to 60 acres and the Bukit Timah reserve, revoked in 1936 pending re-survey, remained unconstituted. This reserve of about 177 acres is the only remaining area of natural forest on the Island, and it is most desirable, therefore, that it should be preserved, though economically it is of little importance. To assist in its protection, two members of the Gardens' staff were gazetted as Forest Rangers. The Malacca reserves are among some of the best organized and most valuable in the country. The forests of Penang and Province Wellesley are chiefly of a protective character, their importance having been accentuated by recent developments on Penang Hill.

Gross exports of sawn timber and sleepers (practically all of which came from the Singapore mills) amounted to 21,159 tons valued at $601,664. as against 18,563 tons valued at $482,102 in 1936, a rather surprising result considering the effects of the Sino-Japanese war and the increased local demand. But for the former there can be little doubt that the exports to China would have been far greater. As it was Hongkong showed a gain of over $16,000 and China of $15,500 over the previous year's values. Another rather unexpected increase was in the import of saw-logs from Sumatra, which totalled 100,666 tons as compared with 98,884 in 1936. In the early part of the year there was an acute shortage of logs from this source, due, it was said, to a tightening of restrictions on export and immigration. This led to an increased interest in supplies from mainland sources, which rose from 32,957 to 44,105 tons and represented about 30 per cent. of the total input as against 25 per cent. in 1936. Owing to the superior facilities for water transport the adjacent Dutch territories will be able to maintain their supplies for some time, though the quality of the logs is undoubtedly declining. Meanwhile the up-country mills are rapidly

increasing and competing in markets formerly dominated by Singapore, and it is in this way, rather than by increasing log supplies to Singapore, that the balance is likely to be adjusted.

Exports of sawn timber to the United Kingdom remained practically stationary at 25,773 (25,230) cubic feet, but this can be regarded as satisfactory in view of the enormous increase in local demand, resulting in high prices and comparative indifference to quality on the part of local purchasers. The adverse ocean freights complained of last year were satisfactorily adjusted, and, though the rates are still very high, Malaya is no longer at a disadvantage as compared with neighbouring countries.

Including the 25,773 cubic feet exported to the United Kingdom, the Forest Officer, Singapore, inspected 103,105 cubic feet of timber, the bulk of it on behalf of Government departments, the largest order being in the shape of logs to form a floating boom for the purpose of keeping the Civil Air Port clear of drifting debris. Another large order was for seasoned timber for the new Supreme Court, delivery of which was, however, delayed by the late arrival of steelwork. The result was that the mills were forced to hold these stocks for nearly a year at serious inconvenience to themselves owing to the very limited stacking space that is available. Efforts are therefore being made to induce consumers to purchase their requirements outright and to do their own seasoning on the building site, for it is only in times of depression that the mills have any storage space.

Silvicultural work in the shape of cleanings and girdlings to encourage the natural regeneration of commercially valuable species continued. Complete regeneration has now been established over 919 acres in Malacca, where, in addition, 16,669 acres are still under treatment, of which 2,141 acres were retreated during the year. In Penang and Province Wellesley cleanings and girdlings were initiated over 315 acres and 113 acres were retreated, in addition to preliminary cleanings of a more or less exploratory character, the total area under treatment being now 2,135 acres.

Revenue increased from $36,820 to $43,883, and expenditure decreased from $72,251 to $66,734.

C.—Fisheries

Various factors in recent years have increased the demand for fresh fish in Malaya. Improved communications and a higher standard of living coupled with the storage facilities made possible by refrigeration have raised the status of the fisherman to one of far more than purely local importance. The demand for fish in Singapore can be only partially satisfied by the products of the local fishing grounds, and indeed 50% of the Settlement's daily requirements are brought in by Japanese fishermen from as far afield as Burma, Siam and Borneo. A further 30 per cent. is supplied by Malays from the N.E.I., and imported by local Chinese dealers from various parts of the Rhio Archipelago. The remaining 20 per cent. is provided by fishermen from Johore and Singapore.

In order to enable the Malayan fisherman to compete on more even terms with his rivals arrangements are being made to provide a fishery training school which will be situated at the old Powder Magazine at Tanah Merah. 25 or 30 fishermen aged from 20 to 22 will be chosen to undergo a course of two years' training to include practical work at sea and instruction in navigation and the handling of powered craft. A knowledge of modern methods of storing and preserving fish will be essential if wider areas are to be worked with success and it is considered that instruction on

this subject together with the provision of powered boats containing storage accommodation will enable the fishermen to overcome their present difficulties whereby the fish caught one day have become inedible the next.

The experimental vessel 'Kembong" did a great deal of useful work during the course of the year. Not only did she demonstrate the advantages of a powered boat for working the more remote fishing grounds but also showed that the fish from which she takes her name has a distribution in Malayan waters far larger than was formerly supposed. This Kembong (Scomber) is one of the most valuable food fishes. Being however extremely perishable, it has hitherto been salted or cooked in brine immediately after capture but the experimental vessel has shown that the fish if kept at freezing point can be preserved for as long as five days, and it is hoped that with improved methods of storage the Kembong will be established as one of the staple fishes in the local market.

The experimental vessel has also acted as parent ship and refrigeration store to groups of local fishermen. The sailing boats have thus been enabled to avoid frequent journeys back to the shore in order to dispose of their catch as soon as possible. It is expected that the longer periods spent at sea will result both in an increase of the total number of fish caught and in greater profit to the individual fisherman. The Malay however is unwilling to remain at sea on Friday, and his attendance at the mosque on that day means that he cannot spend more than five days on the fishing grounds. The proposed introduction of powered craft will however mean that within these limits the maximum amount of time will be devoted to the actual use of net and line, and that the boats will not be compelled to take advantage of an on-shore wind while the fishing is still good.

General.—

Fishing in the Colony has been normal throughout the year. The total number of fishermen employed being not less than 12,084 of whom 6,216 were Malays, 4,077 Chinese, 285 Indian, 28 of Portuguese descent.

Revenue from the issue of licences for fishing gear and fishing boats amounted to $11,302-75.

The total number of fishing boats of all kinds employed amounted to 4,576. Prices paid to fishermen have been good.

The experiment of introducing trout into the streams of Camerons Highlands receives a contribution from the Government of the Straits Settlements. Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining ova from England and most of the only consignment ordered during the year arrived dead. But the trout in the streams appear to be flourishing, particularly in the Telom, in whose deeper pools fish of two pounds in weight are reported to exist. It is expected that licenses will be issued to anglers during the course of 1938.

D.—Minerals

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca, where tin is mined and to Christmas Island, where deposits of phosphate of lime are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. There are coal deposits in Labuan but these are not at present being worked. On the 1st April, 1934, the tin mines of Malacca were brought formally within the scope of the International Tin-Restriction Scheme by the coming into operation of Ordinance No. 10 of 1934 (Chapter 164 of Laws of the Straits Settlements). By agreement with the Government of the Federated Malay States a fixed exportable allowance not exceeding 58·00 tons of tin

per annum was allocated to the Settlement. This figure represents 1,291 pikuls of tin-ore, and the actual production during 1937 was 1,606.25 pikuls. At the end of the year there were only five producers. Royalty amounting to $13,440 was paid.

The smelting of tin at Singapore and Penang is one of the principal industries of the Straits Settlements. The year's production, as declared by tin smelters, amounted to 94,721 tons, as compared with 84,716 tons in 1936, an increase of 11·8 per cent.

Imports into Singapore and Penang of tin-in-ore, (assessed at 75·5 per cent. by weight of ore imported) from countries outside Malaya amounted to 23,533 tons as compared with 20,338 tons in 1936 and from the Malay States and Malacca to 77,542 tons as compared with 66,806 tons in 1936, a total of 101,075 tons as compared with 87,144 tons in the previous year. Exports of smelted tin amounted to 93,106 tons. The price of tin was £231 a ton at the beginning and £184 a ton at the end of the year. The highest and lowest prices during the year were £304 and £180, and the annual average was £244. The average price in 1936 was £204.

The production of phosphates of lime, as shown by exports from Christmas Island was 162,568 tons. Of this raw phosphate amounting to 127,617 tons were exported to Japan, 11,800 tons to Sweden, 1,835 tons to Java, 5,900 tons to the Union of South Africa, Phosphate dust amounting to 10,741 tons went to Singapore and Port Swettenham, and 4,675 tons to Java. The labour force still consisted of Chinese recruited in Singapore for work on the Island.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The foreign (external) trade of Malaya, representing the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the Federated and the Unfederated Malay States, in merchandise, bullion and specie and parcel post, amounted in value to $1,603 (£187) millions, as compared with $1,152 (£134) millions, in 1936, an increase of 39·2 per cent. Imports increased by $185 millions or 36·0 per cent. and exports by $266 millions or 41·6 per cent. The increase in both imports and exports was spread over the majority of the principal products, the largest increases being in the imports of rubber, motor spirit, tin ore, cotton piece goods, machinery, liquid fuel, rice, motor cars, copra and cigarettes, and in the exports of rubber, tin, motor spirit, copra, tin ore, arecanuts, palm oil and liquid fuel. There were, however, decreases in the imports of pepper and kerosene, and a decline was also noted in the exports of rice and kerosene. Exports of rubber increased by $181,347,000 in value, and tin by $48,416,000 due to the increased market values of these commodities, and on the whole a general improvement was noticeable both in the entrepot trade and the trade in domestic products.

It is interesting to compare Malaya's Trade figure for 1937 (£187 millions) with the total for the Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories for 1936, which was £407 millions. Australia's Trade for 1936–7 was £221,650,000 and New Zealand £92,155,500. The closest equivalent 1936 figures for foreign countries were £206 millions for Netherlands and £190 millions for Belgium.

Although the trade of the Straits Settlements, as distinct from Malaya, is not recorded separately, it can be assumed that Singapore and Penang handle the greater part of Malaya's trade and the large transhipment

traffic, which comprises so valuable a part of Malayan commerce, passes almost entirely through these ports, being the nodal points for the collection, grading and distribution of goods for the whole of Malaysia, especially the neighbouring territories of the Netherlands Indies. At the same time, it must be remembered that the previous overwhelming proportion of the entrepot trade has had to give way before the growth of trading self-consciousness of other countries, but still by no means everything that passes over the wharves or on the lighters in these two ports is of British Malayan origin or for a British Malayan destination. The $1,603 millions of external trade consisted of $698 millions of imports and $905 millions of exports, the corresponding figures for 1936 being respectively $513 millions and $639 millions. The value of bunker coal, oil fuel, aviation spirit and stores taken on board ships and aircraft on foreign trade routes for their own consumption amounted to $13 millions and if this is added to the excess of exports there was a favourable trade balance of $220 millions, as compared with a favourable balance on the same basis of $137 millions in 1936.

As pointed out in previous reports, a certain amount of caution must be exercised in the use of statistics for measuring Malayan trade owing to the fact that the declared trade values for Malaya, and for the Colony, include a considerable portion of import and export of mineral oils. By virtue of its geographical position and proximity to the oil fields, Singapore is a natural storage and distributing centre for this commodity, and distribution is effected as far as Africa on one side and Australia on the other. To give an idea of the value of mineral oils imported and exported during the year 1937 and their relationship in value to the gross trade of Malaya, a glance at the following table is suggested :—

TRADE MINERAL OILS, 1937

VALUE IN $'000

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
Lubricating Oil	2,979	479	3,458
Kerosene	13,174	9,771	22,945
Liquid Fuel	22,483	7,876	30,359
Motor Spirit	49,152	37,780	86,932
A.—Total Mineral Oils ...	87,788	55,906	143,694
B.—Total Malayan trade ...	698,000	905,000	1,603,000
C.—A as a Percentage of B ...	13	6	9

Of the $1,603 millions, representing the external trade of Malaya, $1,331 millions or 83 per cent. comprise the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements. The value of imports was $628 millions and of exports $703 millions. The figures indicate an increase in gross Colony trade and in the proportion of Malaya trade carried by Colony merchants, since 1936 when the Colony's $465 millions of imports and $516 millions of exports amounted to 85 per cent. of Malaya's external trade.

The percentage of Malayan trade with the United Kingdom increased from 11·6 to 13·0, but with British Possessions it decreased from 15·7 to 15·3; there was, therefore, a net increase with all British countries of 1·0 per cent.

The following is a table of the trade values geographically apportioned :—

		Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
		$ in millions		
1. United Kingdom ...	...	108	100	208
2. British Possessions	...	121	123	244
3. Continent of Europe	...	40	147	187
4. United States of America	...	16	399	415
5. Japan	...	40	61	101
6. Netherlands Indies	...	224	35	259
7. Siam	...	94	14	108
8. Other Countries ...	...	49	24	73
Total	...	692	903	1,595
Parcel Post, all countries	...	6	2	8
Total from Trade ...	...	698	905	1,603
Favourable Balance ...	...	207	—	—
		905	905	—

Detailed information regarding the trade of Malaya is contained in the regular periodical publications of the Department of Statistics.

Regulation of imports for Malayan consumption of cotton and rayon piece-goods manufactured in foreign countries by means of a quota system brought into force by the Importation of Textile (Quotas) Ordinance in 1934 remained throughout the year. The continued operation of the tin and rubber control schemes, as well as the textile (quotas) system did not hamper, on the whole, the Colony's tradition of free trade. Apart from excise duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imposed solely for revenue purposes, there are no import duties in the Straits Settlements, and commerce and passenger traffic flow with a freedom that in these days is remarkable.

CHAPTER VIII

Wages and Cost of Living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for Southern Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts in Malaya and these rates tend, in practice, to provide a minimum rate for wages earned throughout the country both by Indians and other races. There was no change in standard rates during the year.

The only key district in the Colony is in Province Wellesley, where the prescribed rates are 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer, 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female, and 16 cents for children over ten, which is the minimum working age prescribed by law.

Throughout the Colony, the daily earnings of South Indian agricultural labourers rose during the year. Figures ranged in the early part of the year from 45 to 78 cents a day for a male adult, and from 36 to 45 for a female, while children earned from 16 to 35 cents a day. During the second half of the year, the rates were even higher and the normal minima were 50 cents for a male adult and 40 cents for a female adult. Government departments and public bodies paid not less than 50 cents a day for unskilled South Indian male labour and the range was from 50 to 90 cents a day, the normal being between 50 and 56 cents.

Chinese agricultural labourers, in most cases, earned more than South Indians, their rates ranging from 60 to 80 cents a day. Javanese regularly received the same rates of wages as South Indians and Malays also received either the same, or very slightly lower, wages.

In Province Wellesley, the labour forces are very settled and on the older properties where South Indian labour has been employed for generations, the majority are locally born. Many of them are not entirely dependent on their check-roll earnings. The same position is gradually being attained in many parts of Malacca Settlement and, to a lesser degree, on Penang and Singapore Island. The figures given throughout this section do not refer to skilled labour, which commanded higher rates.

Every employer is bound by law to provide at least 24 days' work in every month to each male or female labourer employed by them. There is no indentured labour in the Colony.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living reference is invited to the separate report on this subject (No. S. 4) published annually by the Statistics Department. The average weighted index of commodity prices in Singapore, represented by 17 principal commodities (15 wholesale and 2 retail) increased by 17·7 per cent. as compared with 1936, due principally to increases in the prices of gambier, rattans, gum damar and sago flour. There were increases also in the annual average prices of tin, rubber, pepper, arecanuts, rice, palm oil, copra and coconut oil, as compared with corresponding prices for 1936. The prices of coffee, pineapples and tapioca declined while that of tea remained unchanged. The prices of tin and rubber increased appreciably during the first quarter, but fell rapidly during the latter part of the year; the annual average was higher than that for the previous year. The price of tin was £231 per ton at the beginning and £184 at the end of the year, the highest and lowest prices being £304 and £180, respectively. The price of rubber was 9 13/16 pence per lb. at the beginning and 7 pence at the end of the year, the highest and lowest being 13 5/16 pence and 6 11/16 pence, respectively. The following index numbers show changes in commodity values during the last five years (base, 1929 values = 100) :—

1933	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*	*1937*
45	63	64	73	86

The tendency for retail values was to rise, as shown by an increase of 9·3 per cent. in the index of food prices, representing the mean of the differences of the average of the two years in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

Municipal assessment values increased by 3·5 per cent. in Singapore and 3·1 per cent. in Penang, but declined by 0·1 per cent. in Malacca as compared with those of 1936.

There was a general increase in the cost of living for all communities and the index numbers for the Asiatic, Eurasian and European standards given below show that costs in respect of all three standards are higher when compared with 1936 and 1914.

Standard	1914	1936	1937	Percentage increase + or decrease − in 1937 as compared with 1936
Asiatic ...	100	106·0	112·5	+ 6·1
Eurasian ...	100	107·8	112·4	+ 4·3
European ...	100	124·0	127·1	+ 2·5

The variety of rice most commonly used by South Indian labourers is Rangoon Parboiled No. 1 of which the price per gantang varied between 26 and 30 cents in Penang, 24 and 26 cents in Malacca, and 26 and 28 cents in Singapore during the year. Estate managers buy rice wholesale and issue it without profit to their labourers and prices on estates were therefore lower than the retail prices given above. The price of No. 2 Siam rice, which is the staple food of Chinese labour, averaged 30 cents in Singapore, 36 cents in Penang, and 32 cents in Malacca during the year.

CHAPTER IX

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools (other than those in which the teaching is of an exclusively religious nature) in which ten or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance *(Chapter 139)*. This Ordinance was amended by Ordinance No. 4 of 1937. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher in an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is insanitary or unsuitable by reason of danger from fire or on the ground that it is a dangerous building. The Director of Education may also refuse to register a school that is likely to be used for the purpose of political propaganda detrimental to the interests of the Colony or of the public or for the purpose of instruction detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director may also refuse to register any school if it shall appear to him that the existing educational facilities are adequate. The Director may also in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board receives, in addition to the school fees, the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas.

B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The "English Schools" are those in which English is the medium of instruction. Less than half of the pupils come from English-speaking homes. The lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and are given an education which ends as a rule with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though a few stay on to enter for the Queen's Scholarship Examination.

The fees for pupils enrolled before the 1st January, 1934, are $30 (£3 10*s.*) a year for boys and $24 (£2 16*s.*) a year for girls for the first six years (*i.e.* for the years spent in the two Primary Classes and in Standards I to IV inclusive) and $48 (£5 12*s.*) a year for boys and $36 (£4 4*s.*) a year for girls for the remaining period. The rates for boys and girls enrolled on or after the 1st January, 1934, were fixed at $36 (£4 4*s.*) a year for the first eight years (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and thereafter $72 (£8 8*s.*) or $108 (£12 12*s.*) a year, according to the results of an examination, the successful pupils up to 50% of the available places paying the lower fee and the remainder paying the higher one.

The fees have been reduced from 1st January, 1938 to $30 (£3 10*s.*) a year for Primary classes up to Standard VI inclusive.

There is no compulsory education.

In 1937 there were 24 Government and 33 Aided English Schools in the Colony as in 1936, 28 in Singapore, 20 in Penang, 8 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 25,361 (9,446 in Government and 15,915 in Aided Schools), 473 more than last year.

Of the 25,361 pupils in English Schools, 18,631 were receiving elementary education (*i.e.* up to and including Standard V) and 6,730 secondary education (*i.e.* above Standard V .)

One thousand seven hundred and ninety-six (or 9·64%) of those receiving elementary education and 1,385 (or 20·57%) of those receiving secondary education were enjoying free education. Of these free scholars 567 were Europeans and Eurasians, 960 Malays, 1,403 Chinese and 216 Indians while 35 belonged to other races.

The Aided English Schools are managed by various missionary bodies —the Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, the Portuguese Catholic Church, the Gabrielist Brothers and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of European Missionary teachers at the rate of $3,000 (£350) a year for men missionaries and $1,800 (£210) a year for women missionaries. Allowances at these rates, however, are payable only to 16% of the total authorised staff in boys' schools and 25% of that in girls' schools. The other missionary teachers, European and Asiatic, are paid at the rate of $1,440 (£168) a year for men and $1,200 (£140) a year for women. In Christian Brothers' Schools and Convent Schools no distinction is made between European and Asiatic missionary teachers who are all paid at a flat rate of $2,400 (£280) a year for men and $1,500 (£175) a year for women. Under certain conditions capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government.

The Government Afternoon Schools in Singapore continued the useful work that they have carried out since their initiation in 1930. These schools accommodate pupils who are unable to gain admission to Government or Aided morning schools: some, but by no means all, of the pupils are over-age for morning schools. The afternoon schools are staffed by qualified and trained teachers for whom employment cannot be found in the regular Government or Aided Schools. Co-operation and liaison with the morning schools continued and promising boys in the afternoon schools were drafted into the morning schools as opportunity occurred. In one of the schools special attention was paid to manual work of value to the over-age boys unsuited to literary studies. Two of the schools had sports days and the rest co-operated with the morning schools. All the schools played games, being given the use of the morning schools fields; good use was made of the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool. The average enrolment of the afternoon schools in 1937 was 1,057 compared with 879 in 1936. The total expenditure was $40,485 and the total revenue $37,875.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—

(*a*) those controlled by religious bodies as educational and not commercial undertakings;

(*b*) those carried on by individuals for profit: many of these are accommodated in any sort of building shop-house, private house, office or godown.

Among the 55 private English schools in Singapore and Labuan are four or five efficiently conducted institutions and there has been a general though slow movement towards improvement in the private English schools in general. In 1937 there were 7,247 pupils in these schools in Singapore and 116 in Labuan, a total increase of 1,117 over the 1936 enrolment. Selected teachers who held the necessary initial qualification were admitted for training in the Primary Normal Class.

There were 12 private English schools in Penang with an enrolment of 864 boys and 232 girls.

There were six private English schools in Malacca with an enrolment of 340 boys and 9 girls.

The third Annual Conference of the Heads of Singapore Government and Aided English Schools was held under the presidency of the Inspector of Schools and formed a valuable medium for the exchange of ideas on school organisation and method.

The appointments of European Supervisors—a Group Supervisor (man) for elementary classes and a Primary Supervisor (woman) for primary classes —in charge of groups of English schools with locally trained Principals were continued. The Supervisors were also responsible for the Normal Class for Primary teachers.

Arrangements were made in Singapore at the beginning of 1936 by which pupils in Aided Schools were taught Science on Saturday mornings and in the afternoons by science masters on the staffs of their own schools under the direction of the senior science master of Raffles Institution where the classes were held. Very satisfactory reports of the progress made were received.

There is no central College for the training of teachers for English schools. When training is given it is supplied at Normal Classes held at one centre in each of the three Settlements. At the beginning of 1937, 57 women and two men were allowed to present themselves at the First Year Normal Class Examination and of these, 56 women and the two men passed. This examination was conducted only in the Settlements of Singapore and Penang.

The extensive and valuable scheme of Post Normal Training arranged by the Department was continued in Singapore. Courses were held in Systematic Botany by the Assistant Director of Gardens, Singing, History, Physical Training and Hygiene, Malayan Animal Life, Folk Dancing and Elocution and the Drama.

Courses were run in Woodwork and Science for Trained teachers at Penang.

Teachers for all classes other than the first three primary classes are recruited from Raffles College.

C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School at Kuala Lumpur in the Federated Malay States where courses of training are given for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, and accommodation provided also for a class conducted by the Survey Department for its own subordinates.

In the Government Evening Classes in Singapore held at Raffles Institution courses were provided in Plumbing, Structural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Machine Drawing, Marine Engineering, Radio Engineering, Chemistry and Science, Surveying, Building Quantities, Typography and Sanitary Engineering. The year showed an increase in enrolment, and better attendance, largely due to the establishment of the London City and Guilds Examinations. The Plumbing class had an average attendance of 73 in the third term.

The Government Evening Nautical Classes in Singapore had an average attendance of 23 throughout the year. Three pupils qualified as Local Trade Masters, ten as Gunners, and nineteen as Helmsmen. The numbers in these classes are limited in accordance with the requirements of the Port. Through the Master Attendant's Department, which is in direct contact with the various shipping companies, information is obtained regarding all vacancies for those who are qualified.

Government Evening Classes were also held at Penang in Radio Engineering, Machine Drawing and Applied Mathematics. The two latter were started at the request of the Straits Steamship Co. and proved very popular.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils may proceed to the School of Agriculture at Serdang, near Kuala Lumpur, in the Federated Malay States, where one-year and two-year courses of study are followed. Government provided a number of scholarships to this school in 1936.

Five Singapore English schools maintained vegetable gardens during the year and received help and advice from the Agricultural Department which reported favourably on the work done. In addition nine Malay schools had gardens, one being a girls' school, an increase of two over the previous year. In the Annual Exhibition of Work of the Malay schools a section for vegetables and flowers was included, and the first prize in the annual school gardens competition was awarded to Tanjong Katong School.

In Penang the Refresher Course in Agriculture and Gardening was held at Cherok To'kun Experimental Station in December and was attended by 22 teachers. Forty-eight Malay Schools have gardens, and 2,603 boys attend their own home plots; in addition three schools have their own rice fields.

Gardening continues to be of a high standard in the vernacular schools at Malacca. Seventy-two Malay schools have gardens, and 1,034 boys have home gardens. In addition to the Annual Inter-School Competition in Gardening, the Malay Schools' Third Annual Agricultural Show was held in October. Six hundred and three exhibits were received. The Show attracted great attention.

Poultry keeping at Pengkalan Balak School in Malacca showed good progress. Twelve cross-bred Rhode Island Red cockerels were sold to Kampong people.

Commercial Education.—Courses of study covering the better part of two years are provided by the Commercial Departments of Raffles Institution, St. Joseph's Institution, and the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus in Singapore, and the Government Commercial Day School in Penang and in the Government Evening Classes courses were given in Shorthand, Typewriting and Book-keeping. There are also several efficient private Commercial Schools in Singapore. The extent of the commercial work in schools and evening classes in Singapore is indicated by the number of entries in 1937 for the examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce, namely 919 candidates with 2,262 subject entries.

The Government Evening Classes were also held at Penang in Advanced Book-keeping and Accountancy, Book-keeping and Shorthand. Thirty-five entered for the Higher Certificate of the London Chamber of Commerce and 82 for the ordinary certificate at the November examination.

The average enrolment at the Government Commercial Day School, Penang, was 118, 74 entered for the London Chamber of Commerce Certificate and obtained 255 subject passes with 189 distinctions. Thirty-two entered for the Higher Certificate and obtained 27 subject passes with 24 distinctions.

Evening Commercial Classes were also held regularly at Malacca, but Shorthand and Typewriting were the only subjects taught. Nineteen students sat for the London Chamber of Commerce Examination. These classes fill a definite need in Malacca, where there exists no other means of obtaining commercial education.

Industrial Education.—(*a*)—The Singapore Trade School had an enrolment of 122 students of whom 86 were taking the general machanics course, 18 the electrical and 18 the plumbing course. Each is a three-year course and in 1937, 38 completed the course. As in previous years some outside work was undertaken, but it is proposed to reduce this, as it interferes with the regular training. The gross revenue from outside work was $2,314.

A new Fitting Shop was completed, also a new East wing, containing lavatories, shower baths, tiffin room and lecture hall; a tuck shop run by a contractor has been greatly appreciated by the students. The electrical wiring was undertaken by the students under the supervision of the Public Works Department. The plant was increased by purchasing four lathes, one tool and cutter grinder, one second hand steam engine, and modern lighting plant.

The Trade School Advisory Committee held two meetings throughout the year, and continued to do good work. Their advice and help were much appreciated.

Fees of $3 a month ($36 or £4. 4*s*. a year) were paid by all except a limited number of poor students. There was great demand for admission and there were 112 names on the waiting list at the end of the year.

During the year the demand for ex-students was very satisfactory, in fact more situations in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were offered than the number of students available for employment. All the students who left at the end of 1937 and gained Leaving Certificates have been offered employment.

During the year a Cadet Corps has been started with the view of forming ultimately a sapper unit.

(*b*) The enrolment at the Penang Trade School rose from 70 in 1936 to 81 in 1937. Of these 14 were free scholars and one student was awarded the Newbold Scholarship. Twelve electrical and ten plumbing students were enrolled during the year. Twenty-two third year students left on completion of their course. Boys who complete the course have no difficulty in obtaining employment.

(*c*) The Malacca Trade School had an enrolment of 51 students in three classes including nine in the tailoring class which was started in May.

Three Malays received scholarships of $6 a month and eight Malays scholarships of $3 a month. One Eurasian and seven Malays were granted remission of fees. Three Malay students were provided with Scholars' Railway Season Tickets. All other Malacca students paid a fee of $1 a month. A Kedah Government student paid $10 a month. Nine boys used an old hospital ward as a dormitory.

Building construction, in addition to carpentry, was studied by the second and third year carpentry classes. The carpentry department was visited on one occasion by an examiner appointed from Singapore, and on two occasions by officers of the Public Works Department. All reports were satisfactory.

The third year students executed work on outside orders to the value of $1,690 during the year, and received a sum of $538 as their share of the profits. Work to the value of $49 was done by the tailoring class.

An exhibition of modern furniture, made by the students, was held in December. Articles to the value of $141 were sold and orders were booked for $221.

The school co-operated with the Agricultural Department in conducting a course in elementary carpentry for students at the Sungai Udang Farm School.

D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine and Raffles College, both in Singapore. The course at the College of Medicine covers six years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial List of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

There is also a fully organised dental school in which a five years' course of training is given, the Diploma in Dental Surgery entitling its holder to practise in Malaya.

There is a four years' course for a diploma in Pharmacy, entitling the holder to register under the Registration of Pharmacists Ordinance and to hold a licence under the Poisons and Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, thereby enabling him to practise as a dispenser in Malaya.

Raffles College was opened in 1928 in order to place education of University standard within the reach of all youths in British Malaya who were capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three year courses in Art and Science, and Diplomas are awarded to successful students. A fourth year Education course for prospective teachers was started in 1937.

The College awards annually ten Entrance Scholarships of a value of $720 a year tenable for three years, and a limited number of Second and Third Year Exhibitions, not exceeding $500 a year, are available for students who show exceptional ability during their first or second years at College.

Two scholarships known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 for the first year and £400 for any subsequent year, up to six years in all, are awarded every year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential college at Oxford or Cambridge.

The annual examination for these scholarships, the fourteenth since they were restored by Government in 1923, was held in October. The successful candidates were Miss Emma Sadka of Raffles Institution, Singapore, and Lim Chong Eu of Penang Free School. Miss Sadka received all her secondary education at Raffles Girls' School before her admission to the Queen's Scholarship Class at Raffles Institution. The former proposes to take Law at Oxford and the latter Medicine at Edinburgh University.

It has been decided to transfer the Queen's Scholarships from the schools to Raffles College and the College of Medicine from 1940. Regulations governing the award of the proposed Scholarships and Fellowships were drawn up during the year and approved by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. The object of these regulations is to give an opportunity to persons in Malaya with suitable qualifications to receive

the best possible higher education and to fit themselves for a professional or other career by study in England after obtaining diplomas of the College of Medicine or Raffles College.

E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay vernacular education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give general and practical education to those boys and girls who will not receive an English education and who will find employment in vocations like agriculture in which a knowledge of English is not essential, and (ii) to provide preliminary vernacular education for pupils who will later receive an English education.

In 1937 there were 218 Malay Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 25,145. The figures for 1936 were 214 schools and 25,211 pupils. There is also an aided Malay School at Pulau Bukom, near Singapore, at which the enrolment was 66. In addition there were two private Malay Schools in Singapore which had 213 pupils.

In Singapore the Standard VI class which was started in 1936 at Kota Raja Malay School continued to give satisfactory results. The teaching of Basic English in this class was abandoned in favour of traditional English with a selected vocabulary. The curriculum is especially designed, with emphasis placed on manual work, to produce handy youths suitable for posts in shops and offices. The class was very successful will become increasingly necessary as more and more boys pass out from Standard V at an age when they are too young to enter employment. Three Standard VI pupils were appointed as pupils teachers.

In Singapore there were special classes for teachers in Malay schools in practical teaching, Arithmetic, Geography, Carpentry (men only) and silver work. Separate classes for men and women were held and the progress made was very satisfactory.

The Singapore Malay Teachers' Association had a very full programme of professional, social and athletic activities, and published its Annual Journal (Saujana).

The Rochore Girls' School, a school for selected pupils from all the Malay Girls' Schools in Singapore, continued to progress. The curriculum includes English as well as Malay but places special emphasis on art and handwork, nursing, cookery, needlework and homecraft generally. The Government Health Department gave valuable assistance in the teaching of nursing and hygiene. From this school are now drawn all the candidates for the teaching profession and as a result the new pupil teachers are far superior to the old.

Visits were paid by Malay Women Teachers from the Malay Girls' Schools to Malay Boys' Schools which had girl pupils, to teach them needlework, and the Headmistress of Rochore Girls' School also visited all the Malay Girls' Schools.

The Malay Girls' Schools had their annual sports on Coronation Day. These were successfully organised and carried out by the women teachers themselves.

A new boys' school to hold 250 pupils was built at Tanglin Tinggi to replace the old and unsuitable building at Tanglin Kechil, and extensions were added to Geylang Boys' School, Geylang Girls' School, and Telok Kurau Girls' School.

The Malay Women Teachers' Training College, Malacca, which was opened in 1935, had an enrolment of 24 students drawn from the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. The staff consisted of a Principal and an Assistant, both Europeans, and two Malay Assistants one of whom had been in the College since the opening two years before, and the other a new Assistant from Penang. The health of the students was good. A great deal of instruction and supervision was necessary in Hygiene as is the case whenever a new group of students enter the College. The behaviour of the students has been entirely satisfactory. The students get on excellently with one another and seem to find plenty of things to enjoy in their spare time. At the beginning of the year an entirely new set of students entered the College and difficulty was experienced with writing. Consequently the taking of notes was a difficult matter. Examination results were better than with the previous students. In all crafts the students showed ability, but lace-making and weaving are more popular than mengkuang weaving. A certain number of sessions were devoted to normal training and each student gave criticism lessons. Badminton continued to be the principal game played and in addition netball was also introduced. Both games are popular and the standard of play was high. A performance of "Bluebeard" was given during the year before an audience of Malay Women Teachers on a visit from Selangor. The students were entertained on various occasions at the French Convent and the Suydam Girls' Schools and on several occasions invited some of the staff and pupils of those schools to the College. A tour of inspection was made by the Principal and the European Assistant during the year of students now teaching in Malay Girls' Schools and reports on their work were favourable.

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese Schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese Schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1937 was 38 in Singapore, 30 in Penang and 7 in Malacca. There is an increase of 10 in Singapore, 8 in Penang and 2 in Malacca. The total grant paid to these schools was $123,564.50 as against $96,980 in 1936.

The grants to Chinese vernacular schools are in two grades for primary schools, $10 (£1 3*s.* 4*d.*) a year or $5 (11*s.* 8*d.*) a year for each pupil in average attendance. The grant system was extended in 1936 to Middle Schools at the rate of $18 (£2. 2*s.*) a year or $12 (£1. 8*s.*) a year for each pupil in average attendance. In order to qualify for the higher grade, schools must teach English with reasonable efficiency and must employ for that purpose a teacher who holds the minimum qualification of a Junior Cambridge Certificate or a certificate recognised by the Director of Education as of equal value. In addition to these grants certain schools with Normal classes receive a special grant of $25 (£2. 18*s.* 4*d.*) a year in respect of a limited number of pupils in their normal classes. This number is determined by the number who may be reasonably expected to be absorbed as teachers in the local schools.

There are three types of schools :—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.* schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members";

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on the school fees for his livelihood, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1*s.* 2*d.*) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s.* 8*d.*) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of a Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The primary course in Chinese schools normally occupied six years. The Government has little if any control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance, or the length of holidays in any except the Aided schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curriculum.

Secondary education for boys is provided in Singapore at the Chinese High School. In Penang there were two schools for boys which provided a secondary education as well as a primary course. In Malacca one boys' school provided post primary classes, but not a complete secondary course. One girls' school in Singapore provided a three year secondary course, which is followed by a three year Normal course. Three girls' schools in Singapore and two in Penang provided a post primary Normal course.

Inter-school Sports for Chinese Schools managed by the Education Department were held in the three Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca. There was keen competition amongst the schools, and although the smaller schools are handicapped by lack of playgrounds and facilities for training, a number of them sent in competitors.

An Inter-school examination which was started in 1935 was again held this year. The subjects in which pupils were examined were Chinese, English, Mathematics, History and Geography. It is hoped that this examination may help to raise the standard of education in Chinese schools.

At the close of 1937, there were 476 registered schools with 1,809 registered teachers, and 40,293 pupils. The figures for 1936 were 440 schools, 1,696 teachers, and 36,657 pupils.

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There were no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil Schools in Penang and Province Wellesley, and all those in Malacca, were estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder were private schools run by mission bodies or committees.

Education is entirely free in estate schools; in some of these the children also receive free uniforms (from toddy-shop profits) and the parents a gift of rice if attendance is satisfactory. The schools run by Chritian missions or Indian Associations usually give free education to the poor. In proprietary schools the fees seldom exceed $1 (2*s.* 4*d.*) a month.

At the end of the year there were 66 Tamil schools in the Colony with 3,337 pupils (of whom 1,264 were girls). The figures for 1936 were 62 schools with 2,816 pupils (of whom 1,020 were girls).

Of the 66 schools, 51 schools with 2,350 pupils received grants-in-aid which in 1937 amounted to $18,804 as against $13,434 in 1936.

Four Singapore schools were recommended for grants-in-aid for 1937, two of which are run by the Indian Association. The most efficient of these schools was not in need of a grant.

There are signs that interest in the physical welfare of estate school children is increasing. Teachers have been given an opportunity to learn something about physical training in schools, and, with the engagement of

a teacher in Malacca who has taken a course under the Superintendent of Physical Education, it is hoped to encourage the widespread inclusion of efficient physical training in the curriculum of estate schools in Malacca.

Though there is no policy of co-education, a number of girls attend boys's schools. There are two Tamil vernacular schools for girls in the Colony, the Convent Tamil school at Penang and the Ramakrishna Mission Girls' School in Singapore.

F.—MUSIC, ART, DRAMA AND RECREATION

Music.—The Master of Music, who was appointed in 1936, has visited 19 Government and Aided English Schools in Singapore regularly every month, and has greatly stimulated interest in this important subject. Very definite progress has been made in all schools, but the work is handicapped by lack of pianists, paucity of song books, and lack of equipment. Three classes for teachers in Singing were arranged in 1937, with an enrolment of 115. They were also taught to read and write simple melodies, and lectures were given on the lives and works of the great composers, and on harmony and counter point. The Teachers' choir also progressed, and an excellent concert was given in December.

A course was also held for Raffles College post graduate students; eleven students were admitted and the course was run on the same lines as the classes for teachers. Fortnightly concerts were given at Raffles College during 1937, and lecture recitals were given by the Master of Music with the aid of gramophone records. About 600 school children attended a performance given by the Italian Grand Opera Company. A bamboo pipe band has been started at Geylang English School. In general progress has been satisfactory and the various organisations are growing up and taking firm root.

In Penang Music is taught at the School of Music. The Trinity College of Music examinations were held twice in the year in seven different grades; 8 males and 26 female candidates sat for Theory and 11 males and 32 females for the Practical examination. The examiner commented personally on the great advance in Malaya in the study of western music in recent years.

In Malacca Singing was taught in all girls' schools, in the Government Elementary English Schools and in the Anglo-Chinese School. Special attention was given to the teaching of singing to newly admitted Malay boys at Bandar Hilir English School with excellent results. The singing by both young and older pupils at a concert given by the Anglo-Chinese school was very good. The percussion band at Suydam Girls' School continued to be popular. A mouth organ band composed of the smaller boys at Tranquerah made satisfactory progress.

Art.—In spite of the absence of the Art Superintendent in Singapore a creditable standard of work was maintained generally.

The work from the primary classes showed much enthusiastic teaching and joy in execution. Imaginative Drawing, supplemented by memory drawing and a little work from direct observation has been carried out by all classes; the work showed vigorous expression of thoughts and impressions. Particularly good were the results in paper modelling applique, plastic modelling, decorative stitching and cane weaving, and there is evidence of the increase of initiative amongst the teachers and of originality in the designs produced by quite young children.

In the Elementary Grades (Standard II–Standard V) the prescribed syllabus has been followed with special stress on observational and memory work.

The use of pastel has been the rule in Standard II and Standard III. Of special merit is the plant study in pencil. All classes have prescribed handicrafts such as basketry, potato printing, marbling, book-binding, manuscript writing, wood staining and block printing.

In the girls' schools design has been practised in relation to needlework and there are few cases of failure to obtain satisfactory results.

In the Secondary classes (Standard VI upwards) the observational work has consisted very largely of object drawing in pencil and the drawing of plant form in pencil and colour work leading up to these branches as prescribed in the Cambridge Syllabus.

The results in nature drawing are eminently satisfactory in all schools.

Eight lectures and demonstrations in batik dyeing on cotton and silk were given to Malay School teachers in Singapore during January and February.

Drama.—The Singapore teachers' Association again arranged for special courses for its members in elocution and Drama under the auspices of the Department, and gave a public performance at the end of the year, consisting of short plays, recitations and choruses.

Very good dramatic performances were given at the three large girls' schools in Penang on Empire Day and similar occasions, the Empire Day play at the Convent being particularly well done. At St. George's Girls' School historical episodes were arranged and acted by the different classes under the history mistress.

Recreation.—A special class for Folk Dancing was held for women teachers in Singapore and 15 teachers qualified. A special Physical Training class was held for men teachers in Singapore and 36 qualified.

Adequate provision was made in all schools, English and Malay, for recreation. The more popular games, football, cricket, and hockey, were played in all boys' schools. Provision was made in some schools for badminton, tennis, volley ball and basket ball. Malay schools are particularly keen on association football and have football leagues of their own.

Organised games were conducted in most of the girls' schools in the time allotted for physical training. In Malay girls' schools folk games were included in the physical training as part of the curriculum.

The Scout movement in Singapore flourished and one Rover crew was added, as well as a patrol of Clubs. The Medal of Merit was presented to Assistant District Commissioner SYED AHMAD ALSAGOFF at Teluk Kurau English School ground.

G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas' Home (a Church of England Institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children, without restriction as to race or religion, from all over Malaya, There was an average of 15 boys and girls in the Home during 1937. This Home is at Penang and it gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor. The Government grant was $1,500.

There are 15 orphanages in the Colony (five in Singapore, five in Penang and five in Malacca), with 1,543 orphans in 1937, maintained by various religious bodies. Most of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and, in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught housekeeping and needlework. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as *mui tsai* who complain of ill treatment, are detained in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300.

The Salvation Army Industrial Home in Singapore for waifs and strays (boys) had an enrolment of 37 at the end of the year. The Home seeks to provide the boys with an elementary education, with a practical bias, in English or Malay.

The Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen was the most outstanding event of the year. It was an occasion of general rejoicing and special festivities were arranged for the children. Every child received a medal or a badge and refreshments were given to all. A Coronation Gift Book with the coat of arms of the Colony on the cover, a presentation inset, and a special foreward was presented to every pupil in the upper and middle classes of Government and Aided English Schools. Arrangements were also made for celebrations for children in the hospitals, the Poh Leung Kuk, the Reformatory and other institutions in the Colony. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and much appreciated the efforts to make the Coronation a happy and memorable occasion for them.

CHAPTER X

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

Communications by sea between the various Settlements are frequent and regular. Most mail and passenger liners call at both Singapore and Penang.

A weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan is maintained by ships belonging to the Straits Steamship Company, whose vessels also ply regularly from Singapore to Penang and Malacca, while there are Chinese owned vessels also engaged in coastal trade. Christmas Island is served by the s.s. "Islander" which belongs to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company and maintains a five-weekly service.

The Colony is very favourably situated for communication by sea with other countries, as Singapore is a nodal point for traffic between Europe, the Netherlands Indies, British India and the Far East.

The tonnage of all vessels entered and cleared at the five ports of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island) during the year 1937 was 50,300,456 tons, being 2,262,128 tons more than in 1936. Particulars are shown in Appendix "C". The increase at Singapore was 2,470,645 tons; Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Islands combined showed a decrease of 208,517 tons.

The figure for merchant vessels above 75 tons nett register increased by 2,178,397.

In the last six years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1932	...	...	...	43,424,295 tons
1933	...	...	...	43,056,128 ,,
1934	...	...	...	44,006,480 ,,
1935	...	...	...	44,959,859 ,,
1936	...	...	...	45,530,894 ,,
1937	...	...	...	47,709,291 ,,

B.—ROADS

The road systems of the various Settlements comprise a total of 1,071 miles of metalled roads, of which the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca maintain 253 miles, the remainder, most of which is in Rural Board areas, being maintained by the Public Works Department. In addition, the Public Works Department maintains 95 miles of natural roads and hill paths.

The mileage in the various Settlements is given in the following table:—

Settlement	Municipal	Government and Rural Board Roads			Total Road Mileage
	Roads and Streets	Metalled	Unmetalled and Natural	Total	
Singapore	165·37	*148·56	2·63	151·19	316·56
Penang	68·54	*86·43	36·03	122·46	191·00
P. Wellesley ..	..	178·68	26·87	205·55	205·55
Malacca	19·50	384·06	7·70	391·76	411·26
Labuan	..	19·77	21·35	41·12	41·12
Total ..	253·41	817·50	94·58	912·08	1,165·49

Expenditure.—Expenditure on the 912 miles entrusted to the Public Works Department falls under two heads, "Maintenance" and "Reconstruction", and totalled $904,499.80 of which $589,729.34 was for maintenance, and $278,041.81 was for reconstruction. The average cost of maintenance was $647 per mile.

Singapore Municipality spent $159,332.49 on maintenance and $36,393.73 on reconstruction making a total of $195,726.22 for the year 1937 as compared with $342,143.65 in the year 1936.

* Includes Government private roads within Municipal Limits

Penang and Malacca Municipalities spent $127,065.78 and $40,866.85 respectively as compared with $97,966.30 and $39,582.20 in the year 1936.

The principal road reconstruction work in the Colony was carried out in Singapore where the reconstruction of the Singapore—Johore Main Road and its surfacing with asphaltic concrete was completed to the Johore Causeway.

A further all-round increase in motor transport is apparent from the following table which shows the numbers of cars, lorries and jinrickshaws licensed during 1937 :—

Settlements	1936			1937		
	Cars	Lorries	Jinrick-shaws	Cars	Lorries	Jinrick-shaws
Singapore ..	8,514	2,467	4,705	9,382	2,753	4,634
Penang ..	2,493	511	2,548	2,708	589	2,489
Malacca ..	1,108	263	718	1,250	292	719
Total ..	12,115	3,241	7,971	13,340	3,634	7,842

Public transport is provided in Singapore by the Singapore Traction Company which operates a fleet of 108 trolley buses and 112 omnibuses on routes of a total length of 24·94 and 37·36 miles respectively. During the year 53,198,996 passengers were carried by the Company's vehicles.

In Penang public transport is provided by electrical tramcars and trolley buses operated by the Municipal Electrical Department over routes totalling 14·15 miles over which 12,239,447 passengers were carried during the year. The tramcars are gradually being replaced by trolley buses and a total length of only 1·62 miles of tramway track is now left in commission. The Penang Hill Railway, 1·25 miles in length, serves Penang Hill which is 2,250 feet above sea level. During 1937 it carried 146,056 passengers to and from the Hill, the total mileage run being 1,358,915.

C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Singapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, communication between Prai and the Island of Penang is by ferry, and Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Province Wellesley a line runs north to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles.

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant or buffet parlour cars and sleeping saloons; and an air-conditioned coach is provided on the Day Mail trains between Kuala Lumpur and Prai. The journey of 488 miles takes approximately 22 hours allowing for a break of approximately 3 hours at Kuala Lumpur which is situated 246 miles from Singapore.

D.—AVIATION

Air Services

A regular air service between Singapore and Penang by Wearne's Air Services Limited was commenced on the 28th of June. To begin with, the service ran thrice-weekly but from the 25th September, 1937, it has operated daily, Sundays excepted. The journey, including a stop of 20 minutes in Kuala Lumpur, is made in 3½ hours.

Imperial Airways Ltd., and Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., provide a bi-weekly service to England and Australia, the former Company operating between Singapore, Penang and Southampton and the latter between Singapore and Sydney.

The weekly service to Hong Kong, operated by Imperial Airways (Far East) Ltd., provides a connection between these services and the Hong Kong—San Francisco service of Pan-American Airways.

The Royal Netherlands Air Services (K.L.M.) now maintain a thrice-weekly service between Amsterdam and Batavia, calling at Singapore and Penang en route.

The Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.) operate a connecting service between Penang and Medan three times weekly, and also provide a weekly service between Singapore and Batavia *viâ* Palembang.

Aerodromes

Singapore.—All Civil Aviation activities were transferred to the new Airport of Singapore on 12th June, 1937, after the formal opening of the Aerodrome.

This Airport, situated only two miles from the centre of the city, comprises a landing area 1,000 yards in diameter, suitable for use in all weathers, and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes, connected to the main alighting area by a dredged channel protected by floating booms and demarcated at night by electric lights.

Complete lighting equipment for night flying is available and all ancillary services, including long and short wave and direction-finding wireless equipment and a fully staffed Meteorological Office, are provided.

Penang.—Bayan Lepas land aerodrome is used regularly by the local Air Services to and from Europe.

Full lighting equipment for night flying is available and a Meteorological Reporting Station is provided.

The landing area consists of two grass surfaced runways :—

N.E.—S.W.—950 yards long × 200 yards wide with an asphalt macadam runway 60 yards wide down the centre, provided with a turning area 133 yards wide at each end.

N.W.—S.E.—800 yards long by 200 yards wide.

A Marine aerodrome is under construction at Glugor and it is expected that the equipment of this station will be completed early in 1938.

The Penaga (Province Wellesley) Wireless Station, which serves both aerodromes, is provided with long and short wave equipment. Direction finding equipment will be available early in 1938.

General

The two Flying Clubs in the Straits Settlements continue to record satisfactory progress.

The total hours flown by Royal Singapore Flying Club aircraft exceeded 2,207 hours, and twenty-five new members were trained on both sea and land planes during 1937.

A total of 1,618 hours was flown by Penang Flying Club machines and twenty-one new members were trained during the past year.

E.—POSTS, MONEY ORDER, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(i).—Posts

Although the development of the needs of the community has necessitated the divergence of Post Office activities into many and varied channels, some of rapidly increasing importance, the primary function of the Department still remains that of letter carrier.

The most important development of recent years has been the air mail service if only by reason of the remarkable rapidity with which it has advanced from the experimental to the practical stage and the revolutionary changes which its increased use has introduced into the social and economic structure of the whole world. The "All up" Empire Air Mail Scheme marks one further stage in the path of progress. This scheme provides for the carriage by air of all first class mail matter (letters and postcards) to and from most of the countries comprising the British Empire.

The wide ramifications of the scheme necessitate its gradual introduction amongst participating countries and it was not possible during 1937 to do more than complete the arrangements for its introduction in the early part of 1938. Preparatory steps for the extension of the service to Australia and Hong Kong were also taken during the year.

The volume of air mail correspondence from Malaya to Great Britain conveyed by the Imperial Airways' Services steadily increases. As usual the mails despatched in December carrying as they did the Christmas' and New Year's traffic were the heaviest in the year, the total weight of the three despatches made up during the period ending 19th December being 2,006 lbs. as compared with 1,616 lbs. during the corresponding period in 1936.

An internal daily air mail service now operates between Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

The mail service with Europe by surface borne transport was satisfactorily maintained during the year—the average number of days occupied in transit being 22.

In the Straits Settlements full postal and telegraph facilities are provided at 44 Post Offices whilst restricted services are performed at 15 agencies. In addition 96 licensed stamp vendors undertake the sale of stamps on behalf of the Department. At the close of the year there were 202 letter posting boxes in use in addition to those provided at Post Offices and Postal Agencies.

(ii).—Money Orders

The value of money orders issued and paid during 1937 amounted to $11,479,859 as compared with $9,492,650 in 1936.

(iii).—Telegraphs

The number of postal telegraph offices in the Straits Settlements is 43. The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, owns and operates ten submarine cables radiating from Singapore.

The total number of telegrams sent and received in the course of the year was 781,147, an increase of approximately 14 per cent. on the 1936 figures.

The total value of telegraph business, including Government Messages sent free of charge, increased from $192,435 in 1936 to $229,603 in 1937, an increase of approximately 19 per cent.

One thousand two hundred and forty-seven Inland Greetings Telegrams were sent during the year.

The foreign Night Letter Telegrams service introduced in 1936 has now been extended to include all countries in the British Empire except India, Burma and Australia.

Satisfactory teleprinter (Telegraph) working continues to be maintained on the main telegraph circuits, and in continuation of the policy to eliminate morse working the Malacca—Kuala Lumpur and Singapore—Singapore Race Course circuits were replaced by Teleprinters.

Teleprinters have also been installed on the Penang—Taiping and Penang—Alor Star circuits in readiness to commence operation in the early part of 1938.

The morse circuit at Penang—Runnymede Hotel was superseded by telephone—telegram working.

(iv).—Telephones

(a) *Development*

The number of telephones in service continues to increase and at the end of the year under review 1,955 direct exchange lines were connected to the Straits Settlements telephone system as compared with 1,739 at the end of 1936. These figures, which constitute a high record, do not include lines in Singapore, where the telephone system is operated by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, under licence.

The total number of telephone instruments installed was 3,032 and other miscellaneous circuits numbered 143.

The nett revenue derived from telephones during the year was $454,018, an increase of $78,099 as compared with 1936. Included in the 1937 revenue figure above is $189,266 derived from trunk and junction services representing an increase of $46,351 over the previous year.

(b) *Types of Telephone Exchanges*

The P. and T. department now maintains 18 telephone exchanges for public service. There are three general types namely—

(a) Ten Manual Exchanges. All switching at these exchanges is performed by operators.

(b) Seven Full Automatic Exchanges. Subscribers connected to these exchanges obtain their own local connections by dialling, and have access to an operator (usually at a remote exchange) for trunk and junction calls.

(*c*) One Semi-Automatic Exchange. Connections on these exchanges are set up by an operator at a remote exchange, to which the apparatus routes all calls.

The number of Automatic Exchanges was increased by the conversion of the exchanges at Penang Hill, Sungei Bakap (Province Wellesley) and Merliman (Malacca) to this type.

(*c*) *Trunk and Junction Development*

Owing to general increase of traffic it was necessary to provide the following additional trunk and junction circuits during the year :—

Singapore—Kuala Lumpur	... ...	1 Channel
Bukit Mertajam—Singapore	... ...	1 ,,
Bukit Mertajam—Ipoh	... ...	1 ,,
Bukit Mertajam—Alor Star	... ...	1 ,,
Penang—Bukit Mertajam	... ...	4 Channels
Penang—Butterworth	... ...	1 Channel
Malacca—Masjid Tanah	... ...	1 ,,
Simpang Ampat—Sungei Bakap	...	1 ,,

(*d*) *Radio-Telephone Services*

Radio-telephone facilities were greatly improved by the addition early in the year of services with South Sumatra and Indo-China, by the extension of hours of service on the more important links and by the opening on 1st December, 1937 of a service with most European countries. The charge for a 3 minute call to Great Britain is $45. During the Christmas and New Year season this charge was reduced by half and the resulting traffic, which was heavier than could conveniently be dealt with, demonstrated the popularity of this relatively cheap service.

(*e*) *Telephone Accounting*

As foreshadowed in last year's report a new telephone accounting scheme was introduced throughout the P. and T. Department at the beginning of the year. Accounts are centralised in Kuala Lumpur, where mechanical aids can deal with all routine work expeditiously and economically. The chief benefits of the scheme from the subscriber's point of view are :—

(*a*) all payments can be made on a monthly basis, a great convenience for the small business user, and

(*b*) "phonograms" may be originated by any subscriber and charged to his monthly telephone bill, without the necessity for a separate telegraph deposit account.

(v).—Wireless

The wireless stations at Paya Lebar (Singapore), Penaga (Province Wellesley), Christmas Island and Labuan continued to operate their various services during the year, and on 1st March the British Malaya Broadcasting Corporation began to radiate regular programmes from their transmitter in Singapore on a wavelength of 225 metres.

During the year the Paya Lebar station took over the civil aircraft wireless duties from the Royal Air Force including the wireless direction-finding service. In addition Paya Lebar has been called upon to collect considerable meteorological data from neighbouring administrations on behalf of the Meteorological Office.

Owing to the increased traffic on short waves, two new short wave transmitters were being installed, one to cope with ships services and the other for fixed station services. These transmitters will be brought into service early in 1938.

The wireless service in connection with Penang aerodrome has been operated from Penaga for some years and with a view to improving the service, a Marconi-Adcock wireless direction-finding station was constructed similar to that installed at Paya Lebar in connection with the Singapore civil airport. This installation at Penaga was being calibrated at the end of the year and it is hoped to bring the equipment into use early in 1938.

Many protracted interruptions in the telegraph communications between Penang and Puket in Siam made it necessary to introduce an emergency wireless service which was operated through the wireless stations at Puket and Penaga.

Broadcasting in Penang was carried out by the Penang Wireless Society and during the year a high grade receiver was installed for reception and re-radiation of the B.B.C. Empire programmes.

In Singapore the wireless installations on 55 merchant vessels were inspected for the purpose of issuing wireless telegraphy safety certificates.

The number of Broadcast Listening Station Licences in force at the end of the year was 5,653 as compared with 3,859 at the end of 1936. This represents an increase of 46 per cent.

The number of licensed wireless dealers at the end of the year was 92.

CHAPTER XI

A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary 20 cent, 10 cent and 5 cent silver coins and a 5 cent nickel coin, which are legal tender up to two dollars. There are also copper cents, half-cents and quarter-cents, but the quarter-cent has practically disappeared from circulation. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued in denominations of $10,000, $1,000, $100, $50, $10, $5 and $1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.

During the War, and for some years after, notes for 25 cents and 10 cents were issued.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of $60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony, and when Great Britain abandoned the Gold Standard during the War and again in September, 1931, the local currency automatically followed sterling, to which it is linked at 2*s.* 4*d.* to the dollar.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2*s.* 4 3/16*d.* to the dollar, and *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2*s.* 3¾*d.* to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary

between these two limits. Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of $104,975,521–75 in notes and $2,939,868 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of $135,105 compared with $135,130 at the end of 1936.

At the beginning of the year the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to $83,984,121–75. There was a demand by the public for currency during the year and the consequent expansion in the note issue amounted to $20,944,450. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for silver current coin during the period under review, the result over the whole year being that on 31st December, 1937, the note circulation stood at $104,975,521–75.

It is a requirement of the law that a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund, being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation, shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.*, in current silver coin in the Colony and in Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment Portion of the Fund.

The liquid portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to $74,799,473–17, consisting of $10,430,611–39 in silver and $1,939,243–92 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £7,282,405–8*s*.–4*d*. in sterling and short-dated investments in London.

The investment portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year consisted of investments valued at $105,773,085–00, and cash awaiting investment amounting to $536,764–61.

The excess value of the Fund, including cash at Bank $20,601–88, over the total note circulation at the end of the year was $76,157,435–77 compared with an excess of $74,925,278–69 at the end of 1936.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of $1,205,878–80 in subsidiary silver coins during the year.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury $11,749,483–35 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and $722,199–00 in currency notes of values less than $1. The value of notes below $1 in circulation at the end of 1935 was $722,824–50 and at the end of 1936 $722,402–00.

Eighteen million three hundred and fifty-seven and a half notes to the value of $57,288,900–00 were destroyed during the year as against 16,616,867½ notes to the value of $49,993,214–50 in 1936.

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, Eastern Bank, Limited.
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited.

The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de L'Indo-Chine.
,, National City Bank of New York.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited.
,, Kwong Lee Banking Company.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
,, United Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Ban Hin Lee Bank, Limited.
,, Bank of China.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) remained throughout at 2/4⅛.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December, was 50,148 as compared with 44,937 on the 31st December, 1936, an increase of 5,211. During the year 11,896 new accounts were opened while 6,685 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was $11,946,537 as compared with $10,319,033 on the 31st December, 1936. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $230 and $238 at the end of 1936 and 1937 respectively.

The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December was $13,647,117 and the market value of these investments according to the Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $13,238,548.

The number of depositors on 31st December, 1937 under the Fixed Deposit Scheme was 389 and the amount standing to their credit was $303,305.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) Standard of Length, the Imperial yard.
(*b*) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.
(*c*) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes Chinese steelyards (called "daching") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The following are the principal local measures used with their English equivalents:—

The chupak	...	...	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	...	...	,,	1 gallon.
The tahil	...	...	,,	1⅓ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	...	...	,,	1⅓ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)		...	,,	133⅓ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)		...	,,	5,333⅓ lbs.

CHAPTER XII

A.—PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works in the Straits Settlements are administered by the Director of Public Works, who is stationed in Singapore and is assisted by the Deputy Director and Head Office staff and the Government Architect and his staff. Work in each of the Settlements is controlled by a local head or Settlement Engineer who corresponds with, and takes his instructions from Headquarters in Singapore, in all matters of major importance. The approved establishment of the Department includes twenty-six fully qualified European Engineers, four Architects, two Electrical Engineers, one Mechanical Engineer and one Quantity Surveyor.

During 1937 the total expenditure for Public Works in the Straits Settlements was $6,623,682.52 compared with $6,897,035.36 for the previous year. The details are shown in the following table:—

Head of Estimate	Expenditure	Settlement	Total Expenditure	Expenditure Extraordinary
	$ c.		$ c.	$ c.
Personal Emoluments	605,213.34	Singapore ..	3,865,404.47	2,527,907.54
Other Charges ..	192,994.56	Penang	800,386.51	411,438.60
Public Works Annually Recurrent ..	1,991,024.73	Province Wellesley	225,752.10	120,286.06
Public Works Extraordinary ..	3,803,787.07	Malacca ..	443,539.78	233,431.91
Work for Other Departments ..	30,662.82	Labuan ..	31,671.38	11,528.61
		Public Works for Rural Boards S.S.	1,256,928.28	499,194.35
Total ..	6,623,682.52	Total ..	6,623,682.52	3,803,787.07

Annually Recurrent Expenditure was as follows:—

	1936	1937
	$ c.	$ c.
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals	615,313 47	730,541 46
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works (including Sea and River Works) ...	1,150,231 16	1,260,483 27
	1,765,544 63	1,991,024 73

Expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary on reconstruction and special works under the heading Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was $413,972.86 in addition to the maintenance expenditure. The maintenance of 912 miles of road outside the Municipal areas cost $589,729.34 or $647.00 per mile.

Buildings and Miscellaneous Works.—The Extraordinary Expenditure under this heading amounted to $3,389,814.21. No important works were completed during the year, but the following were in progress:—

SINGAPORE

Civil Aerodrome.—The expenditure during the year on this work, the total estimated cost of which is $7,339,000, was $1,144,239. The aerodrome was opened to traffic in June, and it is expected that all works will be completed in 1938.

Supreme Court.—The estimated cost is $1,577,000. The expenditure during 1937 was $450,907 and at the end of the year the Structural Steelwork was well advanced and brickwork was in hand.

Beach Road Reclamation.—The estimated cost of this work, which is being carried out in combination with dredging in the neighbourhood of the Seaplane Channel, is $988,900. 303,782 cubic yards of dredgings were deposited during the year. This scheme will reclaim 47 acres of land along the sea front.

Province Wellesley

Extension of Water Supply.—The total estimated cost of this work is $850,000. The amount spent in 1937 was $64,324, making a total to date of $643,101. Concreting of the cut off trench was completed in August and concreting of the dam proper was commenced. By the end of the year 1,130 cubic yards of concrete had been deposited.

Muda River Bridge.—Investigations were made for a bridge over the Muda River at Dusun Lada on the boundary between Province Wellesley and Kedah, and detailed plans and estimates have been prepared for a 3 span Reinforced Concrete bridge of total length with approaches of 900 feet, work on which it is hoped to start in 1938, the estimated cost being $720,000.

Christmas Island

Dollars fifty-one thousand three hundred and one was spent in 1937 in providing a new District Officer's Quarters and a Sikh Temple. The total cost is estimated at $60,000.

Malacca

Dollars fifty thousand was provided in 1937 for reclaiming an area of the foreshore with dredgings from the Malacca River. Dollars forty-seven thousand three hundred and fourteen was spent.

Waterworks.—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are up-to-date and excellent. Water can be drunk from the tap as safely here as in the leading towns in England. The various installations in the rest of the Straits Settlements are controlled by the Public Works Department and were well maintained throughout the year.

Electric Light and Power.—In Singapore and Penang, the Municipalities own and operate their own power stations. In Singapore an additional power station is owned by the Singapore Harbour Board. The Penang Municipality supplies current for Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley, on contract. In Malacca, a private Company supplies electricity in the Municipal area. Outside these areas the Public Works Department maintains small supplies, maintains the electrical services in Government Buildings and carries out new installations. The total expenditure of the Electrical Branch in 1937 on Recurrent and Extraordinary Services was $334,885.52.

Sewage.—In Singapore and Penang the Municipal Sewage systems are being gradually extended. As the new sewers are made available, Government Quarters and Buildings are connected up. Where no public sewers are available septic tank installations are relied on. The effluents of these are periodically analysed and give reasonably satisfactory results.

General:—At the beginning of the year the Public Works Department had 30 contracts in hand; 241 were entered into during the year and at the close of the year 74 were incomplete.

The annual estimates included 194 Special Service items of which 10 were deleted and to which 42 were added leaving a total of 226 to be carried out. Of these 165 were completed, 32 were started but remained unfinished and no start was made on 29.

B.—DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

Penang Settlement.—The total area of land under cultivation with rice in the Settlement of Penang, including Province Wellesley, is about 40,000 acres, of which 85 per cent is included in Irrigation Areas gazetted under the Irrigation Areas Ordinance.

Province Wellesley.—The principal areas in Province Wellesley are :—

Northern District—

Penaga Area	6,800 acres
Sungei Dua Area	9,000 ,,

Central District—

Sungei Kulim Area	3,500 acres
Kubang Semang Area	6,200 ,,

Southern District—

Sungei Acheh Area	4,550 acres

The following is a brief account of the work done during the year :—

Penaga Area.—Three thousand feet of bund were built to protect the land from encroachment by the sea, and the streams, Sungei Lahar Endin and Sungei Titi Serdang, were deepened and bunded.

Sungei Dua Area.—One hundred and twenty-five chains of new drain were dug.

Sungei Kulim Area.—Work commenced in August on a scheme for irrigating 2,400 acres of rice land within this area and some 2,100 acres within the Kubang Semang area by means of a diversion of the Sungei Kulim. A contract for $22,750 was let for the Headworks and the work was nearly completed at the end of the year. The structure embodies 3 balanced radial watergates 19 feet long of a type developed by the Department. Some 5,000 feet of the main canal were dug and the scheme will be in partial operation in 1938.

Kubang Semang Area.—A small Headworks and 1½ miles of canal, on which construction commenced late in 1936, was completed early in the year and irrigation water was made available for the 1937 planting season.

Sungei Acheh Area.—This area receives its water supply from the Krian Irrigation Works which are in Perak.

During the year the Krian Irrigation extension scheme was completed at a cost of $376,500 divided equally between Perak and the Colony. The construction of the Ijok Diversion canal and the extension of irrigation and controlled drainage to Sungei Acheh, besides benefitting the whole area, resulted in 220 acres of land, reclaimed along the coast, being brought into cultivation.

Tasek Junjong Irrigation Scheme.—Small improvements were made to this scheme, the majority of which was completed last year.

Muda Bund.—A scheme was prepared at an estimated cost of $165,000 for strengthening the Muda Bund which protects the agricultural areas north of the Prai River from flooding from the Muda River, but no construction was undertaken.

Butterworth Drainage scheme.—More than half of this scheme which is estimated to cost $51,000 had been completed by the end of the year. Deep drains lined with concrete slabs will discharge into the Prai River by means of a tide gate on the Sungei Nyor, solving a serious rural anti-malarial problem and improving the cultivation within the area.

Tasek Glugor Malay Settlement Drainage Scheme.—Works commenced this year on a scheme costing $6,500 designed to drain 350 acres of land reserved for Malays at Tasek Glugor, by means of a new deep drain cut through the adjoining Forest Reserve to connect up with an existing estate drain.

Penang Island.

Sungei Pinang Irrigation Area.—Work proceeded during the year on the schemes started in 1934 to provide a sufficient water supply and to protect from the sea this area of 1,450 acres of some of the best rice land in Malaya. Eighty-two chains of the canal extension were dug and 16 chains of sea bund at the extreme northerly end were constructed.

A sum of $1,258 was also spent on the work of restoration of the channel of the Sungei Pinang which was destroyed in the flood of 1932.

Sungei Burong Area.—Further improvements to the irrigation scheme, started in 1935, included the construction of a syphon under the river and the demolition of the old dam.

Silting of Rivers on Penang Island.—The sum of $5,072 was spent in desilting rivers.

During the year, the Hill Lands Ordinance was passed. It is designed to arrest the damage which results from injudicious clearing of sharply sloping land and the consequent spoliation of streams and deposit of silt on the flat coastal areas.

Malacca Settlement.—During the year under review, a total area of 33,000 acres was planted with rice and gave a total yield of 12,300,000 gantangs.

There are now six areas gazetted under the Irrigation Areas Ordinance, namely, Tanjong Minyak, Eachang, Parit China, Sungei Putat, Chohong and Merlimau. They include 8,160 acres of land suitable for rice cultivation, of which 4,580 acres have been alienated. All structures and waterways were maintained in good order and operated throughout the year.

Major works now being carried out.

Malacca River Improvement Scheme.—This scheme, estimated to cost $200,000 and to take five years to carry out, was begun in 1935.

It aims at the reclamation of some 6,000 acres of erstwhile rice land and a general improvement to the drainage of the whole of the Malacca River Valley. An accumulation of coarse silt in the river bed over a length of 8¾ miles is being slowly removed by dredging. Two hundred thousand cubic yards of silt have now been removed from a length of river of 2¾ miles, and of this, 127,000 cubic yards and 1¾ miles were done during 1937.

Jasin Irrigation scheme.—Work to the value of $2,000 was done during 1937 on the first stage of a scheme which, estimated to cost $60,000, will give irrigation to 1,750 acres of existing sawah in the valley of the Sungei Kesang, between Kesang Tua and Chin Chin, by the construction of two permanent concrete dams having movable gates and the provision of an efficient system of water distribution.

Duyong Drainage Scheme.—Work was begun on the deepening, widening and bunding of 7 miles of the Sungei Duyong, together with the construction of a tidal gate on the Sungei Duyong and of one mile of coastal bund.

The work is estimated to cost $82,500 and will benefit a total area of roughly 4,200 acres, comprising 600 acres of mixed crops, and some 3,600 acres of potential rice land which has put out of cultivation by the ingress of sea water and by serious and deep flooding.

The dredging of the river is done by means of a mechanical excavator working from the banks, the spoil being dumped to form the bunds. The machine started work in the middle of June and during the last five months of the year dredged 1½ miles of river and dumped spoil for 3 miles of bund. The bund on the seaward side of the main road was completed by hand.

The tide gate, estimated to cost $4,000 is a reinforced concrete structure of unique design. The steel movable gate is 20 feet wide and holds a head of 12 feet of water. It weighs 8½ tons and can be lifted 15 feet in 5 minutes by one man.

Surveys and Investigations.—The main field of investigations conducted during the year has been the upper and middle reaches of the Malacca River, the intention being to link up the rice areas in the valley with irrigation from dams to be constructed when the Malacca River improvement scheme has been completed.

Investigations have also been continued in the lower reaches of the Malacca River with a view to evolving a scheme to clear the river through Malacca Town of an accumulation of debris and to break down the artificial bar which, formed in the harbour from silt and debris deposited at slack water, necessitates annual dredging.

CHAPTER XIII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

Constitution of Courts

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

The Courts Ordinance (*Chapter 10*) provides for the following Courts to administer the Civil and Criminal law :—

(*a*) The Supreme Court;
(*b*) District Courts;
(*c*) Police Courts; and
(*d*) Coroners' Courts.

The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance (*Chapter 11*) provides for appeals from convictions had in trials at Assizes.

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and consists of:—

(*a*) the High Court, which exercises original criminal and civil jurisdiction, and appellate criminal and civil jurisdiction in cases tried in District and Police Courts; and

(*b*) the Court of Appeal which exercises appellate civil jurisdiction in cases tried in the High Court.

An appeal lies from the Court of Appeal and the Court of Criminal Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Criminal trials at Assizes are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

A District Court, presided over by a District Judge and having both civil and criminal jurisdiction is constituted in each of the two Settlements of Malacca and Labuan. There are two District Courts in each of the Settlements of Singapore and Penang one for civil and the other for criminal cases. The District Judge, Penang also has jurisdiction as District Judge, Province Wellesley. The civil jurisdiction of a District Court is limited to suits involving not more than $500, when a District Judge presides and $100 when an Assistant District Judge presides.

Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

The Courts Ordinance also provides for the appointment of Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are not Courts and have no power to try cases.

The criminal procedure of the Colony is governed by the Criminal Procedure Code while civil procedure is governed by Rules of Court made under the Courts Ordinance. Civil procedure in District Courts is governed by certain portions of the Civil Procedure Code which was repealed by the Courts Ordinance with a proviso that the provisions of the said Code relating to proceedings in the District Courts shall continue to apply to such proceedings until superseded by District Court Rules which may be, but have not yet been, made under the Courts Ordinance.

B.—POLICE

(i).—Organisation

The Straits Settlements Police Force is organised on a territorial basis. Each Settlement is in the charge of a Chief Police Officer, whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended, in most cases, by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca, the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties, but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

(*a*) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned with the investigation of any crime that is not of a political or subversive nature.

This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(*b*) The Depot at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depot is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men for the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

(*c*) The Financial Branch.

Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, officers of the Attorney-General's department who are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts. The Deputy Public Prosecutor at Singapore includes the Settlement of Malacca in his jurisdiction.

(ii).—Crime

The increase in seizable offences recorded for 1936 was continued during 1937 in an even more pronounced degree. The number of admitted reports recorded in the Colony was 6778, an increase of 1047, or more than 18 per cent. over the previous year's figure; it is the highest number recorded since 1932. Only slight increases were recorded in Penang and Malacca, but those for Singapore and Province Wellesley were 23 per cent. and 50 per cent. respectively.

Arrests were effected in 2891 cases and convictions obtained in 2132 of them, while at the end of the year 292 cases were awaiting disposal.

Cases of murder dropped from 33 to 31, the figures for the individual Settlements remaining practically the same, but there was a large increase in cases of attempted murder, the figures for 1936 and 1937 being five and 15 respectively.

Of robberies of all kinds there were 77, an increase of 10 over the previous year's figure, Singapore accounting for eight of them.

Serious cases of causing hurt shewed a decrease from 445 to 371; minor cases rose from 6673 to 7868.

Whereas thefts in dwellings, of which there were 1353 cases, shewed a slight increase, there was a substantial increase in simple thefts, the 2180 admitted reports being 504 more than the 1936 figure. Housebreakings also shewed an increase, 766 cases having occurred as against 646 in the previous year.

Cases of extortion rose from 35 to 64.

Admitted reports of criminal breach of trust numbered 374, an increase of 29 per cent. over the 1936 figure.

Offences relating to the illicit possession and concealment of arms and explosives fell from 51 to 17.

Admitted reports of non-seizable offences were as under:—

	1936	1937
Singapore	65,594	74,147
Penang	25,979	21,110
Province Wellesley ...	4,275	5,810
Malacca	13,236	9,993
Labuan	101	61
	109,185	111,121

The great majority of these reports are recorded under the ordinances named below:—

	1936	1937
Chandu Revenue	2,423	3,522
Merchant Shipping ...	7,235	3,872
Municipal	43,479	42,169
Traction Engines and Motor Cars	8,826	7,987
Traffic Regulations ...	11,523	12,946
Minor Offences	16,426	19,741

Under the less prominent headings there were increases from 406 to 653 under the Common Gaming Houses Ordinance and from 26 to 545 under the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance, while decreases occurred under the Second Hand Dealers Ordinance (84 to 69), Tobacco Duties (135 to 103), and the Weights and Measures Ordinance (865 to 687).

The total value of property lost as the result of criminal activities was $503,008.56, 45 per cent. of which was the result of criminal breach of trust, compared with $610,597.33 during the previous year. The value of property recovered by the Police was $136,878.31.

Illegal secret societies, while quarrelling with each other as frequently as ever, were responsible for very little organised crime compared with their activities of only a few years past.

Hokkien societies were responsible for one murder by stabbing and one case of causing hurt by shooting. A series of fights between twako crews early in the year threatened to become serious and at one time tension was so great that it was feared traffic on the Singapore river would come to a halt. Raids were made on the societies concerned and shortly afterwards conditions on the river returned to normal.

Teo Chiu societies were remarkably quiet and at no time throughout the year caused real anxiety.

Cantonese societies were as active as in the previous year, but for the first time in the last 10 years were not concerned in any murder case and had no serious gang fights. During the first nine months of the year they shewed promise of creating a further low record in the number of robberies committed by their members, but during the last quarter more than counterbalanced their period of quiescence by committing more robberies than during the whole of the year 1936. A further point worthy of note was that no firearms were seized on any Cantonese society members or at their rooms.

The foregoing remarks concern only Singapore. In Penang interfaction strife led to serious consequences on two occasions. In one case a

Cantonese was stabbed to death and a Hokkien severely wounded by members of the Sin Ghee Hin, while in the other a minor riot occurred between members of the Sin Khean Khun and some Boyanese.

The only outstanding individual crime of the year was the murder by strangulation of a young Chinese girl. The body was secured to stakes driven into the bank of the Sungei Tampenis at such a low level, that it was exposed only on the lowest of tides.

A serious case of counterfeiting came to light in Penang in August, when a Japanese and three Chinese were arrested in possession of nearly five hundred forged ten dollar notes.

C.—PRISONS

Description

There are six prisons in the Colony located as follows :—

Changi } Singapore.
Outram Road }
Penang
Malacca
Labuan
Christmas Island.

The prison at Changi which was gazetted as a prison on the 24th December, 1936 and in which prisoners were accommodated from the 4th January, 1937, is a convict prison for the Colony; the other prisons are local.

Population

The total daily average population of the prisons in 1937 was 1,011 as compared with 1,111 during 1936.

At the beginning of the year, there were 960 prisoners in the six prisons of the Colony. Admissions during the year numbered 14,865, as compared with 15,633 during 1936; 14,890 prisoners were discharged leaving 935 prisoners at the end of 1937.

There were 109 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year, and during the year 573 more were admitted. On the 31st December, 1937, after 616 had been discharged, 66 vagrants remained in custody.

Health

The health of the prisoners was maintained in a satisfactory state throughout the year.

Employment of Prisoners

"Short-sentence" and "Revenue-grade" men are mainly employed at husk-beating and on fatigue duties. "Long-sentence" prisoners are employed in industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making or mat and basket-making. Cooks, orderlies, clerks and such are selected from among the upper-grade prisoners when possible.

Remission

Remission of sentence may be earned by good behaviour by prisoners sentenced to penal servitude, rigorous imprisonment or simple imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Youthful Offenders

Under Section 289 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and under the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Ordinance, the Courts may in their discretion impose on youthful offenders a variety of punishments or orders far lighter than those which would be meted out to adult offenders. Such youthful offenders as are committed to prison are separated from adult prisoners so far as accommodation will permit.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory at Singapore, is the only institution in Malaya specially organised for the reception of youthful offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and is not in any way connected with the Prisons Administration. Youthful offenders and destitute male children between the ages of seven and sixteen are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of eighteen.

At the end of 1936 the inmates numbered 104. Fifty-one were released and seventy-one admitted during 1937. At the end of 1937 there were 122 inmates.

There were two deaths during the year, one from lung abscess and the other from injuries through an accident that occurred whilst the boy was employed on hill cutting and terracing work.

Of the 71 boys admitted during the year, 49 were from the Straits Settlements, 14 from the Federated Malay States, six from the Unfederated Malay States and two from Sarawak. There were 43 Chinese, 12 Malays and 16 Indians. Sixty-one were committed for criminal offences including fraudulent possession of property, housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 36 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 1 was committed for murder, 5 for vagrancy and 4 as being uncontrollable.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, grass-cutters, gardeners, dhobies, cooks, orderlies and house boys. They were all taught Malay in Romanised script for two hours daily, with the exception of 12 who had their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

A Reformatory Troop of Boy Scouts called 3rd Singapore Troop was formed in January. The boys selected have taken the work very seriously and it is reported that the Troop compares favourably with other Troops in Singapore.

So far as was possible work was found on their release for boys who had no parents, relatives or friends to look after them, or arrangements were made for their adoption by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Fifty-one Ordinances were passed during the year 1937. Of these, two were Supply Ordinances, forty were Amending Ordinances and the rest were new Ordinances (two being private Ordinances).

The following are the more important—

(1) The Court of Criminal Appeal (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 11 and confers power upon the Court of Criminal Appeal to order a new trial in a case in which the Court has found it necessary to quash a conviction for an irregularity but in which there was evidence upon which the jury might reasonably have convicted.

A member of the Attorney-General's Department (such as a Crown Counsel) is authorized to appear for the Crown in the Court of Criminal Appeal even if he is not an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court.

(2) The Minor Offences Ordinance (Chapter 24) was amended twice. Provision was made for the registration of workers and dealers in gold, platinum or silver and dealings by such persons in articles made of these metals are restricted.

(3) The Children (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 28 by providing in the statutory definition of child that in the case of children employed in public entertainments the age limit shall be 16 years instead of 14. The Ordinance enlarges the power to refuse a licence if a child is not under proper guardianship, confers power to cancel a licence, and also confers powers of search.

(4) The Common Gaming Houses (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 30 by prohibiting competitions in which prizes are offered for forecasts of a future event or of a past event the result of which is not known, or competitions which do not substantially involve the exercise of skill.

(5) The Women and Girls Protection (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 33. This Ordinance raises from 15 years to 16 years the age below which an unmarried girl cannot lawfully consent to carnal intercourse. The age of 14 years remains the age below which a girl cannot consent in charges of rape under section 375 of the Penal Code.

It is made an offence to bring into the Colony a woman or girl by false pretences.

Provision is also made to render male and female persons who live on the earnings of prostitution liable to the same penalties, other than whipping.

The Ordinance affords protection to a girl who has been brought into the Colony by fraud or after having been purchased irrespective of whether or not she is bought for purposes of prostitution.

Power to search is given if there is reasonable cause to suspect that an offence under the Ordinance has been or is being committed.

(6) The Debtors (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 48 and brings the Colony law with regard to the arrest of a debtor before judgment into conformity with the Federated Malay States law. The principal change is that the warrant shall not be executed if the debtor tenders a sum sufficient to satisfy the plaintiff's claim.

(7) The Registration of Schools (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 139. In order to prevent the spread of ephemeral private schools the Director of Education is empowered to refuse registration if he considers that existing educational facilities are adequate, or alternatively to require a deposit. The grounds on which a teacher may be refused registration are enlarged.

(8) The Merchant Shipping Ordinance (Chapter 150) was amended twice. The principal amendments were :—

(*a*) a new definition of "Native Sailing Ship";

(*b*) clarification of the sections relating to refunds to the legal personal representatives of deceased pilgrims;

(*c*) amendments based on the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Line-Throwing Apparatus Act), 1928;

(*d*) revision of the sections relating to the licensing of boats;

(*e*) repeal of section 139 which related to discipline on foreign ships.

(9) The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 151 by repealing and re-enacting section 11 (which imposes restrictions on the registration of companies by certain names) and section 23 (which empowers the Colonial Secretary to allow a Company to dispense with the use of the word "Limited" in certain circumstances).

(10) The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance (Chapter 162) was amended four times during the year. The principal amendments were—

(*a*) introduction of a presumption that textiles of a restricted class should be presumed to be of foreign origin unless proved to be British;

(*b*) the extension of the system of restriction to made-up and partly made-up articles and woven goods;

(*c*) the Registrar was empowered to declare whether any goods were textiles within the meaning of the Ordinance;

(*d*) power to seize and forfeit regulated textiles imported in contravention of the Ordinance together with any conveyance or carriage used in connection with such contravention;

(*e*) possession of regulated textiles imported in contravention of the Ordinance is made an offence;

(*f*) the Registrar is empowered to suspend a licence pending the prosecution of the licensee and on conviction the licence may be cancelled;

(*g*) entry and search for textiles imported in contravention of the Ordinance may be made on a warrant, or, in an emergency without a warrant;

(*h*) suspected goods may be detained and persons reasonably suspected of an offence may be arrested without warrant;

(*i*) employers are made liable for the acts of their servants, informers protected from discovery and Government protected against suits.

(11) The Rubber Regulation Ordinance (Chapter 163) was amended twice. The principal changes were—

(*a*) amendment of the definitions of the Islands of Singapore and Penang;

(*b*) the Controller is empowered to ascertain the dry rubber content of rubber imported into Province Wellesley, Malacca and Labuan and to grant the importer an export credit for the amount so ascertained;

(*c*) it is made punishable for a dealer in the Islands of Singapore and Penang to possess, transfer or export rubber in excess of his credit in the Controller's ledger.

(12) The Tin and Tin-ore (Restriction) (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 164 by providing for Provisional Assessment. As miners in the Colony are subject to changes both in assessment and quota a further amendment permits stocks to be carried up to the full quota in place of the two-thirds permitted with a fixed standard production.

(13) The Traction Engines and Motor Cars Ordinance (Chapter 214) was amended twice. The Registrar of Vehicles was empowered to suspend or cancel the registration of an unsafe traction engine or motor car. The rule-making power was extended to provide for the regulation of the loads of traction engines and motor cars.

The Chief Police Officer of a Settlement is required to satisfy himself that an applicant for a driver's licence, in addition to being competent to drive, is otherwise a proper person to obtain a licence.

The Ordinance also introduces into the local law the English law in regard to disqualification of a person from obtaining or holding a driver's licence. There is provision for appeal and application to the Court for the removal of such orders of disqualification.

The Governor in Council is empowered to grant exemption from or reduction or remission of the special tax imposed under section 4A as well as fees.

Effect is given to the convention relating to the International Circulation of Motor Vehicles.

(14) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 222 by repealing the scale of duties prescribed in the Ordinance and by providing that the duties shall be such as are from time to time imposed by resolution of the Legislative Council. The Ordinance further provides that differential duties may be imposed according to the country of origin. The maximum penalties are increased.

(15) The Registration of United Kingdom Patents Ordinance (No. 2 of 1937) repeals the Inventions Ordinance (Chapter 158) under which patents for inventions were issued locally and provides that patents for inventions issued in the United Kingdom may be registered in the Colony.

(16) The Indemnity Ordinance, 1937 (No. 17 of 1937). This Ordinance indemnifies the Municipal Commissioners and others against proceedings in respect of past expenditure of Municipal funds on municipal staff housing which was probably *ultra vires* their powers under the Municipal Ordinance (Chapter 133).

(17) The Rubber Estates Assessment Ordinance (No. 29 of 1937) repeals and re-enacts with amendments the provisions of the Rubber Lands Assessment Ordinance (Chapter 231). The rates are not changed but considerable changes are made in the system of collection.

(18) The Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance, 1937 (No. 34 of 1937). This Ordinance repeals and re-enacts with considerable amendments the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance (Chapter 89).

The principal changes made are—

(*a*) provision for the registration of still births;

(*b*) the closing of the Registers to the public;

(*c*) provision for the registration of the surname of a child and special provision for illegitimate children.

(19) The Prevention of Corruption Ordinance, 1937 (No. 41 of 1937) makes punishable bribery and secret commissions in public or private business. It is based mainly upon the corresponding English Statutes.

(20) The Hill Lands Ordinance, 1937 (No. 44 of 1937) makes provision for the control of the use and cultivation of hill-land in areas in which the absence of control is or might be a source of danger to public health or might result in damage to property through soil erosion or other causes.

(21) The Children and Young Persons (Places of Detention) Ordinance, 1937. (No. 46 of 1937). This Ordinance makes provision for remand homes for children and young persons who come into the hands of the police or before the Courts on criminal charges.

The Ordinance provides only for boys; the number of girls arrested on criminal charges is so small that provision for them is considered unnecessary at present.

CHAPTER XV

Public Finance and Taxation

The Revenue for the year 1937 amounted to $37,348,383.42 which was $4,287,163.42 more than the original estimate of $33,061,220 and $1,409,292.42 in excess of the revised estimate of $35,939,091.

The Expenditure was $42,038,481.60 being $6,048,917.60 more than the original estimate.

The year's working resulted therefore in a deficit of $4,690,098.18. In addition there was a depreciation of the Colony's Investments amounting to $1,377,709.09.

(i).—Revenue

The Revenue was $2,224,245.99 more than that of 1936. Details are shewn in the following table:—

Heads of Revenue	1936	1937	Increase	Decrease
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light dues ..	2,467.74	2,404.10	..	63.64
2. Licenses Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	22,727,578.73	24,906,592.49	2,179,013.76	..
3. Fees of Court or Office, payments for Specific Services and Reimbursemen s-in-Aid ..	1,448,173.51	1,507,735.48	59,561.97	..
4. Posts & Telegraphs ..	2,353,111.02	2,883,984.72	530,873.70	..
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,824,829.58	1,839,994.60	15,165.02	..
6. Interest ..	5,481,920.78	5,088,187.66	..	393,733.12
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,143,231.90	975,456.40	..	167,775.50
Total exclusive of Land Sales and Grants-in-Aid	34,981,313.26	37,204,355.45	2,784,614.45	561,572.26
8. Land Sales and Premia on Grants ..	139,545.60	143,856.54	4,310.94	..
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	3,278.57	171.43	..	3,107.14
Total Revenue ..	35,124,137.43	37,348,383.42	2,788,925.39	564,679.40

The increase under the head "Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" is chiefly due to increase under the following Sub-Heads:—

	$ c.
Liquors	536,008 54
Opium	479,004 32
Petroleum Revenue	426,882 42
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services) ...	242,295 62
Tobacco Duties	533,592 23
	2,217,783 13

There is a noticeable decrease of $148,805.84 under the Sub-Head—Estate Duties.

The increase in "Fees of Court, etc.," arises mainly from a new Sub-head, Architectural Fees—$87,559.99, but the Sub-Head "Contribution from Rubber Fund" shews a decrease of $36,804.47.

The increase under "Posts and Telegraphs" is attributable mainly to:—

	$	c.
Sale of Stamps	412,546	01
Telegrams	21,292	02
Telephones	78,098	43
Services to Post Office Savings Bank ...	12,681	00
	524,617	46

The increase under "Rents on Government Property" is due to:—

	$	c.
Forest Revenue	6,643	28
Lands	38,064	86
Government buildings let for profit ...	6,733	14
	51,441	28

There is a decrease of $35,067 under the Sub-Head, "Telok Ayer Reclamation".

The decrease under "Interest" is accountable as follows:—

	$	c.
Interest on Investments	148,332	44
Interest on Loans and advances	170,275	32
Interest on Opium Purchase Money Outstanding	69,284	00
	387,891	76

The decrease under "Miscellaneous Receipts" is attributed chiefly to:—

	$	c.
Excess interest received from Harbour Boards and Municipalities	103,787	58
Retrocession of the Dindings to Perak ...	86,850	00
Miscellaneous	133,876	73
Investment Adjustment Account (Revaluation of Investment)	92,241	03
	416,755	34

There is an increase of $252,376.92 under the Sub-Head Overpayments Recovered.

(ii).—Expenditure

Particulars of Expenditure are set out below :—

Heads of Expenditure	1936	1937	Increase	Decrease
	$	$	$	$
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	37,083.40	18,541.70	..	18,541.70
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc. ..	2,418,746.72	2,410,378.16	..	8,368.56
3. Charitable Allowances ..	68,063.80	67,846.04	..	217.76
4. The Governor ..	131,780.43	119,622.10	..	12,158.33
5. Malayan Civil Service ..	518,366.21	481,758.63	..	36,607.58
6. Straits Settlements Civil Service	8,390.96	10,817.42	2,426.46	..
7. General Clerical Service ..	1,181,967.24	1,222,122.84	40,155.60	..
8. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Residents ..	119,672.99	120,899.59	1,226.60	..
9. Secretary to High Commissioner	11,344.08	11,142.60	..	201.48
10. Malayan Establishment Office	..	...	..	..
11. Agricultural Department ..	84,642.31	97,662.62	13,020.31	..
12. Analyst	53,267.12	64,349.60	11,082.48	..
13. Audit	110,807.17	110,757.30	..	49.87
14. Chinese Secretariat ..	66,163.94	67 667.38	1,503.44	..
15. Co-operative Societies ..	26,353.13	26,462.11	108.98	..
16. Drainage and Irrigation ..	265,421.82	255,825.55	..	9,596.27
17. Education	2,170,691.93	2,234,495.56	63,803.63	..
18. Excise Department ..	1,113,841.73	1,152,962.59	39,120.86	..
19. Fisheries	77,081.09	43,807.25	..	33,273.84
20. Forests	56,263.62	51,429.86	..	4,833.76
21. Gardens, Botanical ..	123,118.50	122,957.45	..	161.05
22. Immigration and Passports ..	61,093.88	82,528.06	21,434.18	..
23. Labour Department ..	29,311.80	22,227.06	..	7,084.74
24. Land and District Offices ..	232,794.58	238,847.61	6,053.03	..
25. Legal	407,769.15	432,835.58	25,066.43	..
26. Marine	492,833.74	508,947.80	16,114.06	..
27. Marine Surveys	67,899.54	62,054.94	..	5,844.60
28. Medical	407,299.24	421,691.77	14,392.53	..
29. Medical, Health Branch ..	560,146.25	570,984.18	10,837.93	..
30. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch	102,822.15	99,273.42	..	3,548.73
31. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries	2,310,389.85	2,425,559.13	115,169.28	..
32. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution ..	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	..	..
II. Local Forces ..	435,074.98	456,348.01	21,273.03	..
33. Miscellaneous Services ..	3,921,890.15	12,495,417.74	8,573,527.59	..
34. Museum and Library, Raffles ..	44,324.63	48,658.63	4,334.00	..
35. Police	2,868,294.47	2,896,544.35	28,249.88	..
36. Post Office	1,821,303.88	1,907,352.33	86,048.45	..
37. Printing Office	243,218.21	212,508.16	..	30,710.05
38. Prisons	423,570.92	450,475.43	26,904.51	..
39. Public Works Department ..	655,805.94	702,470.75	46,664.81	..
40. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure	1,110,294.02	1,234,128.80	123,834.78	..
41. Public Works, Extraordinary	3,881,930.61	3,304,249.92	..	577,680.69
42. Statistics	80,513.43	82,815.21	2,301.78	..
43. Survey Department ..	361,316.43	446,038.57	84,722.14	..
44. Transport	18,473.76	21,003.37	2,529.61	..
45. Treasury	150,370.18	144,226.12	..	6,144.06
46. Veterinary	64,339.52	77,169.79	12,830.27	..
47. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund	2,762.72	2,618.52	..	144.20
Total ..	33,398,912.22	42,038,481.60	9,394,736.65	755,167.27

The more important increases and decreases are explained as follows.

The decrease under "Charge on account of Public Debt" is mainly due to the redemption of the Straits Settlements 3½% sterling Loan 1937–1967—on 15th May, 1937, so that the Colony paid only a half year's interest and contribution towards the Sinking Fund of the Loan.

The small decrease under "Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities etc." is due to a lesser number of retirements of officers during 1937.

The decrease under "Malayan Civil Service" is mainly due to the reduction of posts, two Civil Service appointments being substituted by Crown Counsel with a corresponding increase under "Legal".

The increase under "General Clerical Service" is mainly due to normal increments of salaries and to 16 additional appointments.

The increase under "Education" is due to increments of salaries, filling of vacant appointments and additions to Grants-in-Aid and Housing Allowances to Vernacular School Teachers.

The increase under "Excise", in spite of the fact that there was no capital expenditure on launches such as was incurred in 1936, is mainly due to the increase under "Working Expenses" due to the rise in the price of materials, particularly tin, which alone accounted for an increase of $54,841.50.

The decrease under "Fisheries" is due primarily to the absence of capital expenditure such as occurred in 1936 on the purchase of a brine freezing vessel and also to reduction in expenditure on research work in 1937.

The increase under "Immigration and Passports" is due to annual increments of salaries, to the transfer of six Police Inspectors to officiate as Assistant Immigration Officers in the Immigration Department on 1-7-37 on a new salary scheme, and to eight new subordinate appointments.

The decrease under "Labour" is due to the drop in repatriation consequent upon this improvement in economic conditions throughout Malaya.

The increase under "Legal" is mainly due to the appointment of two Crown Counsel in the Attorney-General's office, and of a Fifth Magistrate in the Criminal Courts, Singapore.

The increase under "Medical" is mainly due to payment of a contribution towards expenses of St. John's Ambulance Association, Singapore, and to the purchase of a Cooling Chamber, Mortuary, Singapore.

The increase under "Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries" is due to increase of staff, change of holders of appointments, normal increments of salaries, and to increase in Other Charges Annually Recurrent and Special Expenditure Votes.

The increase under "Miscellaneous Services" is mainly due to the following large payments being made in 1937:—

	$	c.
Colony's share of the redemption of the S.S. Government Sterling Loan of 3½% 1937–1967	5,369,033	90
Grant of a gift of $2 millions to the Singapore Silver Jubilee Fund	2,000,000	00

	$	c.
Refund to the Singapore Harbour Board of Interest and Sinking Fund Contribution on Dry Dock Capital of $8,265,500 from 15th May 1935 to 15th May, 1937 ...	1,033,187	50

The decrease under "Printing Office" is mainly due to the fact that in 1937 there was no Capital Expenditure such as occurred in 1936 for special work on the printing of Straits Settlements Laws.

The increase under "Prisons" is due to the maintenance of two Prisons in Singapore during 1937 as against one during 1936. His Majesty's Prison, Changi, was occupied on 4th January, 1937.

The increase under "Public Works Department" is due to several new items of expenditure for the Civil Aviation Office appearing under Public Works, to increase in Other Charges Annually Recurrent Expenditure, and also to additional provision for "Temporary Architectural Assistance" under Other Charges Special Expenditure.

The increase under "Public Works Recurrent Expenditure" is mainly on account of the running costs of the dredging fleet, which in 1936 were charged against the vote "Aerodrome Singapore" under Public Works Extraordinary.

The decrease under "Public Works Extraordinary" is due mainly to the decreased expenditure on the Changi Prison and the Singapore Aerodrome which were nearing completion.

The increase under "Survey" is mainly due to the transfer of the Meteorological Branch to the Straits Settlements.

(iii)—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1937

		$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities			
Deposits:—			
Courts		1,899,092.80	
Bankruptcy		776,148.45	
Mercantile Marine Fund		768,311.59	
Police Reward Fund		3,736.58	
Savings Certificates Fund		3,520.00	
Companies Liquidation Account		176,875.05	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		90,602.25	
Miscellaneous Singapore (including Labuan and Christmas Island)		1,882,328.66	
Miscellaneous Penang and Districts ..		502,650.26	
Miscellaneous Malacca and Districts ..		131,673.33	
F.M.S. Agency		51,661.13	
			6,286,660.10
Deposits by Insurance Companies, etc., as per Contra		..	2,300,000.00
Drafts and Remittances		..	41,648.43
Suspense Account—Coin for reminting, etc. ..		..	1,939,070.53
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ..		..	59,109,971.71
General Revenue Balance:—	$ c.		
Balance 1st January, 1937 ..	72,954,595.82		
Less Surplus and Deficit Account 1937	4,690,098.18		
	68,264,497.64		
Less Depreciation of Investments 1937	1,377,709.09		
Balance 31st December, 1937 ..	66,886,788.55		66,886,788.55
Total ..		..	136,564,079.32

The General Revenue Balance on 31st December, 1937, amounted to $66,886,788.55 of which approximately $48.59 millions were liquid. Against this, commitments on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other administrations amounted to $4,719,923 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounted to $5,640,722. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1938 amounting to $2,385,343 and further commitments amounting to $6,291,286 have to be met. The total commitments and contingent liabilities on 1st January, 1938, against the General Revenue Balance thus amounted to $19,037,274.

LIABILITIES

were as follows:—

Assets	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Cash:—			
Cash in Treasuries	3,195,790.46		
Cash in Banks	5,190,617.83		
Cash with Crown Agents	4,278.71		
		8,390,687.00	
Cash held in Kuala Lumpur		19,200.00	
Cash in Transit		7,707.48	
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents) ..		3,059,999.99	
Fixed deposits (Colony)		5,101,000.00	
			16,578,594.47
Suspense Account { Miscellaneous		..	862,077.48
Suspense Account { Stores P. W. D.		..	123,620.45
Investments held on behalf of Insurance Cos., etc., as per contra		..	2,300,000.00
Investments (Surplus Funds):—			
Sterling Securities		36,167,081.48	
Dollar and Rupee Securities		619,706.58	
			36,786,788.06
Investments (Specific Funds):—			
Court		797,117.61	
Bankruptcy		788,842.61	
Mercantile Marine Fund		704,260.78	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		87,114.50	
Miscellaneous		127,029.23	
			2,504,364.73
Investments Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		..	59,109,971.71
Advances			
Boards:—			
Rural		619.94	
Education		10,722.74	
Hospital		815.98	
Building Loans		530,923.48	
Other Governments		77,679.46	
Postal Stores		300,000.00	
Miscellaneous		255,584.38	
			1,176,345.98
Imprests		..	2,136.25
Loans:—	$ c.		
Municipality, Singapore	92,378.38		
Municipality, Malacca	399,445.27		
		491,823.65	
Union Jack Club		45,334.87	
Kelantan Government		4,855,683.98	
Trengganu Government		3,000,000.00	
Singapore Harbour Board		5,851,898.45	
Penang Harbour Board		2,578,015.72	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		50,750.00	
Tanglin School at Cameron Highlands ..		11,500.00	
Penang Sports Club		65,000.00	
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ..		66,173.52	
Perlis Government		100,000.00	
St. Nicholas Home, Penang		4,000.00	
			17,120,180.19
Total ..		..	136,564,079.32

(iv).—Public Debt

The Straits Settlements 3½ per cent. Stock 1937–1967 amounting to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is $59,257,302, was redeemed on 15th May 1937 on the issue of the Straits Settlements 3 per cent. 1962/1972 Local Loan of $30 millions on 15th October 1936.

This issue was over-subscribed to the extent of over $1 million. The total cost of the issue including brokerage, management and redemption amounted to $75,000 *i.e.* ¼ of one per cent. The loan is being managed by the Chartered Bank of India Australia and China.

This loan was allocated entirely to the Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards which bear all charges for Interest and Sinking Fund.

There is no public debt on purely Government account.

(v).—Taxation

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony and from the profits on the Government opium monopoly. The other main items are Stamp Duties, Estate Duties and Pawnbrokers' Licenses which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years. The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from Licenses.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licenses for the year 1937 was $24,906,592.49, forming the greater portion of the Colony's Revenue, and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$	c.
Liquor Duties	3,767,941	71
Opium Revenue	8,839,389	13
Pawnbrokers' Licenses	719,932	00
Petroleum Revenue	3,618,080	93
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services) ...	1,167,309	02
Estate Duties	1,081,363	55
Tobacco Duties	4,829,375	47

The only fiscal measure approximating to a customs tariff is the imposition of duties on Liquors, Tobacco and Petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony. Excise revenue is comprised principally of the Revenue from the Opium Monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of a similar brand. The only liquors manufactured locally which are subject to this duty are samsu and beer. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy, but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance, Chapter 228. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only	25 cents.
Bill of exchange including Promissory Note	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof.
Cheque	4 cents.

Conveyance	...	...	...	$1.50 for every $200 or part thereof.
Mortgage	...	...	...	$1.00 for every $500 or part thereof.
Receipt	...	...	...	4 cents.

A betting tax was introduced with effect from 1st January 1932 and the amount collected in 1937 was Singapore $299,217.80 and Penang $180,198.71.

CHAPTER XVI

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of many of the other settlers, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet, but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the South of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be:—

Hokkien 43·2%; Cantonese, 21·4%; Tiu Chiu, 17·4%; Hakka (Kheh), 7·9%; Hailam, 5·4%; Hok Chhia, 1·5%; Hok Chiu, 1·3%; and other dialects, 1·9%.

Nine-tenths of the Indian population are Southern Indians practically all of whom speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu, or Malayalam. Of these the vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil.

The rest of the Indian population consists mainly of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Pushtu and Hindustani. There are also a few hundred natives of the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of people speaking Burmese, Nepalese and Uriya.

The great majority of Indians in Malaya quickly pick up a smattering of "Bazaar Malay" and few experienced labourers in well settled districts cannot carry on a simple conversation in that jargon.

B.—LAND TENURE.

Singapore.—Land in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the leases for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first lease issued for a period of ninety-nine years, for land in the town, dates back to 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of grants in fee simple was issued for land outside the limits of the town, though for town lands the issue of leases for ninety-nine years still continued. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally acquired for agricultural purposes.

After the transfer of the Settlements to the control of the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were leases for terms of 99 or 999 years, but Ordinance No. 11 of 1886, now the Crown Lands Ordinance *(Chapter 113)*, introduced a statutory form of Crown Title, the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and to various implied conditions and covenants which before the passing of the Ordinance had to be expressly provided for in the document of title itself. This Statutory Grant became then, and until recently continued to be the usual form of title issued but the policy now is to restrict the issue of grants in perpetuity, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding ninety-nine years.

Penang.—The earliest titles to land in Penang and Province Wellesley derive from the East India Co., later titles from the Crown under Grant in fee simple, Statutory Grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. Unoccupied Crown Land is now ordinarily alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. The remainder of the land in the Town is mostly held under Crown leases for 99 years, but there are a few leases for 999 years and a few Statutory Grants. Alienated land in the country is generally held under Statutory Grants or leases from the Crown for 99 years, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Customary Rights Ordinance *(Chapter 125)*. This is a small number of grants in fee-simple, both in town and country areas.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of the Labuan Ordinance *(Chapter 6)* and is alienated ordinarily by public auction. Some titles are in fee simple, but the majority are leases, for the term of 999 years or less. Since 1919, leases for not more than 30 years have been granted.

Throughout the Colony.—Temporary occupation of Crown Land is possible under licence for periods not exceeding a year at a time, and similar licences, as well as leases, may be issued for forshore and sea bed under the provisions of the Foreshores Ordinance *(Chapter 122)*.

C.—CO-OPERATION

The general improvement in all forms of co-operative societies recorded in 1936 continued during 1937. In rural areas the satisfactory prices obtained for rubber and coconuts in the first half of the year enabled members to make better payments to their societies. The paid up share capital increased by nearly $2,000 while overdue loans fell by $1,045 to $3,161. Thus, rural societies are slowly climbing out of the depression. Membership increased by 58 and the amounts of loans granted and repaid were the highest for six years. More use was made of societies by members. Deposits in rural societies more than doubled at $2,677.

Progress was again shown in the number, membership and capital of societies amongst Indian labourers. There was an increase of 2,360 in membership and $117,777 in savings.

The number of societies amongst salary earners remained stationary, but the membership and capital increased.

The general spread of thrift through co-operative societies in the Straits Settlements is indicated by the growth of savings from $2,020,046 to $2,365,931 while membership increased from 24,258 to 27,257. Investments in Trustee securities and deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank increased from $1,615,223 to $1,898,473.

Singapore.—The number of Societies for salary earners in Singapore remained unchanged at 23. Membership increased from 7,091 to 7,491, subscription capital from $953,200 to $1,065,000 and investments in trustee securities from $788,900 to $895,719.

Societies for Indian labourers showed an increase of membership of 272 though the number of these societies remained unchanged at 13. Subscription capital increased from $86,884 to $101,954 and investments in trustee securities from $80,153 to $89,184.

Malacca.—There was a slight improvement in the position of the Rural Credit Societies at the end of the year. One new society was registered bringing the total to 9 with a membership of 308 and share capital of $8,581 as compared with 8 societies with a membership of 262 and share capital of $6,959 at the end of 1936.

The four societies for salary earners had a membership of 1,279, subscription capital of $250,000 and held trustee securities amounting to $212,500.

Indian Labourers' Societies increased in number to 37 with a membership of 6,741 and subscription capital of $160,258 as compared with 33 societies with 5,319 members and subscription capital of $92,455 at the end of 1936. These societies had $157,756 invested in trustee securities.

Penang and Province Wellesley.—The number of Rural Credit Societies remained unchanged at 5 with 124 members and share capital of $3,882 as compared with the 112 members and share capital of $3,523 at the end of 1936.

The ten societies for salary earners had a membership of 3,744 and subscription capital of $598,700 as compared with 3,782 members with subscription capital of $520,000 at the end of 1936. The societies had $459,700 invested in trustee securities.

One new society for Indian labourers was registered at the end of the year, but had not commenced work. The 20 societies registered and

working had a membership of 3,701 with subscription capital of $93,879 as compared with a membership of 3,035 and subscription capital of $58,975 at the end of 1936. Investments in trustee securities amounting to $83,614 were held by these societies.

D.—MUSEUM AND GARDENS

The Raffles Museum and Library was an integral part of the Singapore Institution (later called the Raffles Institution) in 1823. In 1844 the Singapore Library, a proprietary concern, was established and in connection with this a museum was formed in 1849. The Government took over the Department, thenceforth called the Raffles Museum and Library, in 1874.

During the year 1937 the estimated number of visitors to the museum was 250,000. The estimate must be regarded as conservative as it is compiled from average figures taken on normal days, counts not being attempted on the public holidays when the Museum is abnormally crowded. The exhibition gallaries was open to the public from 9 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. except on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday. Work proceeded throughout the year on the improvement of the gallaries, both zoological and ethnographical, and the arrangement of the prehistory room was completed in readiness for the 1938 Congress of Prehistorians of the Far East.

The fieldwork carried out during the year was mainly Zoological. A noteworthy event was the discovery of a species of mole, a wholly new addition to the Malaysian fauna, in the Cameron Highlands, and important collections of fresh-water fish were made in Singapore and the Peninsula. Thirteen biological and ten non-biological papers were published in the two journals issued by the Museum.

Classes for local school teachers on Malayan natural history were held by the members of the staff, at the request of the Education Department.

In the Raffles Library increases in all the important statistics have again to be recorded. The revenue from subscriptions was $14,441 and the number of subscribers reached the record level of 2,697. The total issue of books was 190,465 and 2,240 new books were added to the Library.

The Botanic Gardens in Singapore were founded by a private society in 1858 and were taken over by the Government in 1874. The Gardens Department was then constituted having under its charge the Botanic Gardens and Government House Domain in Singapore and, in Penang, the Waterfall Gardens, the Residency garden, and the gardens of Bel Retiro, the Crag Hotel and the Government Bungalows on the Hill. During the year 1937, the Department also undertook the protection of forest land at Bukit Timah and of two areas of mangrove Forest Reserve (at Ulu Pandan and at Kranji) in Singapore Island.

The Botanic Gardens and Waterfall Gardens provide in each case a public park, laid out in landscape, and a large named collection of living plants. Ornamental plants, both local and introduced, are displayed for public interest in gardening and new ones are continually being introduced from other countries, as well as from the Malayan jungles. Efforts are also made to develop new varieties locally by hybridising, for instance, in the case of orchids, cannas and bougainvilleas.

The areas of forest which have been taken over by the Department in Singapore Island are to be developed as nature reserves for the preservation of the natural flora. The most important is that on Bukit Timah not only because of its scenic value but because of the fine stand of big trees which it harbours and because of the historic interest of the locality to botanists. The preservation of a sample of mangrove forest was rendered necessary through the exploitation which the forest had suffered in all parts of the island, the virgin mangrove forest being one of the more interesting kinds of tropical vegetation. The area at Kranji was chosen to preserve a rare and underscribed species of Pandanus which was known to occur elsewhere only in the vicinity of Johore Bahru.

The scientific work of the Department centres upon the study of the Malayan flora by means of expeditions to the forest in different parts of the country. Efforts were made during the year to improve this activity by training additional plant-collectors so that, if necessary, two and three expeditions could take the field at once. By such means a preliminary survey of the flora of Gunong Padang in Trengganu was accomplished. The collections not only add to the botanical knowledge of the regional distribution of the plants but also provide the specimens necessary for the systematic revision of the flora which is being undertaken. In order to enlist the help of amateurs in this work, as well as to supply an educational need, attention is being given to the production of semi-popular works on different aspects of the flora. With the same intent, classes for local school-teachers have been held at the Botanic Gardens on the subject of Malayan plant-life.

E.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The outstanding event of the year was the Coronation of HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE the Sixth which was celebrated on an unprecedented scale in all the Settlements over a period of nine days from the 10th to the 19th of May. A full record of the celebrations has been published as Council Paper No. 103 of 1937. They were marked by the same manifestations of loyalty and affection for the Throne that have always characterised the peoples of this Colony, and provided an experience that will not soon be forgotten by those fortunate to have witnessed the occasion. All the Settlements and Dependencies joined in a single Address of loyalty and homage to HIS MAJESTY THE KING and in a single congratulatory telegram. The signatories of the Address and telegram were His Excellency the Governor and the Unofficial Members of his Executive and Legislative Councils. The Colony was represented at the Coronation Ceremony by Sir ARNOLD ROBINSON and Mr. TAN CHENG LOCK C.B.E. and in the Colonial Coronation Contingent by one member of the S.S. R.N.V.R. and four members of the S.S.V.F.

Further to commemorate the occasion the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council unanimously decided to make a grant of another $2 millions towards the Singapore Silver Jubilee Fund which was instituted in 1935 in memory of the Silver Jubilee of HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE the Fifth. This Fund is devoted to the relief of distress in Singapore and the decision to increase the scope of its usefulness to the community was universally acclaimed.

On the 1st of April the foundation stone of the new Supreme Court was laid by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of the Judiciary, members of the local Bar and of other public bodies. The site of the new Court occupies that on which the old Europe Hotel formerly stood.

It was a happy coincidence that the date of the ceremony should be exactly seventy years from the date when the Straits Settlements was established as a separate Colony.

On the 12th of June Singapore Civil Airport was opened by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of a large and enthusiastic crowd of spectators of all nationalities. This event marked the successful completion of a scheme which was not only audacious as an engineering event but which sets Singapore in the forefront of international air transport.

Sir THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, G.C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, was on duty throughout the year.

Major-General W. G. S. DOBBIE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., paid a visit to Australia in May and in his absence the command of the troops devolved upon Brigadier A. T. SHAKESPEAR, D.S.O., M.C.

Air Vice-Marshal A. W. TEDDER, C.B., Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Far East, and Commodore M. L. CLARKE, D.S.O., R.N., Officer Commanding, His Majesty's Naval Establishments, were on duty throughout the year.

Units of the French and Japanese navies visited Singapore during the course of the year. H.M.A.S. "Canberra" arrived in September and the German cruiser "Emden" at the end of the year.

New Year Honours contained the following awards:—

Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.	His Excellency Sir THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.
Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.	Mr. ALEXANDER SYM SMALL.
O.B.E. (Military Division) ...	Lieut.-Col. GORDON ALAN POTTS.
M.B.E. (Military Division) ...	Captain DAVID COLVILLE.
King's Police Medal	Mr. EDWIN TONGUE.
Medal of the O.B.E.	Mr. PERCY MORTIMER DE FONTAINE.

CORONATION HONOURS:—

Knight Bachelor	GEORGE WILLIAM ARTHUR TRIMMER, Esq.
Companion of the Most Distinquished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.	WILLIAM BARTLEY, Esq., M.C.S., M.B.E.
C.B.E. (Civil Division) ...	Dr. PETER SINCLAIR HUNTER, J.P.
O.B.E. (Civil Division) ...	Mrs. (Dr.) DOROTHY MARY ROBERTS.
O.B.E. (Military Division) ...	Major CORNELIUS GEORGE BURT.
M.B.E. (Civil Division) ...	Dr. ATUL CHANDRA DUTTA.

A. S. SMALL,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, *26th August*, 1938.

andronicus publish

LIST OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN WARSHIPS VISITING THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS DURING 1937

NAME OF SHIP

H.M.S. Cumberland
,, Falmouth
,, Dorsetshire
,, Hermes
,, Duncan
,, Lowestoft
,, Medway
,, Westcott
,, Daring
,, Diamond
,, Danae
,, Diana
,, Defender
,, Delight
,, Duchess
,, Aberdare
,, Abingdon
,, Bagshot
,, Derby
,, Farham
,, Harrow

H.M.S. Huntley
,, Stoke
,, Widnes
,, Suffolk
,, Eagle
,, Berwick
,, Diomede
,, Herald
H.M.A.S. Canberra
"Bougainville" (French)
H.M.S. "Sarasindh" (Siamese)
"Raimondo Montecuccoli" (Italian)
"Bartolomeu Dias" (Portuguese)
"Goncalo Velho" (Portuguese)
"Freedom China" (Chinese)
H.I.J.M.S. "Iwate" (Japanese)
,, "Yakumo" (Japanese)
"Jeanne d'Arc" (French)
"Primauguet" (French)
"Emden" (German)

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APPENDIX "A"

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Dominions Office and Colonial Office List	35/-	Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London.
Blue Book (Straits Settlements)	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Annual Departmental Reports (Straits Settlements) ..	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Census Report, British Malaya, 1931	$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
Malayan Year Book, 1937 ..	$1.50 3/6	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore. The Malay States Agency, London.
Report by the Rt. Hon'ble W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit to Malaya, Ceylon and Java, 1928 ..	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 20th December, 1934. (Hartland)	2/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula (I. H. Burkill). 2 Vols. ..	30/-	The Crown Agents for the Colonies.
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50*cts.*	Dept. of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S., Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ..	Various prices	Forest Department, F.M.S. and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
The Geology of Malaya, 1931. (J. B. Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, 1925. 5 Vols. (H. N. Ridley) ..	£11-11-0	L. Reeve & Co., London.
The Negritos of Malaya, 1937. (I. H. N. Evans)	16/8	The Cambridge University Press.
Malayan Fishes, 1921. (C. N. Maxwell)	$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society and Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Matriarchy in the Malay Peninsula (G. A. de C. de Moubray) ..	15/-	Kegan Paul
Oxford Survey of the British Empire, 1924. Vol. 2. (Editors A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth)	15/-	Oxford University Press, London.
One Hundred Years of Singapore, 1921. 2 Vols. (General Editors W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke and R. St. J. Braddell) ..	out of print	John Murray, London.
One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore, 1923. (Sir Ong Siang Song)	30/-	John Murray, London.
Handbook to British Malaya, 1935. (R. L. German) ..	2/6	J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London.

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APPENDIX *"A"—continued*

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—*continued*

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Historical Geography of British Dominions. Vol. 1. (C. P. Lucas)	not sold separately	Oxford University Press, London.
A History of Malaya (Sir Richard Winstedt)	$7.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1824-1867. 1925. (L. A. Mills)	$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1929. (Sir F. A. Swettenham)	12/6	J. Lane, London.
Papers on Malay Subjects. (Incidents of Malay life, Law, etc. Ed. by R. J. Wilkinson) ..	$1 each	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S. S.
Malaya. The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, 1923. (Sir Richard Winstedt)	12/6	Constable & Co., London.
Report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya, 1932. 3 Vols. ..	$12	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to Malaya, 1932	50 *cts.*	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934. Vol. I	$5	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934. Vol. IV. (Appendices)	$10	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.

ning company, inc.

APPENDIX "B"

TABLE I

EXCESS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

Race	By Sea							By Air			By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
Europeans ...	− 78	712	− 1	33	− 37	1	1	69	− 12	...	− 96	− 7	9	73	667
Eurasians ...	110	4	...	13	8	...	...	...	...	...	29	− 11	13	2	168
Japanese ...	151	27	...	− 4	...	...	1	− 4	4	...	68	− 33	− 5	3	208
Chinese ...	155,429	22,001	...	255	− 1,286	− 3	1	18	6	...	− 274	1,854	571	1,930	180,502
Malays ...	5,977	− 1,402	...	335	2	0	− 9	− 1	...	...	− 65	− 9,475	− 171	959	− 3,850
Northern Indians ...	1,397	2,563	8	− 2	661	...	− 1	− 1	1	...	30	539	83	2	5,280
Southern Indians ...	6,508	33,995	...	12	43,829	...	...	8	...	...	92	− 99	22	− 2	84,365
Others ...	210	− 246	...	107	32	...	− 1	− 2	1	...	− 30	− 38	− 38	− 129	− 134
Total ...	169,704	57,654	7	749	43,209	− 2	− 8	87	0	...	− 246	− 7,270	484	2,838	267,206

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1936 AND FOR THE YEAR, 1937 ARE:—

	By Sea							By Air			By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
1936	78,745	12,526	18	522	– 3,873	– 10	5	72	– 21	3	1,659	– 7,314	– 1,801	2,278	82,309
1937:—															
January ...	9,527	490	...	161	– 829	...	2	9	4	...	385	– 885	– 121	199	8,942
February ...	6,954	1,031	– 1	93	– 268	...	– 1	– 6	– 3	...	– 64	– 4	– 272	– 17	7,442
March ...	15,378	3,976	3	43	851	...	– 1	26	– 9	...	– 612	– 642	57	– 114	18,956
April ...	18,668	7,777	...	83	5,803	– 3	2	18	0	...	– 433	– 6,218	– 354	– 114	25,229
May ...	16,035	8,577	...	158	9,873	...	2	– 1	3	...	– 95	– 4,413	– 597	64	29,606
June ...	11,389	7,459	– 1	1	9,236	...	...	2	9	...	– 164	– 4,515	– 855	100	22,661
July ...	10,475	3,892	0	– 35	4,693	...	...	5	6	...	275	– 1,226	488	325	18,898
August ...	14,516	3,250	...	19	2,817	...	...	14	– 4	...	52	– 1,584	392	164	19,636
September ...	13,524	9,249	– 1	64	4,313	...	– 10	14	8	...	207	– 81	498	414	28,199
October ...	15,632	3,315	4	– 70	4,513	...	...	9	11	...	359	973	558	420	25,724
November ...	15,999	4,668	– 1	85	1,920	1	...	– 9	– 12	...	– 192	8,057	337	297	31,150
December ...	21,607	3,970	4	147	287	0	– 2	6	– 13	...	36	3,268	353	1,100	30,763
Total ...	169,704	57,654	7	749	43,209	– 2	– 8	87	0	...	– 246	– 7,270	484	2,838	267,206

TABLE III

Arrivals and Departures of Passengers by Sea, Land and Air, by Countries of Origin and Destination, during the Year, 1937

ARRIVALS FROM

BY SEA

Race	The Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	4,859	2,746	433	460	8,498	1,557	1,114	103	90	2,864	1,277	916	75	67	2,335
Eurasians ...	222	173	13	10	418	5	4	...	...	9	45	50	13	17	125
Japanese ...	620	99	54	36	809	81	7	...	...	88	66	11	3	2	82
Chinese ...	58,640	11,249	4,543	3,161	77,593	109,695	95,911	26,610	19,294	251,510	749	171	65	41	1,026
Malays (5) ..	37,414	13,325	6,359	5,207	62,305	44	12	1	3	60	300	18	7	9	334
Northern Indians ...	2,372	157	121	79	2,729	199	6	4	2	211	12,456	1,665	908	594	15,623
Southern Indians (6)	1,764	85	59	36	1,944	54	8	3	1	66	85,217	21,693	14,012	10,150	131,072
Others ...	481	86	37	26	630	29	17	1	1	48	158	85	13	12	268
Total ...	106,372	27,920	11,619	9,015	154,926	111,664	97,079	26,722	19,391	254,856	100,268	24,609	15,096	10,892	150,865

BY SEA

Race	Siam					Other Countries					Total				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	545	176	19	25	765	9,611	5,499	835	820	16,765	17,849	10,451	1,465	1,462	31,227
Eurasians ...	4	10	5	2	21	72	39	15	13	139	348	276	46	42	712
Japanese ...	17	...	...	...	17	1,244	379	89	85	1,797	2,028	496	146	123	2,793
Chinese ...	1,204	282	222	115	1,823	8,319	1,888	831	667	11,705	178,607	109,501	32,271	23,278	343,657
Malays (5) ...	80	30	10	16	136	3,685	1,496	512	373	6,066	41,523	14,881	6,889	5,608	68,901
Northern Indians ...	157	37	30	21	245	606	60	32	27	725	15,790	1,925	1,095	723	19,533
Southern Indians (6)	132	27	10	17	186	441	28	19	8	496	87,608	21,841	14,103	10,212	133,764
Others ...	95	159	21	34	309	1,191	136	91	30	1,448	1,954	483	163	103	2,703
Total ...	2,234	721	317	230	3,502	25,169	9,525	2,424	2,023	39,141	345,707	159,854	56,178	41,551	603,290

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

ARRIVALS FROM

Race	BY AIR — Foreign Countries					BY LAND — Siam					Grand Total				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	1,032	162	9	7	1,210	1,397	617	50	9	2,073	20,278	11,230	1,524	1,478	34,510
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	204	171	6	...	381	552	447	52	42	1,093
Japanese ...	66	2	...	...	68	272	49	4	2	327	2,366	547	150	125	3,188
Chinese ...	95	5	...	...	100	46,507	8,288	2,740	1,271	58,806	225,209	117,794	35,011	24,549	402,563
Malays ...	7	...	...	...	7	41,978	19,087	6,726	2,774	70,565	83,508	33,968	13,615	8,382	139,473
Northern Indians ...	9	...	...	...	9	2,268	514	260	105	3,147	18,067	2,439	1,355	828	22,689
Southern Indians ...	8	...	...	...	8	1,312	162	85	22	1,581	88,928	22,003	14,188	10,234	135,353
Others ...	9	...	...	...	9	10,877	5,663	1,471	861	18,872	12,840	6,146	1,634	964	21,584
Total ...	1,226	169	9	7	1,411	104,815	34,551	11,342	5,044	155,752	451,748	194,574	67,529	46,602	760,453

DEPARTURES TO

Race	BY SEA — The Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	5,658	3,030	537	479	9,704	2,834	999	128	97	4,058	1,342	1,053	79	68	2,542
Eurasians ..	184	155	6	4	349	6	2	...	...	8	37	41	5	5	88
Japanese ...	540	60	21	8	629	55	3	...	...	58	78	22	4	3	107
Chinese ...	58,421	12,735	4,738	3,474	79,368	40,827	16,688	7,522	5,063	70,100	862	209	77	57	1,205
Malays (5) ...	32,774	10,597	4,836	3,994	52,201	19	4	1	...	24	307	19	2	1	329
Northern Indians ...	2,342	172	93	39	2,646	289	17	13	8	327	8,548	1,197	812	573	11,130
Southern Indians (6)	1,309	66	35	27	1,437	41	3	3	2	49	35,740	7,656	2,398	1,652	47,446
Others ...	855	73	48	10	986	8	2	...	...	10	155	81	8	3	247
Total ...	102,083	26,888	10,314	8,035	147,320	44,079	17,718	7,667	5,170	74,634	47,069	10,278	3,385	2,362	63,094

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

DEPARTURES TO

Race	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	545	181	22	17	765	7,404	4,628	812	683	13,527	17,783	9,891	1,578	1,344	30,596
Eurasians ...	7	22	5	6	40	43	33	10	6	92	277	253	26	21	577
Japanese ...	17	1	1	1	20	1,101	401	159	143	1,804	1,791	487	185	155	2,618
Chinese ...	1,496	332	295	100	2,223	10,418	2,749	692	505	14,364	112,024	32,713	13,324	9,199	167,260
Malays ...	75	38	6	14	133	6,545	3,211	895	660	11,311	39,720	13,869	5,740	4,669	63,998
Northern Indians ...	134	7	14	7	162	536	68	23	15	642	11,849	1,461	955	642	14,907
Southern Indians	119	19	9	11	158	292	28	8	2	330	37,501	7,772	2,453	1,694	49,420
Others ...	128	199	73	53	453	731	95	54	25	905	1,877	450	183	91	2,601
Total ...	2,521	799	425	209	3,954	27,070	11,213	2,653	2,039	42,975	222,822	66,896	24,444	17,815	331,977

Race	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	1,001	148	2	2	1,153	1,452	599	37	6	2,094	20,236	10,638	1,617	1,352	33,843
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	182	160	4	2	348	459	413	30	23	925
Japanese ...	66	2	...	...	68	230	56	7	1	294	2,087	545	192	156	2,980
Chinese ...	72	4	...	...	76	40,972	9,170	3,001	1,582	54,725	153,068	41,887	16,325	10,781	222,061
Malays ...	8	...	...	...	8	44,730	24,813	6,404	3,370	79,317	84,458	38,682	12,144	8,039	143,323
Northern Indians ...	8	1	...	...	9	1,599	344	339	211	2,493	13,456	1,806	1,294	853	17,409
Southern Indians ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,316	157	67	28	1,568	38,817	7,929	2,520	1,722	50,988
Others ...	10	...	...	...	10	10,462	6,029	1,664	952	19,107	12,349	6,479	1,847	1,043	21,718
Total ...	1,165	155	2	2	1,324	100,943	41,328	11,523	6,152	159,946	324,930	108,379	35,969	23,969	493,247

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

BY SEA

Race	The Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	− 799	− 284	− 104	− 19	− 1,206	− 1,277	115	− 25	− 7	− 1,194	− 65	− 137	− 4	− 1	− 207
Eurasians	38	18	7	6	69	− 1	2	...	...	1	8	9	8	12	37
Japanese	80	39	33	28	180	26	4	...	...	30	− 12	− 11	− 1	− 1	− 25
Chinese	219	− 1,486	− 195	− 313	− 1,775	68,868	79,223	19,088	14,231	181,410	− 113	− 38	− 12	− 16	− 179
Malays (5) ...	4,640	2,728	1,523	1,213	9,104	25	8	0	3	36	− 7	− 1	5	8	5
Northern Indians ...	30	− 15	28	40	83	− 90	− 11	− 9	− 6	− 116	3,908	468	96	21	4,493
Southern Indians (6)	455	19	24	9	507	13	5	0	− 1	17	49,477	14,037	11,614	8,498	83,626
Others	− 374	13	− 11	16	− 356	21	15	1	1	38	3	4	5	9	21
Total ...	4,289	1,032	1,305	980	7,606	67,585	79,361	19,055	14,221	180,222	53,119	14,331	11,711	8,530	87,771

BY SEA

Race	Siam					Other Countries					Total				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	0	− 5	− 3	8	0	2,207	871	23	137	3,238	66	560	− 113	118	631
Eurasians	− 3	− 12	0	− 4	− 19	29	6	5	7	47	71	23	20	21	135
Japanese	0	− 1	− 1	− 1	− 3	143	− 22	− 70	− 58	− 7	237	9	− 39	− 32	175
Chinese	− 292	− 50	− 73	15	− 400	− 2,099	− 861	139	162	− 2,659	66,583	76,788	18,947	14,079	176,397
Malays	5	− 8	4	2	3	− 2,860	− 1,715	− 383	− 287	− 5,245	1,803	1,012	1,149	939	4,903
Northern Indians ...	23	30	16	14	83	70	− 8	9	12	83	3,941	464	140	81	4,626
Southern Indians ...	13	8	1	6	28	149	0	11	6	166	50,107	14,069	11,650	8,518	84,344
Others	− 33	− 40	− 52	− 19	− 144	460	41	37	5	543	77	33	− 20	12	102
Total ...	− 287	− 78	− 108	21	− 452	− 1,901	− 1,688	− 229	− 16	− 3,834	122,885	92,958	31,734	23,736	271,313

TABLE III—*concluded*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

Race	BY AIR — FOREIGN COUNTRIES					BY LAND — SIAM					GRAND TOTAL (7) (8)				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans	31	14	7	5	57	− 55	18	13	3	− 21	42	592	− 93	126	667
Eurasians	...	...		...	...	22	11	2	− 2	33	93	34	22	19	168
Japanese	0	0	...	...	0	42	− 7	− 3	1	33	279	2	− 42	− 31	208
Chinese	23	1	...	...	24	5,535	− 882	− 261	− 311	4,081	72,141	75,907	18,686	13,768	180,502
Malays	− 1	...	...	...	− 1	− 2,752	− 5,726	322	− 596	− 8,752	− 950	− 4,714	1,471	343	− 3,850
Northern Indians ...	1	− 1	...	...	0	669	170	− 79	− 106	654	4,611	633	61	− 25	5,280
Southern Indians ...	8	...	...	...	8	− 4	5	18	− 6	13	50,111	14,074	11,668	8,512	84,365
Others	− 1	...	...	...	− 1	415	− 366	− 193	− 91	− 235	491	− 333	− 213	− 79	− 134
Total ...	61	14	7	5	87	3,872	− 6,777	− 181	−1,108	− 4,194	126,818	86,195	31,560	22,633	267,206

Notes:—

1. Children are under 12 (English) years of age.
2. China includes Hong Kong.
3. India includes Burma and Ceylon.
4. Europeans include Americans.
5. Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago.
6. Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore.
7. For movements *viâ* individual ports or land-routes, *see* monthly Return Statistics 3; for movements of deck passengers (Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indians) *see* monthly Return Statistics 13.
8. Net Arrivals, 1937: 267,206.
   Net Arrivals, 1936: 82,809.

TABLE IV

Arrivals and Departures of Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indian Deck Passengers during the year, 1937

Race	Singapore		Penang		Port Swettenham		Total		Net Arrivals during the year	Net Arrivals for the Years 1935 and 1936	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures		1935	1936
1. Chinese from and to China including Hongkong *(a)* ...	213,270	56,467	29,948	8,758	86	1,277	243,304	66,502	176,802	76,828	69,244
2. Javanese from and to Java *(b)* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	– 6	38
3. Southern Indians from and to Presidency of Madras *(c)* ...	15,137	11,337	53,552	20,177	53,603	12,584	122,292	44,098	78,194	27,168	3,353
Total ...	228,407	67,804	83,500	28,935	53,689	13,861	365,596	110,600	254,996	103,990	72,635

(a) For Chinese: all deck passengers by all steamers.

(b) For Javanese: all labourers recruited for Malayan estates as reported by recruiting agencies and the Labour Department at Singapore.

(c) For Southern Indians: all deck passengers embarked and disembarked by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers between Malayan Ports and Madras as reported by the Labour Department.

TABLE V

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE DECK PASSENGERS FROM AND TO CHINA DURING THE YEAR, 1937

Port	Arrivals				Departures				Total Arrivals		Total Departures	
	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	1936	1937	1936	1937
Singapore	92,774	81,300	22,807	16,389	33,677	13,258	5,732	3,800	131,003	213,270	66,532	56,467
Penang	11,801	12,732	3,086	2,329	4,429	2,164	1,281	884	18,816	29,948	11,927	8,758
Port Swettenham ...	41	24	13	8	761	254	158	104	3	86	2,119	1,277
Total ...	104,616	94,056	25,906	18,726	38,867	15,676	7,171	4,788	149,822	243,304	80,578	66,502

(a) Under 12 (English) years of age

APPENDIX "C"

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1937

Nationality	SINGAPORE						PENANG					
	MERCHANT VESSELS				MEN-OF-WAR		MERCHANT VESSELS				MEN-OF-WAR	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	4,911	11,210,704	..	..	34	233,362	2,746	8,046,069	..	..	72	108,852
American ..	80	399,475	..	..	2	3,200	73	379,470	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	180	185,536	..	..	..	..	26	38,508	..	..	2	1,600
Danish ..	213	706,632	..	..	..	..	96	389,548	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	4,515	7,568,475	..	..	..	..	1,153	1,460,269	..	..	..	..
Finnish ..	2	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	386	1,793,804	..	..	8	40,800	8	9,050	..	..	6	24,768
German ..	385	2,006,172	..	..	..	..	171	889,617	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	56	179,460	..	..	..	..	2	6,316	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	6	9,054	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	176	1,043,172	..	..	..	..	24	96,440	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	1,193	5,066,121	..	..	6	56,380	340	1,502,018	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	953	2,035,892	..	..	..	..	182	365,696	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	17	64,772	..	..	..	..	4	9,338	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	8	27,722	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	18	45,302	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	172	87,560	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	193	136,076	..	..	22	7,984	..	..	..	..	24	5,934
Swedish ..	60	230,070	..	..	..	..	24	81,608	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian ..	6	18,138	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	13,522	32,791,415	38,059	1,391,717	80	369,448	4,849	13,273,887	11,282	512,489	104	141,154
± 1936 ..	+457	+2,424,904	+2,662	+66,921	−27	−21,180	−66	−129,138	−125	− 7,246	+70	+72,048

APPENDIX "C"—continued

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1937

Nationality	MALACCA						LABUAN					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	500	695,372	..	..	..	..	214	226,826	..	..	12	24,893
American ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	18	24,322	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	58	214,552	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	36	39,150	..	..	..	..	6	2,268	..	..	..	..
Finnish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	6	6,786	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	22	105,950	..	..	..	..	2	7,274	..	..	2	2,928
Greek ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	6	24,324	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	144	117,982	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	4	2,012	..	..	..	..	6	1,038	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	16	11,868	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	810	1,242,318	5,646	100,912	..	..	228	237,406	2,964	41,624	14	27,821
± 1936 ..	−156	− 122,956	−103	−4,983	..	..	−34	+1,207	+129	+5,674	+6	−17,503

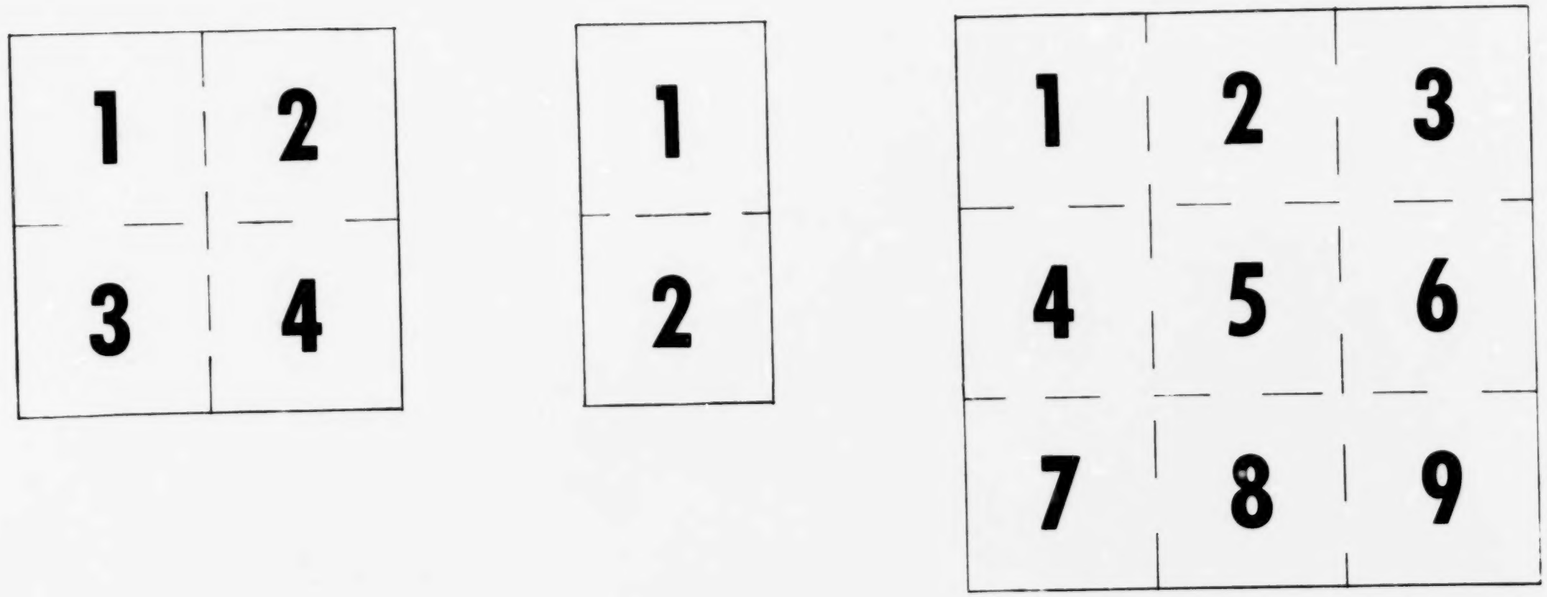
Note.—To the above figures must be added:—

(a) Christmas Island: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1937 was 164,265 tons—a decrease of 5,620 tons.

The total tonnage of vessels arrived and departed at the Straits Settlements ports during the year 1937 was 50,300,456 tons or an increase of 2,262,128 tons as compared with the year, 1936. This comprised *(a)* merchant vessels 49,762,033 tons of which

(i) over 75 tons	47,709,291	tons
(ii) 75 tons and under and native craft ...	2,052,742	tons
(b) warships	538,423	tons
Total ...	50,300,456	tons

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



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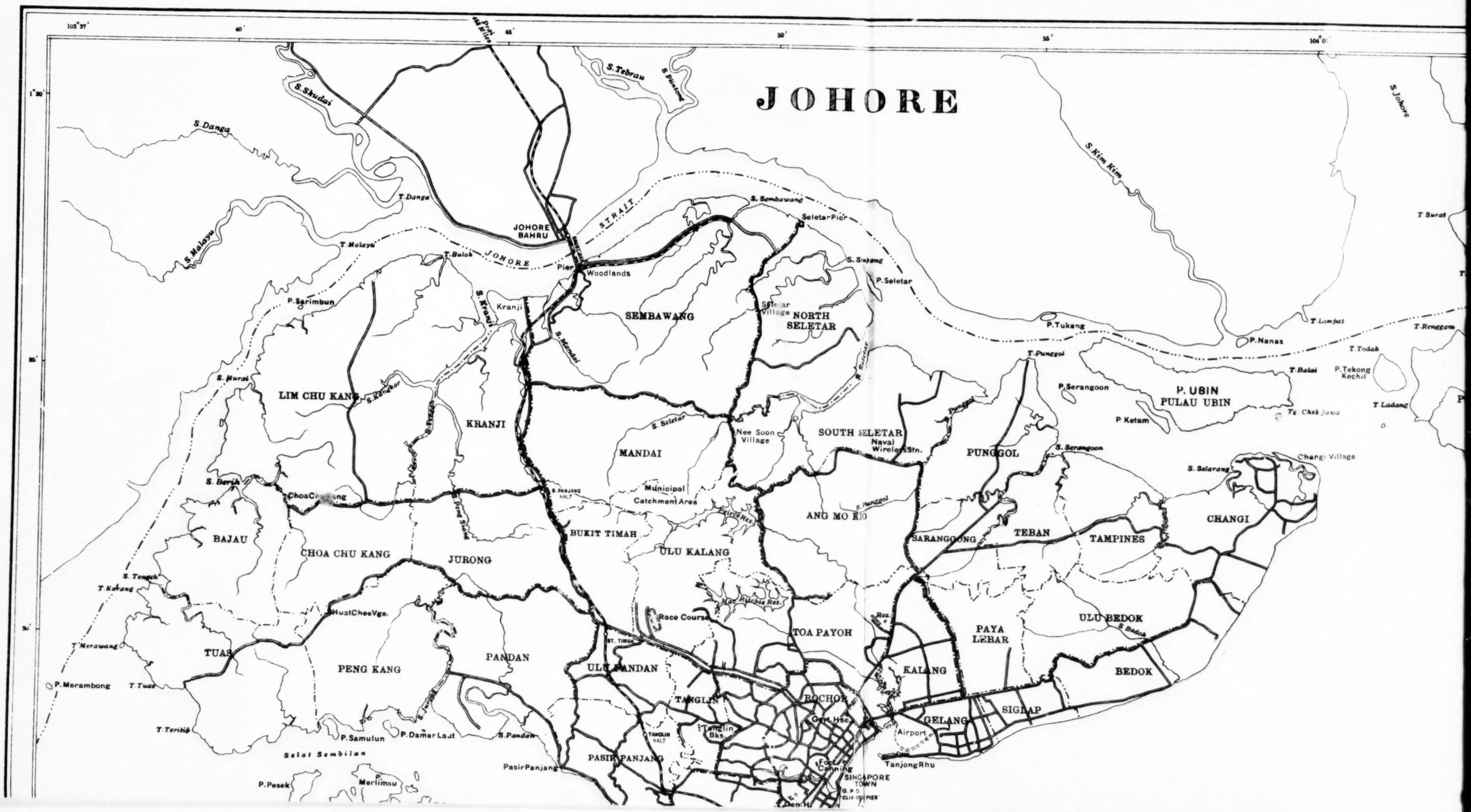

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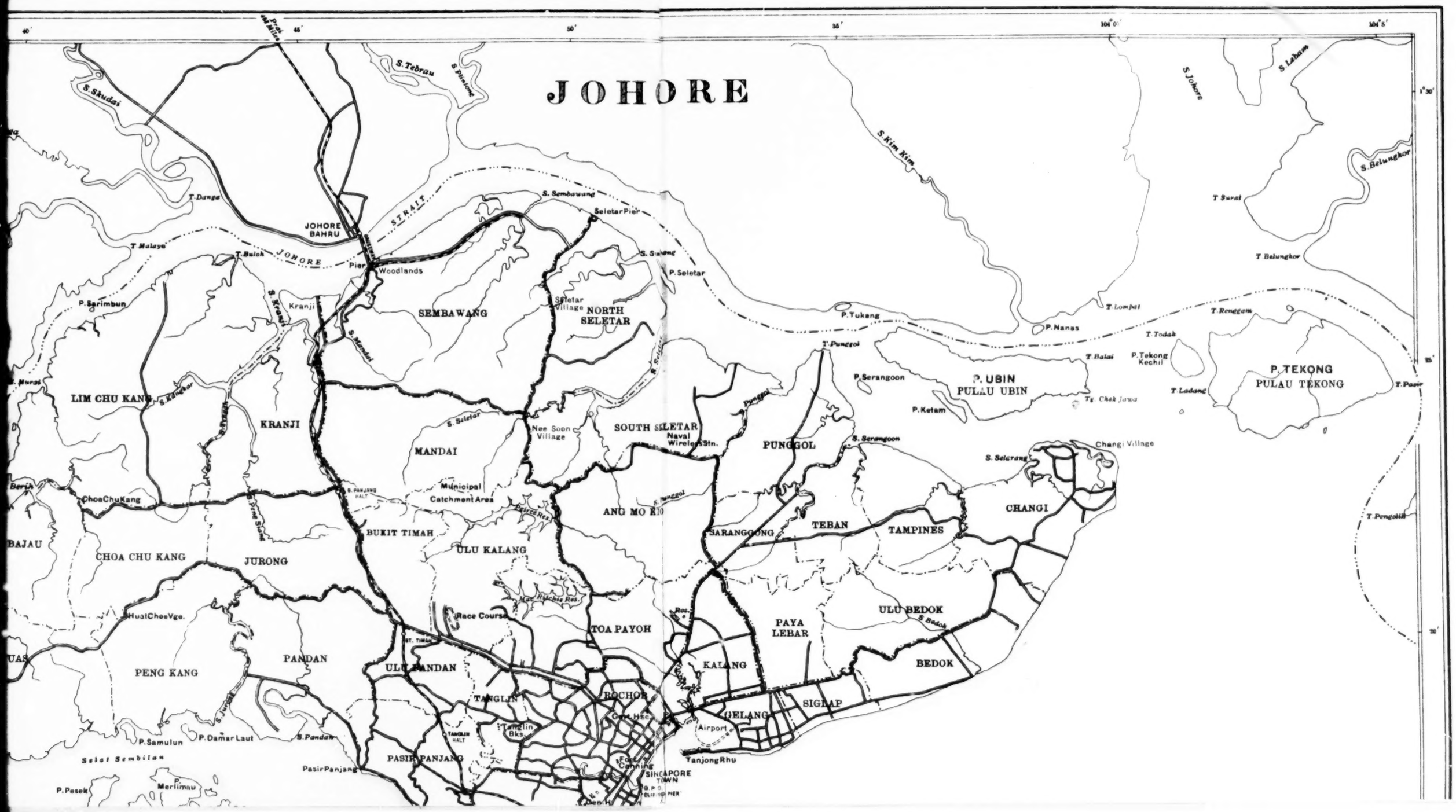

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1937
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Yards. 3600
0
2
4
6
8 Miles
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REFERENCE
Metalled Roads
Railway with Station
ST. TINAH
Municipal Boundary
Mukim "
State "
LIM CHU KANG
KRANJI
MANDAI
Nee Soon Village
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
PUNGGOL
P. UBIN
PULAU UBIN
PULAU TEKONG
Tg. Chek Jawa
P. Keham
T. Ladang
T. Pasir
T. Pengolih
Changi Village
S. Selarang
S. Serangoon
CHANGI
TAMPINES
TEBAN
SARANGOONG
ANG MO RIO
Municipal Catchment Area
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
CHOA CHU KANG
JURONG
PENG KANG
PANDAN
ULU PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
Race Course
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
BEDOK
KALANG
GELANG
SIGLAP
Airport
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
Tanglin Bks.
Govt. Hse.
Fort Canning
SINGAPORE TOWN
G.P.O.
Tanjong Rhu
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang
TELOK BLANGA
Keppel Harbour
P. Brani
P. Blakang Mati
Outer Shoal
Cyrene Shoal
Selat Pandan
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
Selat Sembilan
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
P. Seraya
P. Ayer Chawan
P. Ayer Merbau
P. Sakra
P. Busing
P. Bukum
P. Sudong
P. Semakau
P. Sebarok
P. Sakijang Bendera or St. John's Island
P. Sakijang Pelepah
Quarantine Station
P. Pawai
P. Senang
P. Satumu & Raffles Lighthouse
40'
45'
50'
55'
104°00'
104°5'
15'
1°10'

MAP
OF
PENANG ISLAND
AND
PROVINCE WELLESLEY
1937

Scale. 2 Miles to 1 Inch

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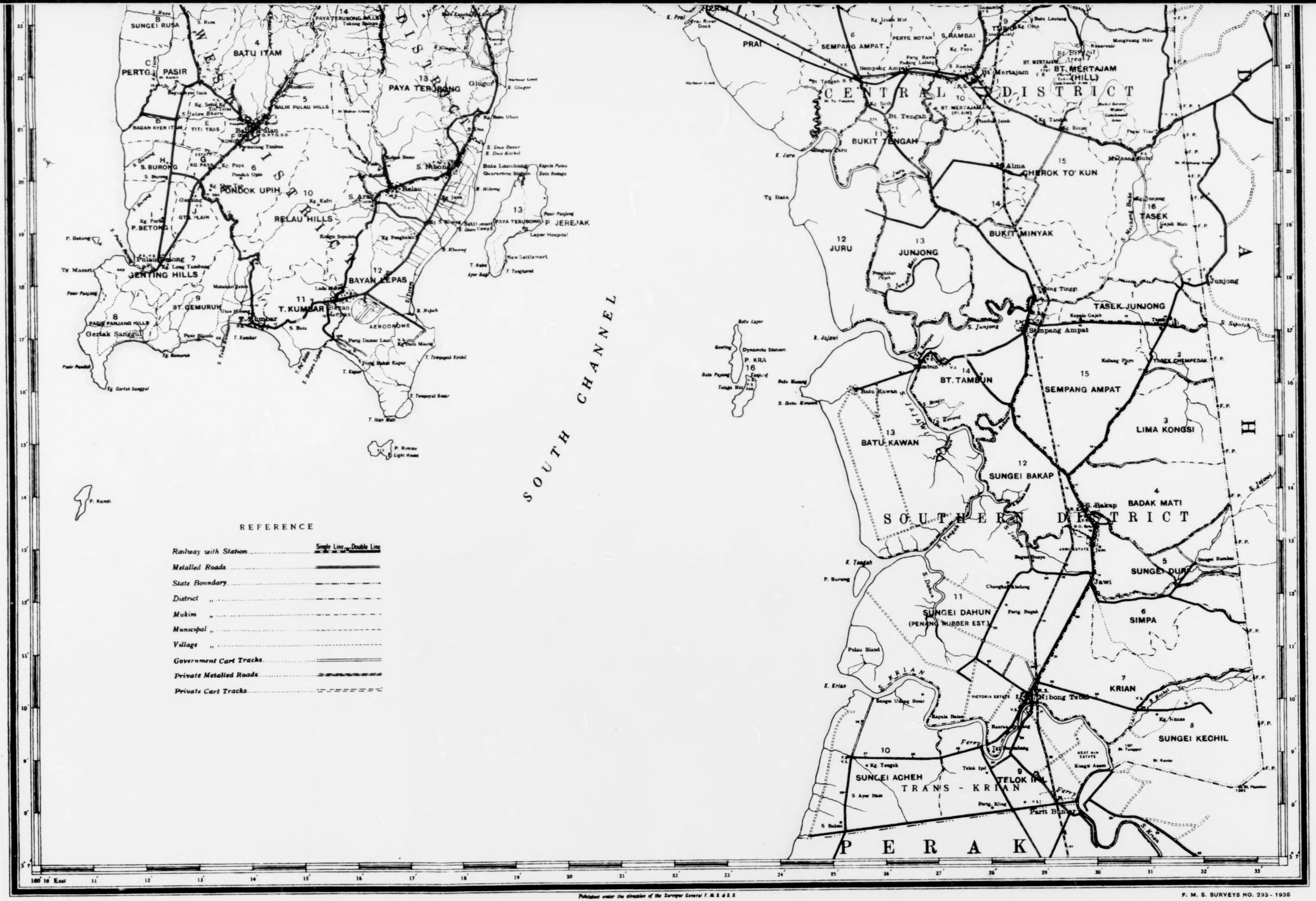
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CENTRAL DISTRICT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
SOUTH CHANNEL
PERAK
SUNGEI RUSA
PERTG. PASIR
BATU ITAM
PAYA TERUBONG
Glugor
BALIK PULAU HILLS
BAGAN AYER ITAM
TITI TRAS
S. BURONG
PONDOK UPIH
RELAU HILLS
P. BETONG
JENTING HILLS
BT. GEMURUH
Gertak Sanggul
T. KUMBAR
BAYAN LEPAS
AERODROME
S. Nibong
Relau
P. JEREJAK
PRAI
SEMPANG AMPAT
PERTG. ROTAN
S. RAMBAI
BT. MERTAJAM
BT. MERTAJAM (HILL)
BUKIT TENGAH
CHEROK TO' KUN
BUKIT MINYAK
TASEK
JURU
JUNJONG
TASEK JUNJONG
Sempang Ampat
BT. TAMBUN
SEMPANG AMPAT
LIMA KONGSI
BATU KAWAN
SUNGEI BAKAP
BADAK MATI
SUNGEI DUA
Jawi
SIMPA
SUNGEI DAHUN
(PENANG RUBBER EST.)
KRIAN
Nibong Tebal
SUNGEI KECHIL
SUNGEI ACHEH
TELOK IPAH
TRANS - KRIAN
Parit Buntar
P. KRA
P. Rimau
Light House
P. Kendi
Pulau Biand
P. Burong
K. Tanjah
K. Krian
K. Jejawi
K. Jura
K. Prai
Tg. Batu
Junjong
Alma
Tasek Chempedak
Kubang Pasu
Kampung Jawa
Kampung Baru
Kampung Tengah
Kampung Rambai
Kampung Kuala
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Kampung Kling
Kampung Changkat Jeruling
Kampung Bagak
Kampung Telok Ipah
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Kampung Ayer Itam
Kampung Batu Kawan
Kampung Batu Mawang
Kampung Batu Layar
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Kampung Tanjong Tukang
Kampung Tanjong Bungah
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Kampung Tanjong Tiga
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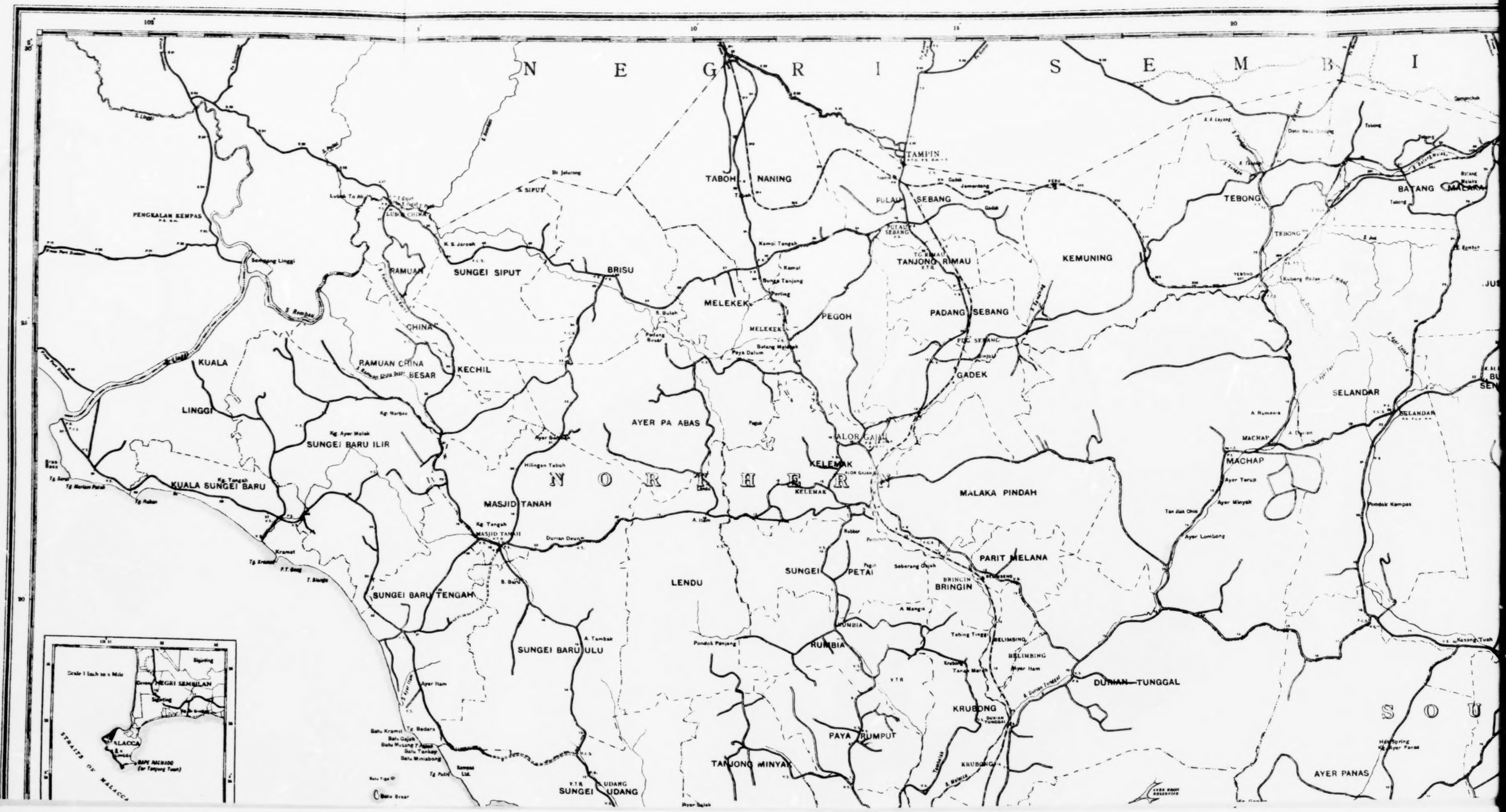

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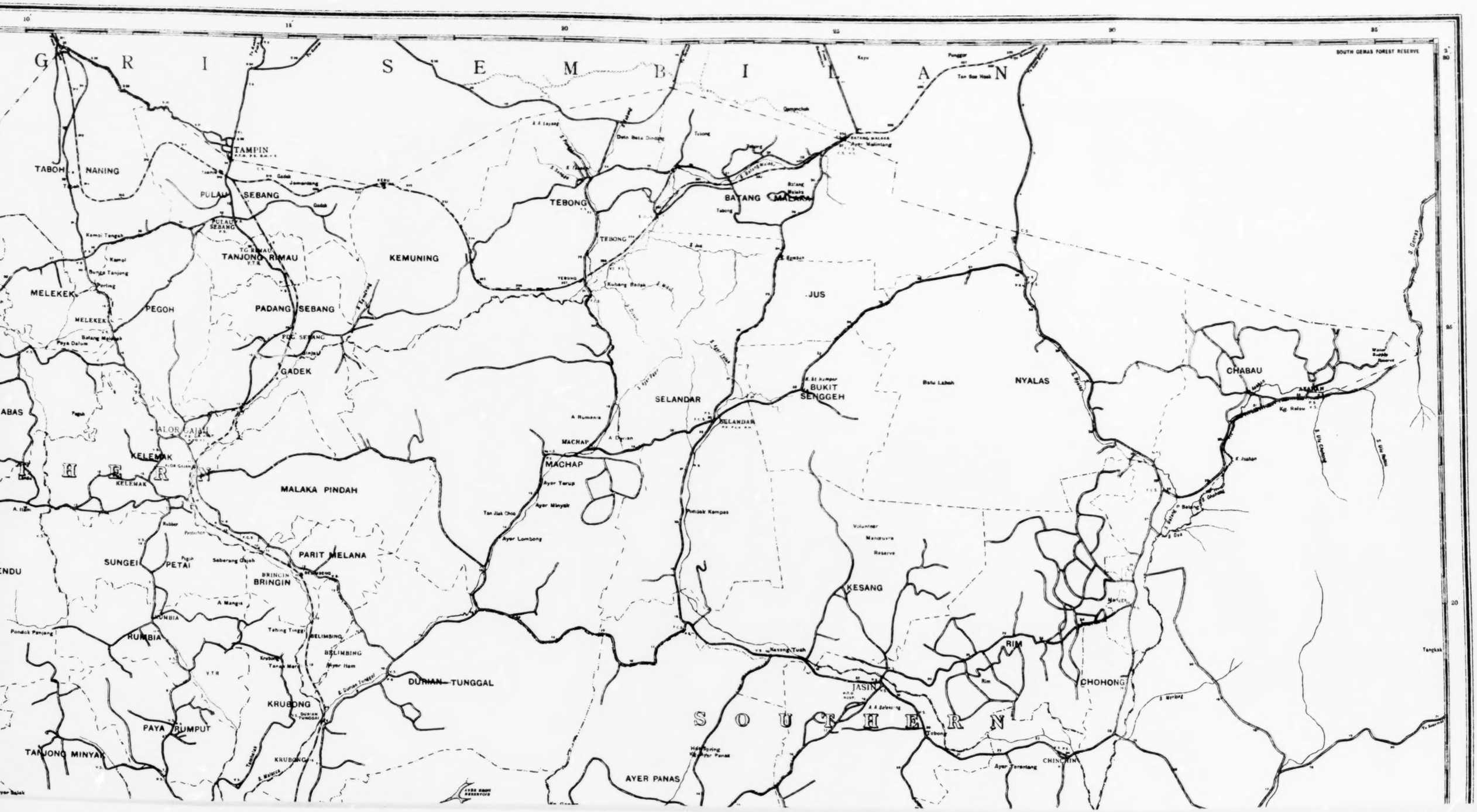
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S O U T H E R N
SOUTH GEMAS FOREST RESERVE
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TANJONG RIMAU
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
MELEKEK
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
JUS
SELANDAR
BUKIT SENGGEH
NYALAS
CHABAU
ABAS
KELEMAK
MALAKA PINDAH
MACHAP
SUNGEI PETAI
PARIT MELANA
BRINGIN
RUMBIA
BELIMBING
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RIM
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JASIN
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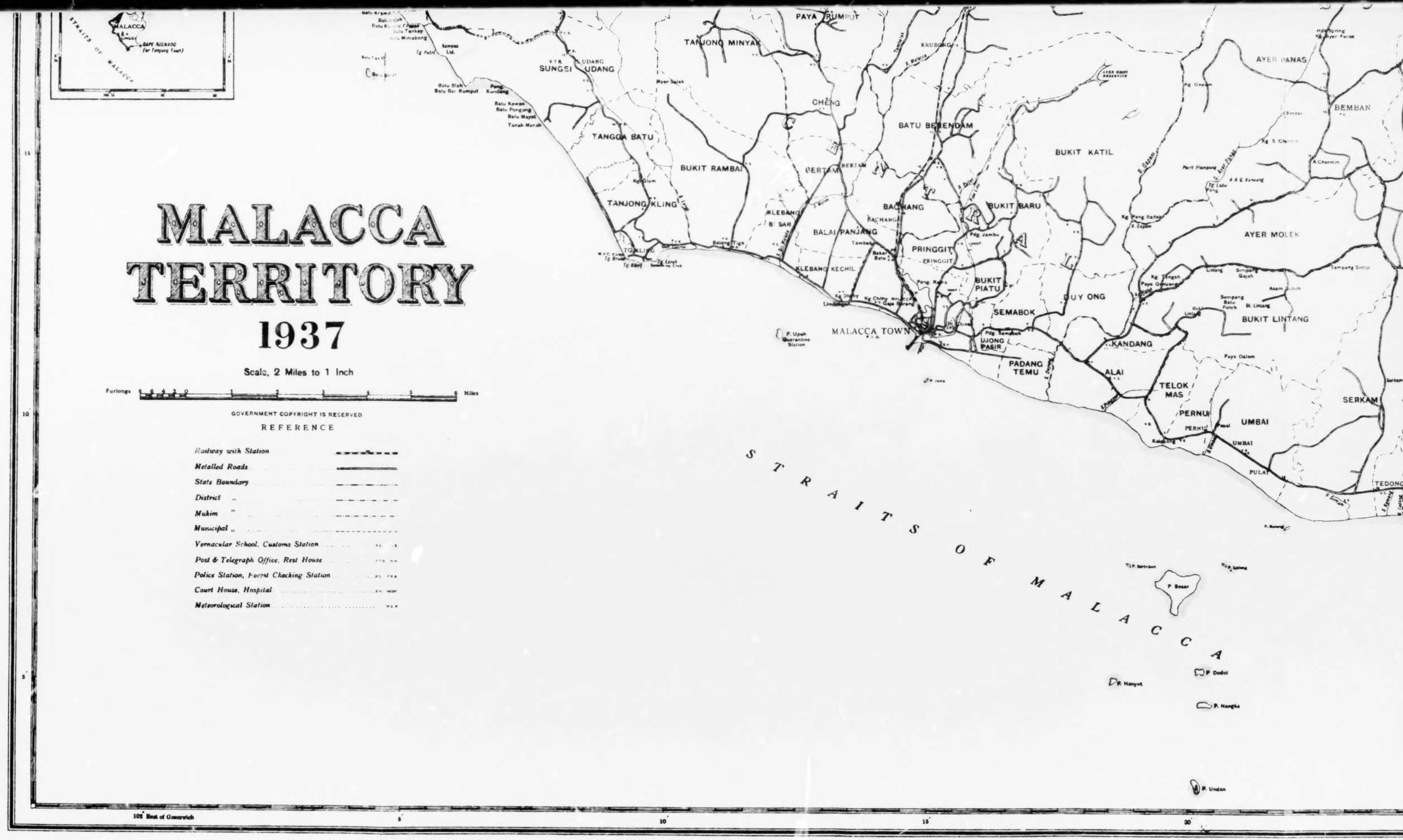

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TANJONG MINYAK
CHENG
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BUKIT RAMBAI
BERTAM
KLEBANG BESAR
BALAI PANJANG
BACHANG
PRINGGIT
BUKIT BARU
KLEBANG KECHIL
BUKIT PIATU
SEMABOK
MALACCA TOWN
UJONG PASIR
PADANG TEMU
BUKIT KATIL
GUY ONG
KANDANG
ALAI
TELOK MAS
PERNU
UMBAI
PULAI
AYER PANAS
BEMBAN
JASIN
AYER MOLEK
BUKIT LINTANG
SERKAM
MERLIMAU
SEMPANG
TEDONG
SEBATU
CHINCHIN
TANGKAK
J O H O R E
S T R A I T S O F M A L A C C A
SUNGEI RAMBAI
S. MATI
BANDAR MAHARANI (MUAR)

LABUAN

1937

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Earth Road & Bridle Path

Roads: Metalled

Point, Tanjong, River ..... Pt. T. R.

Pulau, Light House ..... P.

Kampong, Lobok ..... Kg. L.

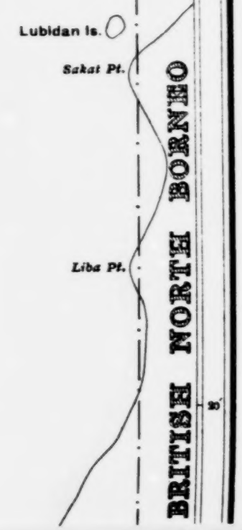
Flashing Light or Buoy

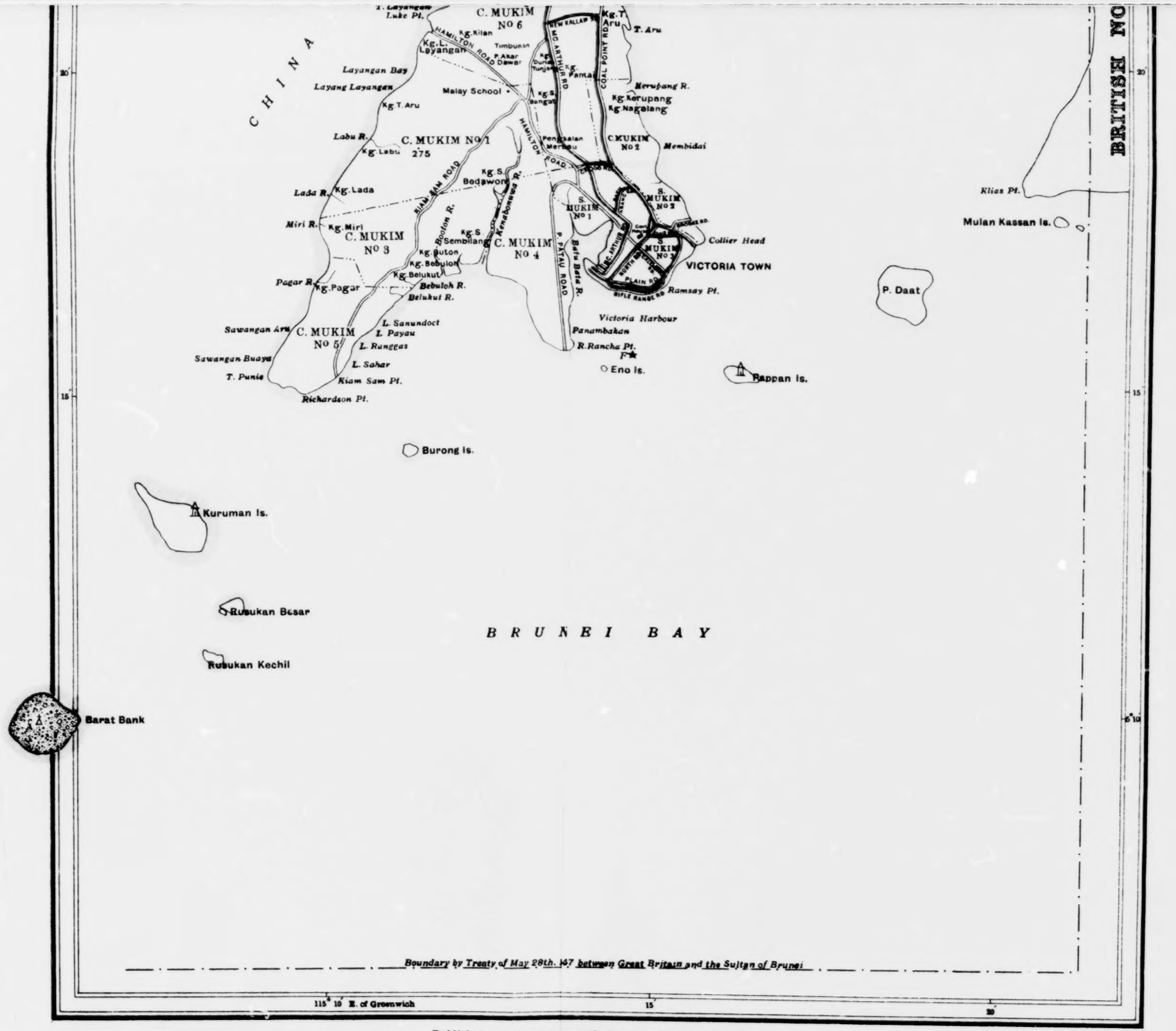
Fixed Light, Sungei ..... F★ S

Mukim Boundary, Height 336

Country, Suburban ..... C. S.

Districts: (1) Town (2) Suburban (1) (2)





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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1938

CHAPTER I

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, and about 217 square miles in area. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore which also form part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 60 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime. It is largely undeveloped.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, a group of 27 small coral islands, lie about 700 miles south west of Batavia. The largest is five miles long and ¼ mile wide. Only two, "Home" and "Direction" Islands are regularly inhabited, the latter by the staff of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, which maintains a cable station there. Home Island houses the labour force for working the large coconut plantations on the Islands. The only export is copra.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, and about 108 square miles in area. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait varying in width from 2 to 10 miles, lies *Province Wellesley,* a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. The principal town of the province is Butterworth.

Malacca is a town situated on the west coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang. It gives its name to the Settlement of Malacca, a strip of territory about 42 miles in length and varying in breadth from 8 to 25 miles, with a total area of about 637 square miles. At one time it gave its name to the whole peninsula, which is still known to the French as the Presqu'ile de Malacca.

Labuan is an island, some 35 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria. The Settlement comprises seven smaller islands, some of them cultivated.

B.—HISTORY

Malacca, said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365 and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the East, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the great entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But, with the development of Dutch commerce in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade dwindled and it has never recovered its old commercial pre-eminence although the development of plantation rubber in the present century has restored to town and territory a large measure of prosperity.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of $6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to $10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British and remained a part of the Settlement of Penang until its retrocession to the State of Perak in February, 1935.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield first place to the port with the better strategic position and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable that trade has become large and important with the expansion of tin mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, and the development of trade with neighbouring countries.

The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement

there in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired the whole island for the East India Company. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal and in 1826 was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands—Captain John Clunies Ross, a Scot, first settled on the Islands in 1827, where members of his family have lived ever since. In 1857 the Islands were declared a British possession. In 1886 a perpetual grant of the lands in the Islands was made by H.M. Government to George Clunies Ross and his descendants. who still work the plantations. In 1903 they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1891 a 99 years lease of the Island was granted to George Clunies Ross and John Murray, and six years later Christmas Island Phosphate Company was formed and took over the lease, to work the deposits of phosphate of lime. The Company pays to the S.S. Government an annual rent and a royalty on all phosphate exported.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—CLIMATE

The characteristic features of the climate of the Straits Settlements are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperature found in continental tropical areas are never experienced.

The mean temperature during 1938 was:—

Singapore (Kallang Aerodrome)	80·8°F
Penang (District Hospital)	81·7°F
Malacca (Bukit China)	79·9°F

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperature varied as follows:—

	Mean Monthly Maximum		Mean Monthly Minimum	
	Highest (°F)	*Lowest* (°F)	*Highest* (°F)	*Lowest* (°F)
Singapore ...	88·3 Feb.	84·3 Aug.	77·5 June	73·9 Jan.
Penang ...	91·3 Feb.	87·3 Aug.	75·6 May	72·1 Dec.

The extremes of temperature (highest maximum and lowest minimum) recorded were:—

	Highest °F		*Lowest* °F	
Singapore ...	94	17th February	70	3rd January
Penang ...	94	Several	68	31st December

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.

Records for 64 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September are the dry months with between 6½ and 7 inches. Rain falls on the average half the days in the year.

The wettest year recorded was 1913 with 135·92 inches and the driest 1888 with 63·21 inches.

Records of 50 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107½ inches, October being the wettest month with nearly 17 inches and February the driest with three inches; rain falling on the average on about 165 days in the year.

The force of the monsoon is not much felt though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, *viz* :—

S.W. from May to October,
N.E. from November to April.

At coastal stations, however, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The rainfall recorded was as follows :—

	1936	*1937*	*1938*	*No. of Rainfall Days in 1938*
Singapore ..	85·51	89·19	94·44	201
Penang ...	96·20	93·68	103·26	166
Malacca ...	92·44	96·53	80·23	174
Butterworth Hospital	94·15	83·00	79·39	108
Labuan ...	127·82	132·76	140·88	205

Although the days are hot, and on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The effect of the heat and humidity, without seasonal change, is however cumulative, and after a few years a change to a bracing climate becomes imperative for Europeans if health is to be maintained.

CHAPTER II

Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924, the 18th March, 1935 and the 19th July, 1937, respectively.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Financial Secretary and the Resident Councillor, Malacca, all of whom are *ex-officio* Members, together with two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed, under the Letters Patent mentioned above and the Royal Instructions dated the 18th

August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931, the 12th February, 1932 and the 19th July, 1937, respectively. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

The Legislative Council is constituted by the Letters Patent and the Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by its own Standing Orders. Under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, the constitution of the Legislative Council was enlarged when for the first time it contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang. respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of His Majesty the King.

Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for Signification of the Royal pleasure. The King has the right to disallow the Ordinances of the Colony.

The administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident.

The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the rural areas within the three Settlements. The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under the Municipal Ordinance which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

CHAPTER III

Population

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

In estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements for 1938, the method followed was to calculate the excess of births over deaths and immigration over emigration, or *vice versa*, since the census of 1931.

On this basis it is estimated that the population of the Straits Settlements on 30th June, 1938, was 1,342,090.

This figure does not include the populations of the Cocos and Keeling Islands and Christmas Island, which also form part of the Colony. Their population in 1938 was 2,455, of whom, 1,313 lived in Christmas Island; if this is included the total population of the Straits Settlements becomes 1,344,545.

The distribution of the different races in the various Settlements on June 30th, 1938 is estimated to be as shown in the following table :—

	Singapore	*Penang*	*Province Wellesley*	*Malacca*	*Labuan*	*Total*
Europeans ...	12,211	2,054	320	496	31	15,112
Eurasians ...	7,755	2,236	291	2,314	45	12,641
Malays ...	72,589	40,785	75,160	106,871	5,234	300,639
Chinese ...	548,089	156,271	58,212	85,342	3,053	850,967
Indians ...	60,427	32,815	28,996	28,322	145	150,705
Others ...	8,966	1,808	547	646	59	12,026
Total ...	710,037	235,969	163,526	223,991	8,567	1,342,090

As compared with 1937 these statistics indicate considerable increases in the Chinese and Indian populations in all the Settlements except Labuan. It is not possible to be definite as regards the reason for these increases, but, to hazard a guess, they were very probably due to an influx of unemployed labour from neighbouring States where the effects of the lower quotas for tin and rubber production were more severely felt.

The European populations of Singapore and Penang also showed noteworthy increases due no doubt to the growth of the garrisons in these Settlements.

Births

There were 56,721 births registered during 1938 compared with 52,480 in 1937, representing a birth-rate of 42.26 per thousand of population as against 42.13 per thousand in the previous year.

There was a slight decrease in the number of male infants born—106 males to 100 female births as compared with 108 males to 100 females in 1937.

Deaths

The crude death-rate showed a further decrease from 22.45 per thousand of population in 1937 to 21.28 during the year under review: the average crude death-rate for the ten year period 1929–1938, was 24.38.

Infantile Mortality

The infant mortality rate for 1938 was 151.46 per thousand live births, compared with 155.80 for 1937 and 170.85 for 1936.

Infantile convulsions accounted for 4,341 deaths out of the total of 8,593 deaths under one year. There were 1,007 deaths due to diseases of early infancy.

B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

There is no control over the movement of population between the various administrative units of the Straits Settlements and the Malay States, and measurements of migration are dealt with on a Malayan basis. It may be said that migration in Malaya is a subject of special interest owing to the attraction of the country for foreign capital and for labour from India, China and the neighbouring countries of the Archipelago, and also to the situation of Singapore and Penang at the junction of ocean trade-routes. Until 1930 immigration was practically free, but in that year a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China with the objects of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 the Aliens Ordinance which is

administered by the Immigration Department extended this control, subject to certain temporary exceptions, to all adult male immigrants who were neither British subjects nor British-protected persons.

Statistics of migration between Malaya and foreign countries by land, sea and air are collected by the Statistics Department and published monthly in the *Gazette*. These include particulars as to race, sex, proportion of minors, country of original departure or ultimate destination, and the Malayan port of entry. Tables are also published to show arrivals and departures of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers, as indicating movements of labour. Copies of the summaries for the year are included in the Appendices.

Migration statistics are also, as already indicated, of importance as an aid to an estimation of the population in the periods between censuses.

The population of Malaya as ascertained by the census on the 1st April, 1931, was 4,385,346, that of the Straits Settlements being 1,114,015 or approximately one quarter. The populations on the 30th June, 1938, were estimated as 5,238,959 and 1,344,545 respectively. The immigration surplus for the year was 31,038 as compared with 267,206 in 1937. The total gain to the population since 1934 inclusive was 648,348 persons. This gain has more than counterbalanced the emigration surplus of 353,436 persons during the period from the 1931 Census to 31st December, 1933, the net gain to the population through migration from the Census of 1931 to the end of 1938 being 294,912 persons. The dominant factor in Malayan migration statistics is the movement of Chinese and Southern Indian labourers which is largely dependent on the welfare of Malaya's two major industries, rubber and tin. Arrivals of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers amounted to 149,054 persons as compared with 365,596 in 1937; the figures for departures were 129,751 and 110,600 respectively. The net surplus of arrivals was thus 19,303 in 1938 as compared with 254,996 in 1937. The surplus decreased sharply from 11,236 in January to 6,330 in February but increased to over 16,000 in March and April. During the remainder of the year, an average monthly loss of 3,866 was recorded, the highest being 5,981 in July and the lowest 1,112 in September. A further reference to movements of Southern Indian and Chinese labour is made in the following sections of this chapter.

The following table shows the racial composition of the migrational surplus or defict during the last three years:—

MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

Race		*1936*		*1937*		*1938*
Europeans and Americans ...	+	2,775	+	667	+	2,530
Eurasians	+	70	+	168	−	10
Japanese	+	429	+	208	−	217
Chinese	+	75,801	+	180,502	+	53,180
Malays	−	4,326	−	3,850	−	5,748
Northern Indians ...	+	2,061	+	5,280	+	3,141
Southern Indians ...	+	7,909	+	84,365	−	23,251
Others	−	1,908	−	134	+	1,413
Total ...	+	82,809	+	267,206	+	31,038

For the year 1938 the total number of arrivals (to the nearest thousand) was 466,000, a decrease of 39 per cent. and of departures 435,000, a decrease of 12 per cent.

The majority of passengers travelled by sea. Penang and Port Swettenham were the main ports of entry for Southern Indian labourers, but for other races Singapore was the main port of entry and departure. Migration by land hardly exists, except for the ebb and flow of Malays, Chinese and Siamese resident on either side of the border between Siam and Malaya, and over a period of years the population of Malaya is little affected by it. Passenger transport by air is steadily growing, the figures for arrivals and departures being 1,824 and 1,810 respectively, as compared with 1,411 and 1,324 in 1937. Most of the passengers travelling by air were Europeans, but increasing numbers of Japanese, Chinese, Malay and Indian passengers were recorded.

C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

(i).—Indian Immigration*

(*a*) The total number of immigrants from Southern India who arrived at Penang by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1938 was 44,207. This is a decrease of 78,359 on the figure of 122,566 for 1937.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (labourers and dependants assisted to emigrate at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates etc., in Malaya) ...	4,580
Non-assisted immigrants (traders and others who paid their own passages)	39,627
Total ...	44,207

Of the non-assisted immigrants 16,332 (41%) were of the labouring classes, the remaining 23,295 being traders and others. It is estimated that about one-third of the non-assisted immigrants remained in the Colony, the remainder proceeding to the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States. Of the assisted immigrants, 417 arrived to work in the Colony. The following table shows the number of assisted passages taken during the last five years, for labourers and their families from Southern India to Malaya, and paid for from the Indian Immigration Fund:—

1934	36,712
1935	16,709
1936	3,097
1937	45,518
1938	3,842

(*b*) In addition to the immigrants who arrived by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 632 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line.

In the 2nd half of 1937 the rate of immigration of both assisted and unassisted immigrants was slowed down. Until the Government of India stopped assisted emigration from India on the 15th June, 1938, only labourers returning from leave in India and dependants rejoining their families were assisted. The movement of unassisted immigrants continued but on a much smaller scale and this also consisted mainly of persons returning to Malaya after a short holiday in India.

* The word immigrant, as used here in connection with Indian Immigration, means a deck-passenger only and does not include first or second class passengers.

(ii).—Indian Emigration

(*a*) The number of deck passengers who left Penang for Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1938 was 75,479 (62,447 adults, 7,880 minors and 5,152 infants) as against 44,486 (39,009 adults, 2,819 minors and 2,658 infants) in 1937.

Of the above, 41,886 adults, accompanied by 2,095 minors and 2,455 infants, paid their own passages, while 20,561 adults 5,785 minors and 2,697 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department.

Of those repatriated through the Labour Department 15,962 adults, accompanied by 1,774 minors and 821 infants, received repatriation because they claimed to be unfit for work or were physically unsuited for life in Malaya, while 3,786 adults, 3,830 minors and 1,796 infants were repatriated on other grounds. The remaining 813 adults, 181 minors and 80 infants were repatriated at the expense either of private employers or Government Departments at the termination of service or were granted free passages by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	Adults	*Minors*	*Infants*
1. Sent at the expense of the Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund	1,955	449	175
2. Sent at the expense of estates and Government Departments	131	29	6
3. Carried free of charge by the British India Steam Navigation Company ...	51	14	7
	2,137	492	188

The number of adult labourers who returned to India paying their own passages was 24,806 as against 20,447 in 1937, while the number of traders and other non-labourers was 17,080 as against 13,764 in 1937. Roughly one-third of these may be taken as having come from the Colony.

(*b*) In addition to the above, 720 deck passengers left for South India by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line.

(iii).—Chinese Immigration

The immigration of adult male Chinese aliens arriving in Singapore from China ports (including Hong Kong) was restricted by Proclamation under the Aliens Ordinance. On 1st January, the quota was reduced from 6,000 to 3,000 a month and again to 500 a month from 1st April, at which figure it remained until the end of the year.

The exemption of adult female Chinese aliens from Part I of the Ordinance ceased on 1st May, when a female immigration quota of 500 a month was instituted. This restriction applies to adult male and female Chinese arriving on the ships of the six quota companies. Other shipping companies are restricted to a total of 25 a month each.

Alien Chinese in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence issued under the Aliens Ordinance in the Colony or under a

corresponding Aliens Enactment in a Malay State are exempted from the provisions of Part I of the Aliens Ordinance, and are, therefore, not counted against the quota.

Seven permits were issued under Section 13 of the Aliens Ordinance to enable 65 labourers to enter the Colony outside the quota. These men were required for work that could not be performed by local artisans.

The total number of male Chinese entering Singapore under the quota during the year was 13,326 as compared with 67,666 in 1937.

The total number of male Chinese who arrived on non-quota ships was 2,588 as compared with 3,826 in 1937.

The total number of male Chinese who arrived in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence was 15,238 as compared with 28,206 in 1937.

The total number of male Chinese from China ports (including Hong Kong) who arrived during the year was therefore 31,152 compared with 99,698 in 1937, 69,558 in 1936, 81,775 in 1935, 52,023 in 1934, 13,535 in 1933 and 18,741 in 1932.

Forty-two thousand, seven hundred and forty-eight women entered Singapore from China ports. Of these 32,588 arrived on quota ships prior to restriction, 3,921 on quota ships after the commencement of restriction, 5,295 on non-quota ships and 944 in possession of certificates of admission.

The figures for women for the year 1936 and 1937 were 54,233 and 100,166 respectively.

Twenty-four thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three children arrived from China ports on quota and non-quota ships during 1938, as against 46,507 in 1937 and 25,726 in 1936.

The number of women to a thousand men arriving from China ports during the years 1936, 1937 and 1938 was 779, 1,004 and 1,372 respectively.

(iv).—Chinese Emigration

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 54,603 as against 66,502 in 1937.

Fares for deck passengers to China for the first half of 1938 were:—

Singapore to Hong Kong	$22
Singapore to Swatow	$24
Singapore to Amoy	$25

Rates rose by $5 to all three ports during the second half year.

Fares for quota passengers from China were:—

Hong Kong to Singapore ...	$75 (Hong Kong Currency).
Swatow to Singapore ...	$130 (China Currency).
Amoy to Singapore ...	$133 (China Currency).

Fares for non-quota passengers from China were:—

Hong Kong to Singapore ...	$45 (Hong Kong Currency).
Swatow to Singapore ...	$68 (China Currency).
Amoy to Singapore ...	$78 (China Currency).

All fares were subject to broker's commission.

CHAPTER IV

Health

A.—PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM THE PRINCIPAL DISEASES

(i).—General

(1) *Pneumonia* (all forms) caused 2,506 deaths as compared with 2,712 in the previous year, which gives an incidence of 88 per thousand deaths from all causes.

(2) *Tuberculosis* (all forms) caused 2,618 deaths as against 2,464 for 1937: 2,406 were registered as due to pulmonary tuberculosis alone, or 84 per 1,000 of the deaths from all causes. The measures taken for prevention of tuberculosis include:—

(*a*) *Education.*—Every endeavour is made by means of films, posters, leaflets, informal talks, etc., to educate the people in methods of cleanliness and personal hygiene with a view to avoiding infection and limiting its spread.

(*b*) *Improvement of housing and general sanitation.*—The Singapore Improvement Trust's policy of constructing backlanes in the congested areas was continued during the year. There are also schemes for the demolition of slums, the building of cottages and tenements and the establishment of open spaces. But overcrowding in the towns, and especially in Singapore, is a grave problem which is becoming increasingly acute.

(*c*) *Hospital treatment.*—Beds for tuberculosis cases are available in all Government hospitals, and beds for the special treatment of tuberculosis exist in the General Hospitals in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore.

(3) *Malaria.*—Deaths registered under this head decreased from 1,185 in 1937 to 910 in 1938; this gives a ratio 32 per thousand deaths from all causes.

(4) *Beri-beri.*—caused 1,251 deaths as against 853 in 1937.

(5) *Dysentery.*—The total deaths registered as due to dysentery were 321, while *diarrhœa* and *enteritis* were responsible for 1,162 deaths, or 41 per thousand deaths from all causes, a decrease on the previous year.

(ii).—Dangerous Infectious Diseases

No cases of plague or cholera were reported during the year. Two cases of small-pox, both within the municipal area of Singapore, were reported.

(iii).—Venereal Diseases

The Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene, is responsible for the administration of this special branch of the Medical Department.

There are 26 treatment centres in the Straits Settlements—distributed as follows:—

Singapore	6
Penang (including Province Wellesley) ...	12
Malacca	8

Singapore.—There was again an increase in the number of new cases treated :—

1938	13,407
1937	11,986

Penang.—The total number of new cases treated shows an increase of 271 over the previous year :—

1938	7,011
1937	6,740

Malacca.—There was an increase of 477 over the previous year :—

1938	4,632
1937	4,155

Number of Seamen treated.—The new admissions to the clinics for sailors totalled 1,130. These are classified by nationalities as follows :—

British	318
Non-British Europeans	109
Chinese	618
Malays	19
Indians	44
Other races	22

Serological Reactions.—The results of these tests are summarised as follows :—

	Specimens examined	*Positive*	*Negative*	*Doubtful*
Wassermann tests ...	21,150	7,104	14,012	34
Kahn tests	4,083	1,381	2,695	7

Propaganda.—Every effort was taken to inform the public of the dangers of venereal disease by the distribution of pamphlets and leaflets.

Posters have also been displayed throughout the town of Singapore to inform the public of the facilities for free treatment.

(iv).—Yaws

The total number of cases of yaws treated during the year decreased from 5,337 in 1937 to 5,206 during the year under review.

Very few cases of this disease remain untreated in the districts where there are government hospitals, out-door dispensaries and travelling dispensaries which afford every facility for treatment. This disease is mainly found among the Malays.

(v).—Buildings

The new dental clinic for Singapore was completed and occupied in July, 1938.

B.—HOSPITALS, ETC.

(i).—Hospitals

Inpatients treated in the hospitals of the Colony totalled 77,710 as against 78,586 in the previous year. Malaria admissions were responsible for 8,518 as compared with 7,926 in 1937.

The total number of venereal disease admissions was 2,865 with 97 deaths: in 1937 the admissions were 2,657 with 95 deaths.

The tuberculosis admissions increased from 2,843 with 984 deaths in the previous year to 3,376 with 1,196 deaths during the year under review.

Pneumonia was responsible for 1,999 admissions with 1,021 deaths as compared with 1,861 with 1,044 deaths in 1937.

(ii).—Dispensaries

The number of outpatients treated at Government dispensaries and the number of attendances were as follows:—

		1937	*1938*
Number of outpatients	...	278,522	276,982
Number of attendances	...	506,879	589,246

The attendances at the more important of the special dispensaries for women and children were as follows:—

		1937	*1938*
Singapore (Kandang Kerbau)	...	55,503	60,119
Penang	...	22,765	32,426
Malacca	...	12,889	15,463

(iii).—Motor Travelling Dispensaries

The motor travelling dispensaries in Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca afford free facilities for the treatment of minor ailments.

Men, women and children of all nationalities, who reside in the outlying districts of each Settlement, obtain treatment from these dispensaries.

The total attendances for the whole Colony were:—

1938	...	...	...	105,068 attendances
1937	...	...	...	100,626 ,,

(iv).—Leper Settlements

Pulau Jerejak Settlement.—The total number of patients on 31st December, 1938, was 1,213 as against 1,205 remaining at the end of 1937. The admissions during the year were 303, including 126 transfers from the Singapore Settlement. Two hundred and ninety-five died, absconded or were discharged.

Every encouragement is given to the inmates to work in the Settlement. Those who are strong, are generally employed as artisans, woodcutters, washermen, etc. Educated inmates are given employment as teachers, dressers, etc. Many do carpentry, vegetable and fruit gardening, fishing and poultry farming, while a few maintain shops, financed and subsidised by the inmates.

Education.—The good standard of education provided by both the English and Chinese schools continued to be maintained. There is an active Boy Scout troupe with 25 members.

Several successful performances were given by the dramatic troupes of the Settlement. The Brass Band of 14 musicians has also enlivened the lives of the inmates.

The health of the inmates was good. No cases of infectious diseases occurred during the year.

Discipline was excellent.

Singapore Leper Settlements.—The Singapore Settlement has separate accommodation for male and female lepers. In the former there were 102 patients remaining on December 31st, 1937, and 124 at the end of 1938.

208 cases were admitted during the year and 126 were transferred to Pulau Jerejak. One case was transferred to Sungei Buloh Settlement, Selangor. Six cases were discharged and 12 died.

One hundred and thirty patients were in the female camp on 1st January, 1938, and 154 on 31st December, 1938. Forty-four were admitted during the year, while only one case was sent to the Leper Settlement, Sungei Buloh, Selangor. Two cases were discharged and six died.

The employment of lepers on useful and productive work was continued, while those not so employed were encouraged to take up poultry keeping and the growing of vegetables. Their production was purchased from them and utilised by the camps, a procedure which has benefitted their morale and made their outlook on life more cheerful.

The Leper Aid Fund has been of great help in providing the inmates with comforts and amusements which cannot be charged to Government expenditure, and the benevolence of the donors has been rewarded by the appreciation of the inmates.

(v).—Mental Hospital

The number of patients remaining on 1st January, 1938, was 1,504; the total number of admissions was 695. Discharges, deaths and abscondings totalled 596. One thousand six hundred and three patients remained at the end of 1938. The admissions showed an increase of 51 over those for 1937. The recovery rate was 49·3 per cent. of the admissions.

C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

(i).—Quarantine

During the year Port Health Officers paid 660 visits to ships in Singapore and 316 visits in Penang as compared with 814 and 391 respectively in the preceding year. The number of persons examined, was 315,931 as against 527,726 in 1937. Persons detained under observation at the quarantine stations in Singapore and Penang totalled 112,883.

Twenty-one persons from ships were treated for dangerous infectious diseases at the quarantine station, Singapore. Of these, 20 were for small-pox and one for meningitis. At the quarantine station, Penang four were treated for small-pox.

The Port Health work of Malacca is carried out by the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer. One hundred and fifty-seven vessels visited Malacca during 1938 and none were boarded as they did not come from infected ports.

(ii).—Quarantine (Aircraft)

Singapore.—The total number of aircraft examined was 256 and passengers and crew examined totalled 2,341.

Penang.—Health Officers visited 87 aircraft.

(iii).—Rural Conservancy

Singapore.—Nightsoil is collected daily by approved contractors who work under the close supervision of the Health Department. Nightsoil is disposed of in trenching grounds, except in three districts where it is deposited in septic tanks. A total of 5,004 houses was on the nightsoil removal list at the end of the year.

A scheme for the compulsory removal of nightsoil came into force at the end of the year. Provision has been made in the scheme for the extension of the areas in which the contractors work.

During the year 478 insanitary latrines were demolished and 1,243 new latrines were constructed, including 316 bore-hole (tube) latrines.

By-laws for the supervision of all private septic tanks were passed during the year and preparations were made to bring them into force on 1-1-39. There were 71 private installations in use in the rural area at the end of 1938.

Rubbish is collected daily from householders' rubbish bins and is disposed of by incineration or by controlled dumping. The latter method of disposal is being extended gradually to all parts of the rural area which have suitable terrain.

Experiments with the "composting" of nightsoil and rubbish have not been very successful, the manurial value of the end-product being reported to be practically nil.

Penang.—Pail latrines are used in places where buildings are close together; elsewhere in villages and throughout the rural area bore-hole latrines or corresponding types of sanitary conveniences are provided by the responsible occupier. Throughout the residential area of Penang Hill and in a number of residences along the coast road water carriage and septic tank systems are installed.

During the year 514 latrines have been constructed or reconditioned. Insanitary latrines to the number of 205 have been demolished. Three hundred and one bore-hole latrines have been constructed and 12 pit latrines have been dug.

There were 41 village incinerators within gazetted areas and three on Penang Hill, most of which have given good service throughout the year. Domestic refuse, together with road sweepings, is collected in refuse bins placed on concrete platforms along the roadside and disposed of either by incineration in the village incinerators or by "controlled tipping".

Malacca.—Chinese labour is employed to carry out sewage disposal in the rural area. In most villages the nightsoil is disposed of by trenching or by dumping in bore-holes or deep covered pits, but two villages (Jasin and Sungei Rambei) have septic tanks for the disposal of nightsoil. During the year 1,651 new latrines were constructed and 492 insanitary pit latrines abolished.

South Indian labour, under the control of the Health Officer, is employed for the disposal of refuse. The rubbish is disposed of by incineration, and new Horsfall incinerators with large concrete sorting platforms partially covered by asbestos roofing were installed during the year.

Labuan.—Nightsoil is collected and disposed of by proper trenching under supervision by the Sanitary Inspector and Rural Board Overseer. Bore-hole latrines are being constructed where possible. Sixteen were constructed in 1938. Refuse is disposed of by incineration and "controlled tipping". Concrete stands for Rural Board dust bins were constructed during the year.

(iv).—Anti-Malarial Work

The Government and Municipal health authorities are responsible for the protection of the population from malaria in towns and villages in the Straits Settlements.

The total expenditure on anti-malarial measures in rural areas undertaken by Government was $212,866.36.

In Singapore and Penang there has been further extension of the areas protected from invasion by the malaria-carrying mosquito. This increase in anti-malaria measures has become necessary owing to the rapid advance in public and private building activity and land development throughout the rural areas.

Rapid progress in rural anti-malarial measures has now been rendered possible by the adoption of "naturalistic measures" such as herbage packing, fascine drainage, flushing and shading.

There has been a marked fall in the incidence of malaria throughout the Straits Settlements, and efforts to deal with nuisance mosquitoes in towns and villages are becoming increasingly successful.

CHAPTER V

Housing

In the principal towns of the Colony the various types of houses may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) Houses with gardens occupied by the well-to-do residents.
(*b*) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by less prosperous persons, or the less well-paid of the salaried classes.
(*c*) Terrace houses for clerks and people of similar standing.
(*d*) Shop-houses.
(*e*) Common lodging houses, which are frequently overcrowded.
(*f*) Tenements in closely built areas, and
(*g*) Wooden huts or semi-permanent houses on the outskirts of the city.

The houses in the first category are occupied by the European residents and the wealthier Asiatics. The old Colonial style mostly built of wood, with its wide verandas and large rooms is still to be seen, but is gradually disappearing and giving place to more modern types built substantially of brick or concrete, and designed for economical household management. In many cases the external features of the latest types of houses reflect the trend of modern architectural ideas. The small semi-detached houses and bungalows generally differ from the houses of the wealthier only in size, and nearly all in Singapore at least have the advantages of modern lighting and sanitation. In Singapore, flats are becoming increasingly popular and the considerable increase that has taken place in the garrison is likely to encourage this development. The terrace houses occupied by the clerical classes are necessarily humbler in character than the "compound" and semi-detached houses. Even these, however, afford good accommodation, are well ventilated and in some areas in the larger towns have modern sanitation as well as lighting.

Shop-houses in the older parts of the towns are generally built in rows, of solid construction and two or more storeys in height, but too frequently they are insufficiently ventilated and in many streets no back lanes are provided. The upper stories of many of the houses are divided into small cubicles with temporary partitions, erected without regard to need of light and air, and it is in these that the worst overcrowding is found. Many of

the labouring and artisan classes live in such cubicles or in the common lodging houses which frequently are merely overcrowded dormitories above a shop or store.

The problem of slum clearance has long been one of major importance in Singapore, and in 1927 an Improvement Trust was set up by Ordinance to deal with it. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the Trust has been hampered in its activities: the slump years—1930–1933—not only reduced its income but, what was more important, delayed that development of new housing areas, which was the necessary forerunner of large-scale operations to demolish slums. Such development has perforce been undertaken by the Trust itself in the last three years and has done much to relieve a situation which has more recently been greatly aggravated by a large influx of unemployed, who were attracted, no doubt, by the more prosperous conditions ruling in the town; fortunately this example appears to have stimulated private enterprise to play its part once again in the provision of new houses.

The record of the Trust's achievements in the matter of housing during 1938, and up to the end of that year, is as follows:—

PROPERTIES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

(i) Tiong Bahru Estate ...	6 blocks of premises comprising 189 flats and 10 shops;
(ii) Balestier Plain	178 houses;
(iii) Banda Street	87 rooms and 4 shops;
(iv) New Bridge Road ...	42 rooms, 1 flat, 6 shops and 1 restaurant.

The total number of tenements added during the year was 518.

In addition to the above, one block of 27 flats and 4 shops was commenced in July, 1938, and it was anticipated that they would be completed in March, 1939.

At the end of the year the Trust owned buildings comprising a total number of 404 rooms, 232 flats, 686 houses and 35 shops.

Steady progress also continued to be made in the opening up and construction of back lanes through old back-to-back property. This work has made possible the introduction of modern sanitation to many of the houses affected and has in every case given them a modicum of sunlight and ventilation. In 1938 nine back lanes were sewered in areas already provided with sewerage, and steady progress has been made in areas which are expected to be in operation by the end of 1939. The total number of houses newly connected to sewers in 1938 was 456. No mention has been made of the few back lanes sewered in the new areas, the majority of the sewers having been laid in bungalow areas where back lanes are not required.

The increased activity displayed by private enterprise in building operations was a welcome feature of the year. Many houses of a much improved type are being provided all over the town, and areas which have been undeveloped for many years are at last being utilised. It is also interesting to note that the first Building Society to be formed in Malaya was registered as a public company during the year.

In Penang and Malacca, where the problems are neither so great nor so pressing as those of Singapore, all measures of town improvement are undertaken by the Municipal Commissioners under the provisions of the

Municipal Ordinance and, while development has not been possible on the same scale as the work undertaken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore, much has been accomplished and work is still progressing. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings, and strict control of common lodging houses is maintained to prevent overcrowding and preserve a decent standard of sanitation.

In rural districts brick shop-houses with tiled roofs are found in the larger villages, but the houses are generally of old Malay or Chinese types, built of planks with roofs of attap, a very efficient local type of thatching with dried palm fronds. The wood and attap houses are usually owned by the occupiers, and as a general rule are clean and well ventilated, besides being admirably suited to the climate and cool and comfortable to live in. Those of the Malay small-holder or peasant are raised about four to six feet above the ground level, and are especially well-ventilated, cool and comfortable. The brick and tile shop-houses in the villages, like those in the towns, lend themselves to overcrowding, but the evils are less pronounced in rural areas. Planning schemes have been evolved for most gazetted villages, demolition notices are enforced against insanitary buildings whenever necessary, and the work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. For all new buildings, in Municipal and Rural Board areas, strict compliance with the building by-laws is now enforced, although it is impossible, and indeed unnecessary, to insist on the standards devised for the wealthier Municipal areas in the rural areas where expense is a much greater consideration.

Labourers on rubber estates are usually housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. Nearly all of these buildings conform to an approved standard design and frequent inspections by the health authorities and the officers of the Labour Department prevent overcrowding and ensure decent upkeep and cleanliness.

CHAPTER VI

Natural Resources

A.—AGRICULTURE

General

The principal crops grown in the Colony are rubber, coconuts, rice and pineapples. The areas under these crops at the end of 1938 in each Settlement were as follows:—

Settlement	*Rubber (acres)*	*Coconut (acres)*	*Rice (acres)*	*Pineapple (acres)*
Singapore ...	52,919	8,319	nil	2,800
Malacca ...	194,370	13,523	31,510	310
P. W. and Penang	86,001	46,636	35,430	510
Labuan ...	1,834	3,422*	710	nil
Total Straits Settlements ...	335,124	71,900	67,650	3,620

* 1937 figures.

Crops of secondary importance are fruits, vegetables, derris (tuba-root), tobacco, arecanuts, spices, coffee and tapioca. Rubber and coconuts are the only crops grown on a large scale by Europeans and Asiatics.

(i).—Crops grown by Europeans and Asiatics

Rubber.—The total area under rubber in the Colony at the end of 1938 was estimated to be 335,124 acres, distributed as follows:—

Settlement	*Estates of 100 acres and over*	*Small holdings of less than 100 acres*	*Total*
Singapore ...	32,543	20,376	52,919
Malacca ...	126,387	67,983	194,370
P. W. and Penang ...	47,928	38,073	86,001
Labuan ...	—	1,834	1,834
Total ...	206,858	128,266	335,124

Of the total acreage of estates of 100 acres and over, 132,165 acres were on European-owned estates and 74,693 acres on estates of Asiatic ownership. Of the Asiatic estates, 61,011 acres were owned by Chinese, 12,036 acres by Indians, and 1,646 acres by Malays and others.

Under the terms of the Rubber Regulation Ordinance replanting is permitted to the extent of 10 per cent. of each owner's holding in any one year, and to a total of 20 per cent. of the holding during the period from the 1st June, 1934 to the 31st December, 1938. The area replanted in the Colony during 1938 was 1,272 acres.

Replanting is usually carried out with budded stock, and the total of budgrafted areas in the Colony at the end of the year was 6,681 acres.

The area out of tapping on estates on the 31st December, 1938 in the Straits Settlements was 70,485 acres, or 35·3% of the estimated acreage of tappable rubber. In addition 39,209 acres (19.7 per cent.) were being rested under rotational tapping systems. Quarterly surveys of small holdings are made and the December survey showed that approximately 35.6 per cent. of small holdings were out of tapping, as compared with 10.1 per cent. at the end of 1937.

Total production of rubber during 1938 in the Straits Settlements was 29,099 tons, of which 19,193 tons were produced on estates and 9,906 tons on small holdings.

The International Agreement 1934–38 for the regulation of rubber production continued in operation throughout the year. Malaya's quota was 602,000 tons and releases averaged 55 per cent. over the whole year, quarterly releases being 70 per cent., 60 per cent., 45 per cent. and 45 per cent. respectively.

During the year under review the International Agreement, which was due to terminate on the 31st December, 1938, was renewed for a further period of five years to December, 1943, and provides for new planting up to 5 per cent. of the total planted area until the end of 1940, and thereafter up to percentages to be fixed by the International Rubber Regulation Committee, and unconditional replanting during 1939–40, with possible extension at the end of that period.

The average price per lb. of No. 1 Rubber Smoked Sheet in Singapore for the year was 24.39 cents as compared with 32.09 cents in 1937. The London average price was 7.29 pence per lb. and the New York price 14.56 cents gold. The Singapore market opened the year at 22¾ cents per lb., but in March the price fell heavily, and in April 16 cents, the lowest price recorded since 1934, was reached. April, however, also saw a recovery to 21⅜ cents; 29¼ cents was reached in October and the year closed at 28¼ cents.

Estates generally were maintained in good condition. Manuring has continued to increase in popularity and is developing into a standard practice on many estates.

The general condition of small holdings is satisfactory and considerable attention was directed throughout the year to improvement in small-holding rubber. The Asiatic Rubber Instructors, of whom one was stationed in Province Wellesley and Penang and one in Malacca, rendered great help to small-holders with all problems connected with their rubber holdings.

Rats have become a serious pest in many replanted, and some new-planted, areas, and special measures were developed to combat them.

Coconuts and Coconut Products.—Statistics of areas in the Colony under coconut have already been given at the commencement of this chapter. In addition to the total of 71,900 acres there shown, there are 19 acres in Christmas Island. Estate cultivation amounts to approximately 18,000 acres.

The crop finds its principal outlet in the form of copra or coconut oil, but very large quantities are consumed in the fresh state by owners and local buyers. Also from Province Wellesley and Penang there is a considerable export of fresh nuts to Burma.

The production of coconut oil in Malaya has grown very rapidly in recent years, and this industry is centred in the Colony in Singapore and Penang where there are four and five mills respectively, all in Chinese ownership. The growth of oil milling can be gauged by the increase of net exports of coconut oil from 9,928 tons in 1931 to 49,140 tons in 1938—the highest total yet recorded.

There is also a considerable entrepôt trade centred in Singapore, large imports of copra being received from the Netherlands Indies which are used both for milling and for mixing with Malayan copra for export. Imports of copra into Malaya during 1938 were 117,517 tons and exports 186,271 tons. It is doubtful, however, if this latter figure represents the normal position, as it is probable that, owing to the low prices ruling, considerable stocks were being held at the close of the year.

The following table shows the net exports from Malaya of coconut products and values for the years 1937 and 1938:—

	1937		1938	
Product	*tons*	$	*tons*	$
Fresh Coconuts ...	6,802	297,796	8,339	237,129
Copra	75,592	9,207,112	68,754	5,668,619
Coconut Oil ...	39,762	7,630,993	49,140	5,594,800
Copra Cake ...	15,026*	625,424	7,112	251,824

* Gross exports. Oil cakes were not sub-divided in export returns until 1938, and it was considered that the majority of such exports would be of copra cake.

The price of copra remained at a very low level throughout the year. he sun-dried grade opened in January at $4.75 per picul, but weakened to ose that month at $4. Thereafter the price fell to between $3 and $3.50 ntil in November it fell still further to $2.95; December shewed an nprovement and the year closed at $3.25. The average price for the year r the sundried was $3.53 as compared with $6.45 in 1937. Coconut oil eakened in sympathy with copra, and averaged $7.53 per picul for the ear as compared with $11.13 in 1937.

Owing to the low prices ruling for copra the improvement in quality btained in recent years was not maintained, except in the case of estate-roduced copra.

(ii).—Crops Grown Exclusively by Asiatics

Rice.—Rice is the most important of the crops grown exclusively by siatics and is almost entirely in the hands of the Malays. In the Colony e main centres of cultivation are the coastal alluvial lands in Province Vellesley and Malacca and the shallow valleys in the inland districts of Ialacca and Penang Island.

The area planted with rice in the Straits Settlements in the season 937–38 and the yields were as follows : —

Settlement	Wet		Dry		Total	
	Acres*	Gantangs*	Acres	Gantangs	Acres	Gantangs
Province Wellesley	32,280	8,513,000	140	22,000	32,420	8,535,000
Malacca ..	31,510	12,605,000	..	..	31,510	12,605,000
Penang ..	3,010	1,290,000	..	..	3,010	1,290,000
Labuan ..	710	116,000	..	..	710	116,000
Total ..	67,510	22,524,000	140	22,000	67,650	22,546,000

In the season 1936–37 the total area planted was 69,090 acres and the otal yield 25,056,000 gantangs. The decrease in 1937–38 is in part due o an unfavourable season, but the lower figures are also due to a very much loser estimate which it has been found possible to effect in some areas.

There are two systems of padi cultivation, *viz.* the "wet" and the 'dry", over 90 per cent. of Malaya's rice being cultivated as "wet" padi. In the cultivation of "wet" padi the general procedure—with local variants—is to plough or dig the land once or twice and rake and smooth t with a roller. The seed is sown in a nursery and later transplanted in he inundated fields where the soil has been prepared by puddling. The rop may take about six months to reach maturity, but only one crop a year is removed from the land. In "dry" padi cultivation the seed is sown on dry land, in some cases with little or no previous preparation of he soil.

Many small power-driven rice mills have been erected in the main roducing areas of Malaya; in Province Wellesley, in addition to the old-established large mills, seven small mills have now come into operation and a further four are under construction.

* Areas to the nearest to acres and yields to the nearest 1,000 gantangs.
A gantang is an imperial gallon. Six hundred and sixty-six gantangs of padi equal one ton of cleaned rice.

Recently a Malay Rice Millers' Association has been formed in Province Wellesley, the principal objects being to prevent unnecessary competition and to exchange information on the marketing of milled products.

Net imports of rice into Malaya during 1938 were the largest on record, 612,394 tons, valued at $40,433,064. Between 70 and 75 per cent. of these imports are received through ports of the Colony. Total consumption, *i.e* production and net imports, was 911,584 tons, Malaya producing approximately one-third of her rice requirements.

Pineapples.—The pineapple canning industry has developed in recent years into one of major importance, and there are five factories in Singapore, three being in regular production. One factory has been closed since July, 1938 and the remaining factory has confined its production to the experimental packing of pineapple juice. Factories now have to conform with the regulations of the Pineapple Industry Ordinance, under which legislation insanitary factories are refused registration.

Malayan exports of canned pineapples during 1938 were the lowest since 1934, being 73,169 tons, valued at $7,262,851, as compared with 80,504 tons, valued at $8,825,551 in 1937. The reduced exports are attributed to trade depression and the over-stocked condition of Great Britain, Malaya's principal market, during the major portion of the year. Prices were low throughout the year, and the average prices per case of 48 cans of 1½lb. each quoted during the past five years are tabulated below :—

Year	Cubes	Sliced flat	Sliced tall	Fresh Fruit per 100	
				First quality	Second quality
	$	$	$	$	$
1934	3·10	3·01	3·19	2·52	1·38
1935	3·47	3·27	3·51	3·25	2·52
1936	3·29	3·09	3·29	3·29	2·78
1937	3·02	2·92	3·10	2·27	1·74
1938	2·79	2·75	3·09	1·40	1·01

The area under pineapple in Singapore has continued to decline, and at the end of 1938 was only 2,800 acres as compared with 4,700 acres at the end of the previous year. The decline is attributed to poor soil conditions and to the very low prices which prevailed during the year. It is unlikely that this acreage will be extended owing to the growing demand for food crops, and Singapore factories will soon depend almost entirely on Johore for their supplies of fruit.

The Malayan Mark Regulations were published in April, controlling the grading and packing of pineapples canned to certain stated specifications, but up to the end of the year none of the Singapore factories had applied for the right to use these marks.

In May regulations were published standardizing the sizes of cans to be used, and prohibiting the use of all other sizes. In December the Pineapple Ordinance was amended to allow the Registrar to refuse to register a pineapple factory if he is of the opinion that there already exists a sufficient number of factories to satisfy the requirements of the trade.

A Central Board of Pineapple Packers was in process of formation at the close of the year. The main objects of the Board are to control

production to meet the demands of the market, and to fix the price of the canned product at a level which will ensure a fair profit to growers and packers.

An Association of Growers was also in process of formation and agreement has been reached on a code of rules. It is anticipated that this Association will be able to safeguard the interests of the producers of fruit.

The Pineapple Experiment Station at Lim Chu Kang, Singapore, was maintained, though, as stated in last year's Report, it has been found that the soil on the Station is too poor to serve as a guide for pineapple cultivation on ordinary land. The long range manurial experiment was maintained and will be continued, and other minor experiments for the control of the mealy bug and wilt were maintained.

The new Canning Research Station in Johore was completed during 1938 and the Canning Officer was able to make use of the laboratory before the end of the year. The Station is maintained by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Johore, and consists of two main buildings, one housing a laboratory, sample examination room and office, and the other designed on the lines of a small model canning factory. The factory building was completed before the end of the year and the installation of machinery was well advanced.

The testing of the raw products of canning, such as tinplate and sugar, the examination of canned fruits, experiments in the utilization of pineapple waste, and the preparation of pineapple juice are examples of the work which the laboratory is equipped to carry out.

Miscellaneous Fruits.—The total area under fruits other than pineapple in the Straits Settlements was 10,676 acres, as compared with 10,441 acres in 1937. Of this area 1,375 acres were under bananas.

The quality of locally produced fruit is improving owing to the increased interest in recent years in grafted and budded fruit trees of proved value. Many owners of trees of recognised quality are producing and selling their own bud-grafts.

The range of fruits cultivated is extensive, the most important being mangosteen, pulasan, rambutan, banana, durian, papaya, chiku, belimbing, and langsat.

Individual holdings are usually small, but in Penang Island and Malacca there are a number of extensive fruit orchards, the large majority of which are owned by Chinese.

Local supplies of fruit do not fully meet the demand, and in 1938 net imports of fresh and preserved fruits into Malaya totalled 25,653 tons, valued at $3,909,097.

Vegetables.—It is estimated that there are over 3,000 acres of market gardens cultivated by Chinese in Singapore and a like area in Malacca. The total area of market gardens in the Colony is 6,872 acres and in addition there are 1,430 acres under sweet potato. It is estimated that local production of vegetables exceeds 10,000 tons a year, but the demand is high, and net Malayan imports during 1938 were declared at 66,753 tons, valued at $4,986,735, in addition to which there are very large undeclared imports carried as deck cargo.

Derris.—The area under derris in the Colony decreased from 1,593 acres to 1,191 acres. The market fell very badly during the year, roots sold on rotenone content averaging only $21.67 per picul as against $40.50 in

1937, and roots sold on a basis of ether extract $13.63 as against $23.92. Approximately 12,000 cuttings of Changi No. 3 variety were distributed through the Agricultural Officer, Singapore, as compared with 50,000 in 1937 and the greater portion of this distribution was to French Indo-China or the Netherlands Indies. Net exports of derris root from Malaya were 676 tons, valued at $306,801 as compared with 573 tons, valued at $384,000 in 1937.

(iii).—Miscellaneous

Canning Local Products.—A small factory started operating in Penang for the canning of local products such as durian jam, tree tomato juice and jam, curried chicken, coconut jam, curried shell-fish, mangosteen juice and rambutan. Satisfactory sales are said to have been made locally.

An experimental plant for the dehydration of local fruits was installed in Singapore, and desiccated coconut, durian and pineapple have been produced.

The Farm School, Malacca.—The first three years' experience at this School had shown that, whilst boys from rural areas benefited from the one year course of training and took up agricultural work in one form or another afterwards, those from urban areas drifted back to urban surroundings after leaving the School.

In view of this, modifications of the system were made in readiness for the fourth year which will commence in March, 1939.

The revised courses will run for one year from March to February instead of being divided into terms as heretofore. The period chosen will embrace a whole padi year from sowing to harvest, and will allow for a full year's experience with dry land crops. The work will be essentially practical, the idea being to teach the pupils how to develop and maintain a small area of land, adequate attention being given to the economic side of the question. Work was started in October on clearing land and erecting the houses required.

The Farm School and Agricultural Station were again utilized for courses for Penghulus, Sidangs, village cultivators and vernacular school teachers. The courses proved very successful and will become an annual event.

Ayer Itam Farm School, Penang.—This School is intended primarily for Chinese. Like the Malacca School it provides a one year course of training. The School opened in January, 1938, with 15 students, but the number later fell to 13.

B.—LIVESTOCK

The extent to which the Colony depends upon foreign sources for livestock for slaughter appears to be decreasing slowly. There is a marked and steady increase in the numbers of swine produced locally, and, since pork is far more in demand than any other form of fresh meat, this increase in local production is important. Efforts are being made to encourage a greater local production of goats to offset the steady demand for goat-flesh made by some sections of the Indian community. Pig-breeding as an industry is mostly undertaken by Chinese and it is this race which creates the big demand for fresh pork; on the other hand goat-rearing is mostly undertaken by Indians, who are also the largest consumers of goat-meat. Sheep cannot be successfully bred, as yet, in flocks of sufficient size to effect any appreciable lessening in the numbers of sheep imported

from Australia. The European and Eurasian communities are the principal consumers of fresh mutton. Except in Malacca, oxen and buffaloes of local origin form only a small proportion of the numbers slaughtered annually in the Colony.

The extent of the demand for fresh meat is indicated by the following approximate figures for animals slaughtered in the Colony during the past two years :—

	Cattle	*Sheep*	*Goats*	*Swine*
1938 ...	20,500	41,500	17,500	465,000
1937 ...	25,000	40,000	20,000	440,000

The imports of slaughter-animals during the same period were approximately :—

	Cattle	*Sheep*	*Goats*	*Swine*
1938 ...	19,000	49,000	14,500	115,000
1937 ...	21,000	39,000	12,000	135,000

Large quantities of frozen beef, mutton, pork and other animal products are also imported into the Colony.

There are two large dairy farms with pure-bred herds under European management. Both of these are situated in Singapore and supply produce of a standard equal to that obtainable in Europe. The stock on these farms is imported from Australia and California and a proportion of the cows were bred and reared on the farms. There is great scope for improvement and development in the system of dairying practised in all Settlements by the Indian communities, and during the past year special attention was given to this item, particularly in Malacca.

Poultry-keeping is popular throughout the Colony. There are numbers of large poultry and duck farms conducted by Chinese, but amongst the other races this occupation is not organised and is carried on in a haphazard fashion.

During the year there were no large outbreaks of animal diseases in the Colony. Rinderpest was identified in imported oxen undergoing quarantine in Singapore and was quickly suppressed. For the first time in a great many years no outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease was recorded during 1938 in any part of the Colony. Swine fever of a mild type was reported from Singapore and from Penang and this form of disease appears to be enzootic in these Settlements. There were seasonal outbreaks of infectious poultry diseases, but the unorganised state of the poultry-rearing activities, and the lack of system therein, make such outbreaks very difficult to deal with.

The following table shows the numbers of livestock in the Colony :—

Settlement	Oxen	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Swine
Singapore* ..	4,196	777	3,000	3,461	127,468
Penang ..	2,827	625	416†	1,699†	33,663
Province Wellesley	5,701	6,808	45	10,405	36,475
Malacca ..	8,057	13,131	—	20,232	37,683
Total ..	20,781	21,341	3,461	35,797	235,289

* These are January, 1936 figures; no census of animals has been taken since then.

† Including animals in importers' sheds awaiting sale for slaughter or re-export—average 300 sheep and 130 goats.

Last year's report recorded an outbreak of Canine Rabies in the Settlement of Singapore. Thanks to the drastic measures taken to control the outbreak, it was possible to declare the Settlement free of the disease and the muzzling order, which had been in force from the beginning of the control period, was rescinded on 3rd May, 1938.

C.—FORESTRY

At the beginning of the year the forests of Penang and Province Wellesley, which were formerly supervised by the District Forest Officer, Matang (Perak), were placed under the charge of the Forest Officer, Singapore. At the same time, the supervision of the Malacca forests, formerly exercised by the State Forest Officer, Negri Sembilan, was transferred to the Director of Forestry. The Straits Settlements forests organization is now, therefore, entirely self-contained. The Commissioner of Lands was nominally responsible for the forests of Singapore. The Forest Officer, Singapore, continued to grade timber for export, to inspect material on behalf of Government departments and to act as an intermediary between the mills and consumers generally. The forests of Malacca were in the full-time charge of an Assistant Conservator stationed at Jasin.

The area of gazetted reserves totalled 60,904 acres at the end of the year, or just over 8 per cent. of the total land area of the Colony. All the Singapore forest reserves were revoked, with the exceptions of Keranji and Pandan (about 4,422 acres in all), parts of which are to be permanently retained as being of special botanical interest. For a similar reason, the Bukit Timah reserve (about 164 acres), which was awaiting reconstitution at the end of the year, will also be retained. In Malacca two reserves, Bukit Panchor (2,693 acres) and Nyalas (2,468 acres) were revoked as they contained little timber of value and, for the same reason, areas totalling 4,531 acres were excised from two other reserves. The remaining area of reserves in this Settlement is comprised of forests that are as rich and as well-organized as any in Malaya. There were no changes in the areas of forest reserves in Penang and Province Wellesley.

Gross exports of sawn timber and sleepers (practically all of which came from the Singapore mills) amounted to 17,117 tons valued at $441,955, as against 21,159 tons valued at $601,664 in 1937. The decrease must be attributed to the effects of the Sino-Japanese war. Imports of saw-logs from Sumatra fell from 100,666 tons in 1937 to 98,461 tons during the year under review.

Exports of sawn timber, graded by the Forest Department, to the United Kingdom rose to 27,473 (25,773 in 1937) cubic feet and in addition 7,100 cubic feet of timber, graded by the mills themselves, were exported. This is a new development and one that will be watched with interest. It has always been hoped that, in time, the mills would be able to undertake their own grading, and, while it may be said that the timber was definitely inferior to that passed by the Department, the fact that such a relatively large quantity was shipped during the first year indicates that there is a demand for such material.

Including the 27,473 cubic feet exported to the United Kingdom, the Forest Officer, Singapore, inspected 80,287 cubic feet of timber, the bulk of it on behalf of Government departments. The corresponding figure for

1937 was 103,105 cubic feet, the decrease being accounted for by the completion, in that year, of an exceptional order for 22,000 cubic feet of logs for a boom at the Civil Airport.

Silvicultural work in the shape of cleanings and girdlings to encourage the natural regeneration of commercially valuable species continued. Complete regeneration has now been established over 3,166 acres in Malacca, where in addition, 14,422 acres are still under treatment, of which 1,881 acres were retreated during the year. In Penang and Province Wellesley no regeneration operations were initiated apart from preliminary cleanings of a more or less exploratory character, the total area under treatment being still 2,135 acres.

Revenue fell from $43,883 to $40,246 and expenditure decreased from $66,734 to $60,558.

D.—FISHERIES

The condition of the fishing industry in the Colony was satisfactory on the whole and prices were maintained at a reasonable level, especially in Singapore, in spite of a keen demand and somewhat reduced supplies.

The factor mainly contributing to the shortage of supplies in Singapore was the disinclination of the Chinese to buy Japanese caught fish, which compelled many Japanese fishermen to give up fishing.

This reduction in competition by the Japanese has been to the advantage of local fishermen. Other active assistance to enable them, especially Malays, to improve their fishing methods was continued during the year. Power refrigeration and transport facilities are becoming cheaper, and local fishermen are being encouraged to appreciate the advantages of the increased comfort and seaworthiness of powered craft.

Local fishermen, especially the Malays, are, unfortunately, improvident in their mode of life, and in the past have been content to depend too much on loans, which placed them at the mercy of the middlemen who market the fish. Co-operative education, however, is making itself felt, and there are definite indications that the younger Malays are prepared to do something to improve their lot.

To assist them a school of instruction has been founded. The school aims at putting Malays into a position to compete on even terms with their rivals in the the fishing industry and to make them independent. In the school they will be instructed in the navigation and use of powered craft, the construction and use of types of nets and other gear with which they are not familiar, the refrigeration, handling and marketing of fish, and all other methods which will be of value to them as fishermen. It is proposed to give a two year course of instruction, and a start will be made with 25 resident students. They will be carefully selected and will be preferably the sons of fishermen. Daily classes will also be arranged for the instruction of other races in the canning, salting and drying of fish. The school is situated at Tanah Merah, Singapore.

The students will undertake practical fishing trips to distant grounds when considered competent, and their catches will be marketed by the School.

It is hoped that by the provision of such training an adequate fleet of local boats and men will be established capable of fishing in any waters and by any method.

The experimental vessel "Kembong" continued to perform useful service in demonstrating the advantages of a powered boat for working the more remote fishing grounds. The following is an account of her activities during the year.

Drift netting with a fleet of native boats was tried out exhaustively off Cherating, Pahang. The average catch per night per net varied from 37 katies to 79 katies valued at $6. The catch consisted of Tenggiri, Parang, Bawal and Yu. The hauls of these drift netters depended on the size and condition of the net, and the experience as well as luck of the drift netters. Those with experience and a good net may get in one night as much as 260 katies of fish valued at $21 that is, $7 per man per night. To the Malay fisherman drift netting is profitable.

Two trips were made to the West Coast to find new grounds for kembong fishing. Shoals of kembong were observed between Pulau Jarek (Lat. 4° N), and a line to the north (Lat. 4° 30′ N). Further north kembong shoals were also observed in the area between a line drawn through Pulau Raja and Pulau Butang and the mainland.

Long-line fishing was tried with expert Chinese fishermen on the East Coast. It was here found that where the sea bottom was suitable for long-line fishing fish was not abundant, and where there was a lot of fish, the sharp coral severed the lines. The method of long-line fishing as employed by Chinese on the West Coast off Penang was studied. One long-line boat could get 22 piculs of Ikan Merah, Kerapu and Kerisi China in 9 nights, thus averaging 2½ piculs per night. This is a very valuable source of first-class fish. Long-line fishing in the Straits of Malacca between Malacca and Singapore was found to be unproductive.

Further data were obtained on hand-line fishing. Fishing in good ground and good weather each fisherman could get in one night on the average 25 katies of fish valued at about $2.

The "Kembong" made 12 fishing trips and was away from port for 154 days.

The Colony shares an expenditure of $2,000 with the Federated Malay States in an experiment to cultivate oysters at Pulau Kra, off Penang island.

The experiment has as its object the cultivation in sea water of oysters of an improved quality which can be removed from the sea and transported in a fresh condition over a wide area. If the experiment is successful steps will be taken to purify them so that they can be eaten raw on "the half shell".

The total number of fishermen employed was 11,723, of whom 5,874 were Malays, 4,356 Chinese, 1,083 Japanese, 373 Indians, 35 of Portuguese descent and 2 others.

Revenue from the issue of licences for fishing gear and fishing boats amounted to $10,791.95. The total number of fishing boats of all kinds employed amounted to 4,369.

The Colony is also interested in the experiment to introduce trout to Cameron Highlands. This is part of a scheme to develop Cameron Highlands' attractions, and there is evidence that the trout have spawned successfully in the Telom, Bertam and Habu streams, but to what extent is not known nor is it known whether all the spawners were successful. The fish in the Hatchery matured, but did not spawn; this however, is a common experience with hatchery reared fish.

E.—MINERALS

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca, where tin is mined, and to Christmas Island, where deposits of phosphate of lime are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. There are coal deposits in Labuan but these are not at present being worked. On the 1st April, 1934, the tin mines of Malacca were brought formally within the scope of the International Tin Restriction Scheme by the coming into operation of Ordinance No. 10 of 1934 (Chapter 164 of Laws of the Straits Settlements).

A yearly assessment of 200 tons tin has now been allotted to Malacca which is subject to the International percentage release during each quota period as provided for under the Restriction Agreement. A quota period represents a quarter of a year.

In 1938, the total quota allowed to Malacca was 99.15 tons of tin, or 2206.98 pikuls of tin-ore at the average assay value of tin-ore produced in Malacca. Actual production was 99.12 tons of tin or 2205.65 pikuls of tin-ore.

Royalty amounting to $15,787.20 was paid.

In addition to ordinary production, Malacca also contributed under the Buffer Stock Scheme. The actual amount so contributed was 14.08 tons of tin or 323.61 pikuls of tin-ore, and royalty paid thereon amounted to $2,451.57.

The number of producers at the end of the year was five and the methods adopted to win ore varied. Two producers employed gravel pumps in their mines, two others mined under Alluvial licences, whilst the fifth obtained his tin-ore from the sea-beach. In the last-mentioned case the ore is found as alluvial in the sand on the beach and is obtained by the simple process of washing the sand in small wooden trays called "dulangs".

During the later months of the year small quantities of gold were won at Chin Chin in Jasin District, the amount being just over five ounces. The possibility of winning larger quantities is being investigated.

The smelting of tin at Singapore and Penang is one of the principal industries of the Straits Settlements. The year's production, as declared by tin smelters, amounted to 64,299 tons, as compared with 94,721 tons in 1937, a decrease of 32.1 per cent.

Imports into Singapore and Penang of tin-in-ore (assessed at 75.5 per cent. by weight of ore imported) from countries outside Malaya amounted to 20,963 tons as compared with 23,533 tons in 1937, and from the Malay States and Malacca to 43,247 tons as compared with 77,542 tons in 1937, a total of 64,210 tons as compared with 101,075 tons in the previous year. Exports of smelted tin amounted to 61,187 tons as compared with 93,106 tons in 1937. The price of tin was £182 a ton at the beginning and £217 a ton at the end of the year. The highest and lowest prices during the year were £217 and £154, and the annual average was £190. The average price in 1937 was £244.

The production of phosphates of lime, as shown by exports from Christmas Island, was 159,859 tons. Of this, raw phosphates amounting to 103,088 tons were exported to Japan, 13,120 tons to Union of South Africa,

11,790 tons to Sweden, 8,500 tons to the Netherlands, 1,600 tons to Java; phosphate dust amounting to 13,168 tons went to Singapore and Port Swettenham, and 8,593 tons to Java. The labour force still consisted of Chinese recruited in Singapore for work on the Island, but there is a community of about 100 Malays in the employ of the Company many of whom regard Christmas Island as their permanent home.

CHAPTER VII

Commerce

The foreign (external) trade of Malaya, representing the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the Federated and the Unfederated Malay States, in merchandise, bullion and specie and parcel post, amounted in value to $1,141 (£133) millions, as compared with $1,603 (£187) millions, in 1937, a decrease of 28·8 per cent. Imports decreased by $139 millions or 19·9 per cent. and exports by $323 millions or 35·7 per cent. The decrease in both imports and exports was spread over the majority of the principal products, the largest decreases being in the imports of rubber, tin-ore, copra, cotton piece-goods, motor spirit, liquid fuel and motor cars, and in the exports of rubber, tin, copra, sago flour, motor spirit, coconut oil and canned pineapples. There were increases in the imports of rice, dredges and dredging materials and kerosene and also in the exports of rice and kerosene. Exports of rubber decreased by $211,681,000 in value, and tin by $93,430,000, due to the lower releases under the International Restriction Schemes for these products.

Although the trade of the Straits Settlements, as distinct from Malaya, is not recorded separately, it can be assumed that Singapore and Penang handle the greater part of Malaya's trade and the large transhipment traffic, which comprises so valuable a part of Malayan commerce, passes almost entirely through these ports, which are centres for the collection, grading and distribution of goods for the whole of the Malay Archipelago, especially the neighbouring territories of the Netherlands Indies. While the previous overwhelming proportion of the entrepot trade has had to give way before the growth of trading self-consciousness in other countries, the volume of this trade is still considerable. The $1,141 millions of external trade consisted of $559 millions of imports and $582 millions of exports, the corresponding figures for 1937 being respectively $698 millions and $905 millions. The value of bunker coal, oil fuel, aviation spirit and stores taken on board ships and aircraft on foreign trade routes for their own consumption amounted to $13 millions and if this is added to the excess of exports there was a favourable trade balance of $36 millions, as compared with a favourable balance on the same basis of $220 millions in 1937.

As pointed out in previous reports, a certain amount of caution must be exercised in the use of statistics for measuring Malayan trade owing to the fact that the declared trade values for Malaya, and for the Colony, include a considerable portion of import and export of mineral oils. By virtue of its geographical position and proximity to the oil fields, Singapore is a natural storage and distributing centre for this commodity, and distribution is effected as far as Africa on one side and Australia on

the other. To give an idea of the value of mineral oils imported and exported during the year 1938, and their relationship in value to the gross trade of Malaya, a glance at the following table is suggested :—

TRADE MINERAL OILS, 1938

VALUE IN $'000

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
Lubricating Oil	2,478	603	3,081
Kerosene	16,115	12,168	28,283
Liquid Fuel	19,296	8,388	27,684
Motor Spirit	45,761	35,497	81,258
A.—Total Mineral Oils ...	83,650	56,656	140,306
B.—Total Malayan Trade ...	559,000	582,000	1,141,000
C.—*A* as a percentage of *B* ...	15	10	12

Of the $1,141 millions representing the external trade of Malaya, $948 millions or 83 per cent. comprise the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements. The value of imports was $484 millions and of exports $464 millions. The corresponding figures for 1937 were $628 millions of imports and $703 millions of exports. The same proportion of Malaya's external trade passed through Colony ports.

The percentage of Malayan trade with the United Kingdom increased from 13·0 to 16·2, and with British Possessions from 15·3 to 17·8, a total increase with all British countries of 5·7 per cent.

The following is a table of the trade values geographically apportioned :—

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total*
	$ in millions		
1. United Kingdom	102	82	184
2. British Possessions ...	100	102	202
3. Continent of Europe ...	36	97	133
4. United States of America ...	17	173	190
5. Japan	13	54	67
6. Netherlands Indies ...	152	41	193
7. Siam	88	16	104
8. Other Countries	47	15	62
Total ...	555	580	1,135
Parcel Post, all countries ...	4	2	6
Total from Trade	559	582	1,141
Favourable Balance	23	—	—
	582	582	—

Detailed information regarding the trade of Malaya is contained in the regular periodical publications of the Department of Statistics.

Regulation of imports for Malayan consumption of cotton and rayon piece-goods manufactured in foreign countries by means of a quota system introduced by the Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance in 1934 remained in force throughout the year. This Ordinance was extended on 1st January, 1938 to include the regulation of certain made-up cotton and artificial silk piece goods. During the year much discussion took place over the issue of Import licences especially for Japanese textiles. The original method of issuing licences for this trade was to confine them to importers who were in the Japanese trade in the basic period January, 1933 to March, 1934 and since the trade had proved very lucrative and had in fact created a monopoly in favour of the holders of Japanese textile Import licences it had evoked much criticism. At the end of the year a scheme for a more equitable distribution of Import licences had been evolved and had been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for consideration. The tin and rubber control schemes continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. The Colony's tradition of free trade was maintained. Apart from excise duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imposed solely for revenue purposes, there are no import duties in the Straits Settlements.

CHAPTER VIII

Labour

Both skilled and unskilled labour in the Straits Settlements is still of foreign descent and the greater part of foreign birth. It comes from China, India and Java. The Javanese labourers in the Straits Settlements are not numerous. Indian labour is principally from the Madras Presidency though a certain number of Northern Indians (popularly called Bengalis) work as artisans and earthworkers. The Chinese labourers come from South China.

The bulk of labour is distributed as follows :—

	S. Indian	*Chinese*	*Javanese*	*Malays*	*Others*
A.—Employed on Estates—	14,143	3,811	948	2,807	106
B.—Employed on Mines—	—	113	—	1	1
C.—Employed in Factories—	6,011	36,213	692	670	460
D.—Employed in Government Departments—	20,371	5,789	1,347	1,333	1,653

The total Indian population of the Straits Settlements at the end of 1938 was estimated to be about 150,000.

On the average Indians are not so adaptable, self-reliant, or strong as the Chinese, and need greater attention, particularly on their arrival in the country. They are quite unfitted for strenuous work under pioneering conditions. Now that the number of Indian labourers settled in Malaya is large, newcomers are found to adapt their habits more rapidly to Malayan conditions and to aim more quickly than in the past at a higher standard of living. At the same time, an equally great change is taking place amongst Chinese labourers. Formerly most of them worked under a contractor, lived in a "kongsi" house or barrack and messed on contract with a common cook. Now more and more of them are bringing their wives to Malaya,

and are tending to work less strenuously for cash but rather to make houses and establish their own gardens, where they can give full scope to their skill in agriculture.

South Indian labourers are assisted to Malaya at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund which is pan-Malayan in its operations. The basis of this fund is a payment by every employer (including Government Departments) on the number of days worked by each of his South Indian labourers.

Labourers in India either present themselves at one of the two Malayan depots in India—Negapatam or Avadi—where they are accepted if they are fit and possess a document from an employer guaranteeing them work in Malaya, or they are recruited by licensed recruiters, Kanganies, who are the agents of employers in Malaya. All recruiting is strictly controlled by the Malayan Labour Department, and all accepted recruits must pass through one or other of the above mentioned depots, if they are to be assisted to Malaya. Recruiting is nowadays comparatively insignificant as a means of obtaining labour from India, though it is still essential in the case of new estates which have not yet built up a connection with villages in India, or in the case of labourers who live too far from the depots to defray their own railway fares. Non-recruited labourers may not be assisted to the depots by any person who is not a relative, and they are at liberty on arrival in Malaya to work where they please. Recruited labourers are required to proceed to the employers in Malaya for whom they are recruited, but the only remedy for refusal to do so is a civil one.

There is no public fund, such as the Indian Immigration Fund, to assist labourers of other than the South Indian races to emigrate to Malaya, and they pay their own fares. In former times Chinese contractors built up their Chinese labour forces by importing workers from China, the latter repaying the cost by instalments. This, however, is not the rule nowadays.

During 1938 the quota for Chinese immigrants was reduced from 6,000 to 3,000 a month on January 1st, and again to 500 a month in April, at which figure it remained until the end of the year. Women ceased to be exempt from restriction from 1st May, when a quota of 500 was instituted. Children under 12 years of age continued to be exempt from restriction.

Conditions of Employment

Housing.—The extensive building of new lines and reconstruction of old lines reported for 1937 proceeded without a break during 1938. It is now generally realised that there should be ample accommodation for bachelors and married couples and that new buildings and reconstruction should be designed for larger families. Particularly during the second half of the year most houses, whether on the ground floor or raised, have been designed to give each family two living rooms, an enclosed kitchen and store and a verandah. Reconstruction of old lines has aimed at achieving similar accommodation. The preference of the Chinese for dwellings of this type rather than for the old communal housing is becoming more widespread.

Water Supplies.—The provision of proper supplies is compulsory under the Labour Ordinance and is strictly enforced. Pipe supplies, whether from publicly owned installations or from private sources, are increasing.

Sanitation.—Labour and Health Department officers are responsible for seeing that adequate sanitation is provided. Experience has shown that the more extensive the provision the more use is made of it and the housing area is kept cleaner.

Workmen's Compensation.—Legislation to provide for the payment of compensation to certain classes of workmen has been in force since 1933. The types of employment covered by the Ordinance include most workmen engaged in manual labour, and the various occupations are gradually being added to and more specifically defined as experience and knowledge of the methods of individual forms of employment are gained. The operation of the Ordinance is under the control of an Official Administrator and he is greatly assisted in his work by the officers of the Chinese Protectorate and of the Labour Department, on whom has been imposed the duty of following up all reports of accidents and giving every assistance to workmen in obtaining compensation for injury. These officers in effect act as the workman's friend and see that his case is fully and adequately presented before the Administrator by whom compensation for an accident is fixed Much excellent work is done in this way, which extends also to the tracing of dependants in India and China and the recovery and transmission to them of moneys payable under an award by the Administrator.

Hours of Working.—The legal maximum working day is of nine hours' duration with not more than six hours at a stretch. On estates the average day is about seven hours. A labourer cannot be compelled to work more than six days a week.

Assistance to labourers in need of relief.—The Indian Immigration Fund maintains a home in Kuala Lumpur and depots in Singapore, Penang and other places, to which unemployable and unemployed South Indian labourers are admitted, and it pays for the transport of unemployed to places where work is available. The Chinese Protectorate maintains suitable institutions for Chinese labourers. Repatriation is given free to deserving cases.

Savings of and Postal remittances by labourers.—

(1) Details regarding Chinese labourers are not available.

(2) South Indian labourers:—

(*a*) Deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks	$515,309
(*b*) Remittances to India	Rs. 1,702,105
(*c*) Membership of Co-operative Societies	11,737
(*d*) Capital of Co-operative Societies	$431,387

(*e*) Number of Co-operative Societies 71 as against 70 in 1937.

Strikes and Disturbances.—

(*a*) *Singapore.*—Details of the more important strikes that occurred during the year are given below. Indian labourers were involved in two of them, the Singapore Traction Company strike and that of the cargo coolies employed by the Tanjong Pagar Labour Company.

(i) The most notable strike was that of the employees of the Singapore Traction Company. The men had early in the year formulated through their Association seven main issues relating to working hours, wage rates, paid leave, past wage reductions, gratuities, dismissals and free travel. The Company's offers on these points were not considered satisfactory, and the strike, affecting about 1,500 men, commenced on the 7th July. It lasted until the 22nd August, when the men returned to work, having agreed to accept arbitration, to which the Company had all along been willing to submit the dispute. Government appointed a Tribunal consisting of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice as Chairman, together with two European members, one Chinese and one Indian. Government also paid for legal assistance to help the employees to represent their case. The Tribunal's Award was made in November. It gave the men little, if anything, more

than the Company had offered them before the strike began. But it yielded one important consequence—the establishment of a precedent for arbitration in industrial disputes—and in this result the force of public opinion played a prominent part. It is quite true that the submission to arbitration was voluntary and not sanctioned by any law, yet there is no doubt that the decision of the men finally to accept arbitration, which had all along been offered to them, was brought about by their appreciation of their duty to the public, who, in spite of the great inconvenience which the strike involved to them, behaved most patiently and by their restraint and good sense contributed materially to this desirable conclusion.

(ii) In July about 300 Chinese employed by the Municipality in the disposal of night-soil struck work as their demands for paid leave, gratuities and an increase in wages were not met. A Settlement was reached about a week later, through the Protectorate, the men's demands with regard to gratuities and wages being in part conceded.

(iii) In September there were signs of unrest and finally a stoppage among the labour force of the Tanjong Pagar Labour Company on account of insufficient wages and unsatisfactory conditions of employment. A Protectorate officer investigated and, after securing for the labourers a small increase in wages and taking measures to prevent the recurrence of certain abuses that were discovered, persuaded them to return to work.

(iv) At the end of March 230 metal workers employed in a factory stopped work owing to a dispute with the proprietor over his refusal to pay compensation to one of their number who had been injured in an accident during work, and his dismissal of one of the delegation of labourers who had made representations to him about the injured man's case. Compensation was eventually paid and the dismissed man was re-engaged. A slight increase in wages was given at the same time, this being a third issue the men had taken the opportunity to put forward.

(v) During April and May the labourers employed in several box-making shops struck work for higher wages and shorter hours. The hours of work were found on investigation to be unduly long in each case. The strikes were all quickly settled on the employers giving way on this point and fixing an eight or an eight and a half hour day. In one case a small increase in wages was also granted.

(*b*) *Penang.*—There were no strikes involving South Indian labourers during the course of the year.

Among Chinese labourers there were three minor strikes. In the latter half of the year 35 labourers working under a contractor of the Eastern Smelting Company struck work on a number of complaints which were, however, considered, on enquiry by the Protectorate, to be groundless except perhaps that the food charge was too high. The labourers of two other contractors engaged by the Municipality and Messrs. Malcolm and Company stopped work because they had not been paid their wages.

(*c*) *Malacca.*—There were no strikes in which South Indian labourers were concerned.

There were four stoppages on Chinese estates on account of reductions in wages in January, July and August. The stoppages were in all cases of short duration and the labourers returned to work after it had been agreed that the reduction should be either postponed or decreased. The total number of labourers involved in the four strikes was 189.

The workers on one small mine stopped work for 16 days in February. Work then recommenced under a new advancer.

General

(i) All labour is free and is landed free of debt; the only remedy for breach of agreement is a civil one.

On most estates one or more provision shops are maintained where labourers can purchase their immediate requirements, and the prices are supervised by the management and officers of the Labour Department. The competition of village shops, which labourers can visit quickly on bicycles or on foot, also keeps prices reasonable in estate shops.

(ii) Standards of living among all labourers are improving yearly and the different races live and work together in harmony while they gain from experience of each other.

(iii) Rice is produced by indigenous Malays or immigrants of cognate races who have settled in the Peninsula.

Market gardening and pig and poultry rearing are almost monopolised by Chinese, though Malays contribute eggs and poultry to the country's supplies, selling their products to Chinese middlemen. A considerable amount of local fruit is produced by Malay peasants.

The Chinese monopolise the building and skilled artisan trades, though North and South Indians also find employment therein. For bridge-building, wharf-making and pile-driving Malabaris (South Indians) are often employed.

Tailoring, dress-making and cobbling are mainly in the hands of Chinese, who are now ousting the North Indian from his former monopoly of ladies' dress-making.

The laundry business is shared by Chinese and South Indians.

Domestic servants are usually Chinese (Hainanese) or South Indians, though some Malays and Javanese are also employed, particularly as private motor-car drivers.

Chinese are in the great majority in mining, logging, the timber industry, as rickshaw pullers, and in felling and clearing jungle for plantations.

South Indians are in the great majority in Government and Municipal Departments and on European-owned estates.

Dairying is shared by North and South Indians.

In mining South Indians are employed on earth work, but they are being displaced by Sikhs to some extent.

Javanese excel as drain cutters on estates.

No labourers are under contract in the Straits Settlements. Most Indians are employed directly, but the majority of Chinese are employed through labour contractors.

(iv) The most striking and important change during the past decade has been the increase in the number of Indian and Chinese women and children and the resulting tendency of both races to settle down in Malaya. In the old days most immigrants worked, for a time at least, for a labour contractor who had, directly or indirectly, brought them into the country. Now direct employment is becoming daily more common. Newcomers are assisted to emigrate by their friends or relations rather than by contractors or professional recruiting agencies. Labour unions are increasing in number.

(v) The Controller of Labour, Malaya, who is an officer of Class IA of the Malayan Civil Service, is responsible for all labour matters affecting every race. On the protective side the Labour Department concerns itself mainly with the enforcement of the Labour Ordinance and various labour enactments. On the immigration side, it is associated with the Indian Immigration Fund, from which are financed the housing and feeding of assisted emigrants in the large emigration depots in India, their passages to Malaya, their quarantine and maintenance in depots in Malaya, their transport to the various places of employment, their assistance when unemployed, and their repatriation to India when necessary. On the political side the primary responsibility for negotiations with the Government of India rests with the Controller of Labour who receives reports on every relevant side of Indian life and affairs from his officers stationed in India. In matters affecting Chinese labourers the Chinese Protectorate works in collaboration with the Labour Department, the former's officers being invested with the necessary powers under the Labour Ordinance.

(vi) Much consideration was given during the year to the question of legislation affecting labour. Bills were drafted to provide machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes and to encourage and regulate the formation of Trade Unions. With regard to the latter it is a common misapprehension that there is no provision in the law of the Colony for such combinations of workmen. Such provision has in fact existed for many years in the Societies Ordinance which, however, is much wider in scope and is aimed primarily at restraining the activities of societies of an unlawful nature. In recent years several trade unions have been registered under this Ordinance, but it was felt that the time had now come to accord them special recognition and to encourage the formation of genuine unions of workmen which have as their sole object the promotion of better conditions of employment of their members. The Bills mentioned were submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for criticism and advice, which was still awaited at the close of the year.

CHAPTER IX

Wages and Cost of Living

A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages are prescribed by law in certain key areas in Malaya; these rates tend, in practice, to provide minima for wages earned throughout the country both by Indians and labourers of other races, save when there is severe and sustained economic depression. Standard rates of wages have only been prescribed in respect of South Indian labourers. There was no change in standard rates throughout the year. The only key area in the Colony is that of Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates are:—

(*a*) 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male South Indian labourer.

(*b*) 32 cents a day for an able-bodied adult female South Indian labourer.

(*c*) 16 cents a day for minors over the age of ten.

Throughout the Colony the monthly earnings of South Indian agricultural labourers declined towards the middle of the year; they then began to rise again but did not attain the 1937 levels.

On small holdings owners in 1938 tended to sell their Rubber-Restriction Coupons or tap themselves, and earnings where labourers were retained fell considerably below the high 1937 levels.

On estates daily rates were reduced in most cases to 45 cents a male and 35 cents a female with effect from the 1st May. Average wages ranged as follows throughout the year, the higher figures being found only in the first quarter :—

Stores and Factories		Tappers		Field	
Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
cts.	*cts.*	*cts.*	*cts.*	*cts.*	*cts.*
40–70	32–45	40–60	32–40	40–50	32–45

Towards the middle of the year the lower rates were normal.

Rates paid by Government departments and quasi-Government departments were the same as in 1937, not less than 50 cents a day being paid to a man, and 40 cents to a woman. The highest rate was 90 cents a day for a male, the normal rate being about 55 cents.

Chinese agricultural labourers were mostly paid by results, earning from 50 to 70 cents a day, the lower rates prevailing during the last three quarters.

Javanese generally received the same rates as South Indians. Malays received the same or slightly lower rates.

In Penang and Province Wellesley labour is mostly domiciled and on older properties which have a long tradition of South Indian labour the majority of the population is locally born and in intimate touch with surrounding conditions; they assist considerably, for example, with the padi harvest. The same position is being gradually reached on the older properties in Malacca and to a lesser degree in Singapore.

The figures quoted above do not refer to skilled labourers whose earnings and wage rates are much higher.

B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living, reference is invited to the separate report on this subject (No. S. 4) published annually by the Statistics Department. The average weighted index number of commodity prices in Singapore, represented by 17 principal commodities (15 wholesale and 2 retail) decreased by 22·1 per cent. as compared with 1937. Decreases were shown in the prices of 16 articles while the retail price of tea remained unchanged throughout the year. The price of tin was £182 per ton at the beginning and £217 at the end of the year, the highest and lowest prices being £217 and £154 respectively. The price of rubber was 6⅞ pence per lb. at the beginning and 8$\frac{3}{16}$ pence at the end of the year, the highest and lowest being 8⅜ and 5$\frac{5}{16}$ pence, respectively. The following index numbers show changes in commodity values during the last five years (basis, 1929 values = 100) :—

1934	*1935*	*1936*	*1937*	*1938*
63	64	73	86	67

The tendency for retail values was to decline, as shown by a decrease of 3·1 per cent. in the index of food prices, representing the mean of the differences of the average for the two years in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

Municipal assessment values increased by 7·4 per cent. in Singapore and 2·5 per cent. in Penang, but declined by 0·4 per cent. in Malacca as compared with those of 1937.

There was a general decrease in the cost of living for all communities and the index numbers for the Asiatic, Eurasian and European standards given below show that costs in respect of all three standards are lower when compared with 1937 but higher when compared with 1914.

Standard	1914	1937	1938	Percentage increase + or decrease — in 1938 as compared with 1937
Asiatic ...	100	112·5	109·2	— 2·9
Eurasian ...	100	112·4	109·6	— 2·5
European ...	100	127·1	125·9	— 0·9

CHAPTER X

Education and Welfare Institutions

A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools (other than those in which the teaching is of an exclusively religious nature) in which ten or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance *(Chapter 139)*. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher in an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is—

(1) insanitary or unsuitable by reason of danger from fire or on the ground that it is a dangerous building,

(2) likely to be used for the purpose of political propaganda detrimental to the interests of the Colony or of the public or for the purpose of instruction detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society,

(3) if it shall appear to him that the existing educational facilities are adequate and that such registration would be detrimental to the interests of the Colony or of the public.

The Director may also in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

An Education Board was constituted in 1909. It is composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

(i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;

(ii) to submit to the Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;

(iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board receives, in addition to the school fees, the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas.

B.—OUTSTANDING EVENTS IN 1938

The following were the outstanding events of the year :—

1. The appointment of a Commission consisting of Sir WILLIAM H. McLEAN, K.B.E., PH.D., M.INS.C.E., (Chairman) and Professor H. J. CHANNON, D.SC., with the following terms of reference—

To survey existing arrangements for higher education, general and professional, in Malaya; and to consider in the light of local needs and conditions whether they require extension and if so, in what directions and by what methods.

To report upon the present work of Raffles College, Singapore and on any potential development that may seem desirable.

The Commission conducted its investigation during October and November.

2. A Report on Education in Engineering by Professor G. McOWAN of Raffles College, submitted after a survey of the facilities for university education in engineering in the British Isles.

3. The Report of a representative Committee to investigate the opportunities in Malaya for employment in the engineering profession.

4. A Report on Vocational Education in Malaya by Mr. H. R. CHEESEMAN, the Acting Deputy Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Acting Deputy Adviser on Education, Malay States. This officer was deputed to study in Great Britain and the Netherlands Indies the aims and methods of the modern type of school in those countries with a view to bringing local schools into closer touch with present day conditions. One of the recommendations of the Report was immediately accepted, namely to appoint an Organizer of Vocational Schools and Handicrafts for the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States to be responsible for the Trade Schools and for the development of handicrafts in the English and vernacular schools. This Organizer will be appointed in 1939.

5. With effect from 1st January, 1938, school fees in English schools were reduced in classes up to and including Standard VI. The new fees in those classes are $2.50 a month.

C.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The "English Schools" are those in which English is the medium of instruction. Less than twenty per cent. of the pupils come from English-speaking homes. The lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them seven or eight different languages or dialects. As a result the "Direct Method" of teaching English has to be followed. Children are admitted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and are given the normal school course which extends over eleven years culminating in the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though a few remain a year or two longer and enter for the Queen's Scholarship Examination.

The fees in Primary and Elementary Classes up to Standard VI inclusive are $30 (£3 10*s.*) for all pupils, girls or boys. Above Standard VI all girls and boys enrolled before 1st January, 1934, (when the higher scale of fees in classes above Standard VI was first intimated) continue to pay the old rates namely $48 (£5 12*s.*) for boys and $36 (£4 4*s.*) for girls. For pupils enrolled after 1st January, 1934 the fees for all girls and boys are fixed at $72 (£8 8*s.*) or $108 (£12 12*s.*) according to the results of an examination, the successful pupils up to 50% of the available places paying the lower and the remaining pupils paying the higher fees. Pupils enrolled after 1st January, 1934, whose progress is normal will reach Standard VII in January, 1942.

There is no compulsory education in English.

In 1938 there were 25 Government and 33 Aided English Schools namely 29 in Singapore, 20 in Penang, eight in Malacca and one in Labuan. One Aided School (Gan Eng Seng School, Singapore) was taken over by the Government on 1st January, 1938 and one private school (Choon Guan English School, Singapore) became an Aided School on the same date.

The average enrolment was 26,111 (10,210 in Government and 15,901 in Aided Schools), 750 more than last year.

Of the 26,111 pupils in English Schools, 19,030 were receiving primary education (*i.e.* up to and including Standard V) and 7,081 secondary education (*i.e.* above Standard V).

One thousand eight hundred and twelve (or 9·52%) of those receiving primary education and 1,295 (or 18·28%) of those receiving secondary education were enjoying free education. Of these free scholars 436 were Europeans or Eurasians, 1,021 Malays, 1,399 Chinese and 224 Indians while 27 belonged to other races.

The Aided English Schools are managed by various missionary bodies—four Roman Catholic Orders (the Christian Brothers, the Gabrielist Brothers, the Dames de St. Maur, and the Canossian Institute), the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, and the Presbyterian Church.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of European Missionary teachers at the rate of $3,000 (£350) a year for men missionaries and $1,800 (£210) a year for women missionaries. In Christian Brothers' Schools and Convent Schools, where there are European and Asiatic missionary teachers a flat rate of $2,400 (£280) a year is paid for men and $1,500 (£175) a year for women. Under certain conditions capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government.

The Government Afternoon Schools in Singapore continued the useful work that they have carried out since their initiation in 1930. These schools use the buildings and equipment of the Government (Morning) school and they accommodate pupils who are unable to gain admission to Government or Aided morning schools: some, but by no means all, of the pupils are over-age for morning schools. As far as possible, these afternoon schools are staffed by qualified and trained teachers for whom employment cannot be found in the regular Government or Aided Schools. In 1938 it was found necessary to appoint some teachers who had the requisite academic attainments but who had received no professional training: it is expected that the necessity for this will be of short duration. Co-operation and liaison with the morning schools continued and promising boys in the afternoon schools

were drafted into the morning schools as opportunity occurred. In two of the schools special attention was paid to manual work of value to the over-age boys unsuited to literary studies. Greater attention was paid to games and two of the schools had scout troops. The average enrolment of the afternoon schools in 1938 was 1,141 compared with 1,057 in 1937. The total expenditure was $43,246.74 and the total revenue $39,947.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes :—

(*a*) those controlled by religious bodies as educational and not commercial undertakings;

(*b*) those carried on by individuals for profit : most of these are accommodated in any sort of building—shop-house, private house, office or godown.

Among the 54 private English schools in Singapore and Labuan improvement continued. In September, 1938 the new post of Supervisor of Private English Schools, Singapore, was filled by an experienced European Master. Regular inspection of private schools can now be made and progressive improvement may be anticipated. Only 10 of the 54 schools were graded as efficient in 1938. In 1938 there were 7,512 pupils in these schools in Singapore and 103 in Labuan, a total increase of 368 over the 1937 enrolment. Of this total, 5,838 were receiving primary and 1,777 secondary education.

There were 12 private English schools in Penang with an enrolment of 909 boys and 293 girls. In Penang the private English schools are supervised by the Group Supervisor of the Government English Schools.

There were eight private English schools in Malacca with an enrolment of 442 boys and nine girls.

The appointments of European Supervisors—a Group Supervisor (man) for elementary classes and a Primary Supervisor (woman) for primary classes—for groups of English schools with locally trained Principals were continued in Singapore. The Supervisors were also responsible for the Normal Class for Primary teachers. The arrangement was extended to Penang by the appointment of a Group Supervisor for a group of three Government schools there.

Arrangements were made in Singapore at the beginning of 1936 by which pupils in Aided Schools were taught Science on Saturday mornings and in the afternoons by science masters, where possible from the staffs of their own schools, under the direction of the senior science master of Raffles Institution (the only school in Singapore with science laboratories) where the classes were held. Pupils, who propose to enter courses of study after leaving school in which science is essential, are admitted to these classes when they are in Standard VI for a four year course. At the end of 1938 there were 187 pupils in the classes and 51 of them took Experimental Science in the 1938 Junior Certificate examination.

Locally recruited teachers in English schools are recruited from Raffles College graduates for middle and secondary departments (from Standard II upwards). Teachers (women only) are trained in Education Department Normal Classes, conducted in each large Centre, providing a three year course. Usually only a Primary course (that is, training teachers for the first three classes in schools) is provided and there were Primary Normal Classes in Singapore and Penang. But owing to difficulty in getting Raffles College graduates for the girls' schools there was an Elementary (that is a course training teachers for Standards II to VI) Normal Class in Malacca.

The extensive and valuable scheme of Post Normal Training arranged by the Department was continued in Singapore. The Singapore Teachers' Association co-operated in the arrangements for several of the Education Department Courses and also for the A.R.P. and First Aid Courses conducted by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Courses were held in Nature Study (by the Director of Gardens), Singing (four classes conducted by the Master of Music), Physical Training (two classes for women, one in Folk Dancing, and one for men, dealing particularly with the use of apparatus), Art (three courses, one for men and one for women teaching in secondary classes, and a holiday course in craft work), and Elocution and the Drama. In Penang, there were courses for trained teachers.

D.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Technical Education.—Students from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School at Kuala Lumpur in the Federated Malay States where courses of training are provided in Surveying and in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Telo-communication Engineering. Its students are eligible for appointment as Technical Subordinates in the Public Works, Railway, Electrical, Posts and Telegraphs, and Survey Departments.

In the Government Evening Classes in Singapore held at Raffles Institution courses were provided in Commerical subjects (Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-keeping) and Plumbing, Structural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Machine Drawing, Marine Engineering, Radio Engineering, Mechanical Design, Surveying, Builders' Quantities, Typography, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics and Sanitary Engineering. There were over 400 students in the various classes at the end of the year. Valuable work is being done despite special difficulties partly due to inadequate foundation because students lack fundamental technical groundwork. There is, however, conclusive evidence of a demand for technical education. Full use of the Trade School is made, wherever possible, for practical work.

The Government Evening Nautical Classes in Singapore had an average attendance of 19 throughout the year. Six students qualified as Local Trade Masters, 9 as Gunners, and 15 as Helmsmen. The standard of qualification has appreciably advanced. The numbers in these classes are limited in accordance with the requirements of the Port. Through the Master Attendant's Department, which is in direct contact with the various shipping companies, information is obtained regarding vacancies for those who are qualified.

Government Evening Classes were also held at Penang in Electrical Engineering, Machine Drawing, Applied Mathematics and Repair and Overhaul of Motor Cars. The Commerical Classes (Book-keeping, Typewriting and Shorthand) have larger enrolments than the parallel classes in Singapore, where there are large private commerical schools with evening classes.

There were evening classes, with small enrolments, in Shorthand and Typewriting in Malacca.

Agricultural Education.—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils from the Colony are admitted to the School of Agriculture (under the Department of Agriculture) at Serdang, near Kuala Lumpur, in the Federated Malay States, where one-year and two-year courses of study are followed. The Government provided a number of scholarships in this school in 1937.

Six Singapore English schools (an increase of one) maintained vegetable gardens during the year and received help and advice from the Agricultural Department. Pupils display keen interest and the work is correlated both with Nature Study and English. The first place in the annual school competition was awarded to Bukit Panjang School. In addition there were fourteen Malay schools (an increase of five) with gardens. One of these schools was a girls' school. In the Annual Exhibition of Work of the Malay schools a section for vegetables and flowers was included, and the first prize in the annual school garden competition was awarded to Tanjong Katong School.

In Penang Refresher Courses in Agriculture and Gardening were held at Cherok To'kun Experimental Station and at Bagan Lepas Malay School and were attended by 45 Malay school teachers. Forty-eight Malay Schools have gardens, and 2,805 (an increase of over 200) boys have their own home gardens. There are also three schools with their own rice plots.

Gardening continues to be of a high standard in the Malacca Malay schools. Seventy-two Malay schools have gardens, and 1,133 (an increase of 100) boys have their own home gardens. In addition to the Annual School Garden Competition, there was the usual (fourth) annual Malay Schools' Agricultural Show held in October. The Show always attracts great attention and it is exercising a very wide influence in the Malay schools and in the Settlement generally.

Poultry keeping at Pengkalan Balak School in Malacca showed good progress. Eight cross-bred Rhode Island red cockerels were sold in the Kampongs.

Commercial Education.—Apart from the evening commercial classes already mentioned, there are commercial departments in three secondary schools (one Government and two aided, one of the aided a girls' school) in Singapore and there is a Government Commercial Day School in Penang. There are also in Singapore some large and efficient private commercial schools. The extent of the commercial work in schools and evening classes in Singapore is indicated by the number of entries in 1938 for the examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce, namely 953 candidates with 2,209 subject entries. The very successful Government Commercial Day School in Penang maintained the high record of past years: the 103 candidates in the London Chamber of Commerce Certificate examination obtained 241 passes with 232 distinctions while the 41 candidates for the Higher Certificate obtained 38 subject passes with 12 distinctions.

Industrial Education.—(*a*) The Singapore Trade School had an enrolment of 119 students of whom 82 were taking the general mechanics course, 17 the electrical and 14 the plumbing and 6 the newly formed Radio Course. Each is a three-year course and in 1937, 29 completed their training and were immediately absorbed into employment. As in previous years some outside work was undertaken, one large order involving much plumbing and welding. The gross revenue from outside work was $2,158.41.

On the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Government decided during the year to erect a new Trade School to provide accommodation for twice the number of students in the present school. In consequence no additions or alterations to the present building were made in 1938. Some equipment was added, a European Radio Instructor was appointed, and lead burning was added to the syllabus. For the first time the school furnished an exhibit at the annual Malayan Agri-Horticultural Exhibition

at Kuala Lumpur. The Trade School Advisory Committee held four meetings throughout the year, and gave greatly appreciated advice and help.

(*b*) The enrolment at the Penang Trade School was 106. Three-year courses in general mechanics, electricity and plumbing are provided. Thirty-seven engineering, 12 electrical and 10 plumbing students were enrolled during the year. Fourteen third year students left on completing their course and all found employment without difficulty. The Penang Advisory Committee continued to give useful help and advice.

(*c*) The Malacca Trade School had an enrolment of 50 students namely 29 taking the carpentry and 21 the tailoring course. Nine of the boys lived in the old hospital ward. $2,192.63 was the amount received from the sales of the carpentry section and $1,173.39 for the tailoring section. The amounts credited to the individual accounts of students were $724.37 for the carpentry section and $263.62 for the tailoring section. There was an exhibit at the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Exhibition at Kuala Lumpur when exhibits of the value of $178.65 were sold and orders of the value of $243.80 were secured. During the year a Malacca Trade School Advisory Committee was formed.

E.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine and Raffles College, both in Singapore. The College of Medicine provides a six-year medical course (recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom), a five-year dental course, and a four-year pharmaceutical course. Raffles College provides a three-year course in arts and science and a fourth year post-graduate course in Education.

The annual examination for Queen's Scholarships, two scholarships to Oxford or Cambridge awarded annually, each of the maximum value of £500 for the first year and £400 for succeeding years, was held in September. This was the fifteenth examination since the restoration of the scholarships in 1923. The successful candidates were LIM KOK ANN and LEE LIAN CHYE, both of Singapore. LIM KOK ANN received all his secondary education at the Anglo-Chinese School before his admission to the central Queen's Scholarship Class at Raffles Institution. LEE LIAN CHYE also from the central class received his secondary education at Raffles Institution. Both the scholars intend to study medicine at Cambridge.

F.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

Malay Vernacular Schools.—Malay vernacular education is entirely free. School buildings, quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are usually all provided by the Government.

The aim in these schools is—

(i) to give a general and practical education to those boys and girls who will not receive an English education and who will find employment in vocations like agriculture in which a knowledge of English is not essential, and

(ii) to provide preliminary vernacular education for pupils who will later receive an English education.

In 1938 there were 219 Malay vernacular schools with an average enrolment of 25,866. The figures for 1937 were 218 schools and 25,145 pupils. There is also an aided Malay school at Pulau Bukom, near Singapore, at which the enrolment was 67 and a private Malay school at Pulau Sudong with 37 pupils.

In Singapore the Standard VI class which was started in 1936 at Kota Raja Malay School continued to give satisfactory results. The curriculum is especially designed, with emphasis placed on manual work, to produce handy youths suitable for posts in shops and offices. The class was very successful, but limitations of staff and accommodation prevented any extension of this work.

In Singapore there were special classes for teachers in Malay schools for men and women in practical teaching, Arithmetic, Art, Geography and Composition, for men only in Physical Training, Carpentry and Silver-work and for women only in Needlework and Handwork. Separate classes for men and women were held and the progress made was very satisfactory.

The Singapore Malay Teachers' Association remained an active professional and social body and published its Annual Journal (Saujana).

The Singapore Rochore (Special) Girls' School, admits selected pupils who have passed Standard IV in the Malay Girls' Schools. The two year course includes English as well as Malay and places special emphasis on art and handwork, nursing, cookery, needlework and homecraft generally. The Government Health Department again gave valuable assistance. From this school are now drawn all the candidates for the teaching profession and five pupils from this school were appointed teachers during the year.

Visits were paid by Malay women teachers from the Malay girls' schools to Malay boys' schools which had girl pupils, to teach them needlework, and the Headmistress of Rochore Girls' School also visited all the Malay Girls' schools to stress the importance of hygiene.

Both girls' and boys' schools held very successful inter-school drill and games competitions.

The building programme in Singapore included the reconstruction of one school and extensions to three schools. New buildings for Telok Saga and Tanah Merah Besar were begun.

In Penang, the Malay schools made steady progress in every direction. Special emphasis continued to be placed on handwork, the crafts, in addition to the basketry taught in practically all schools, including batek printing, book-binding, weaving, chick-making, soap-making and concrete casting. Physical training was stimulated by the usual competitions during the year.

The Malacca schools completed a successful year. There were 15 divisions of Standard VI at selected central schools. At the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Exhibition at Kuala Lumpur, the Malacca Malay boys' schools scored the highest aggregate points of all Centres in the Peninsula and were awarded many prizes for various crafts. The main handicraft is basketry and carpentry, chick-making, net-making, book-binding, cotton-printing, soap-making, and tinning and soldering are also taught in selected schools. Two new schools were built during the year and store-rooms were provided for four schools.

The Malay Women Teachers' Training Centre, Malacca, had an enrolment of 48 students drawn from the Straits Settlements and Federated

Malay States. Steady progress was made and the work of the students at the Centre and later in the schools is a happy augury for the future of the Malay girls' schools in the Peninsula.

Chinese Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Chinese schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese Schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1938 was 37 in Singapore, 32 in Penang and 9 in Malacca. There is a decrease of one in Singapore, and an increase of two in Penang and two in Malacca. The total grant paid to these schools was $146,738.00 as against $123,564.50 in 1937.

The grants to Chinese vernacular schools are in three grades for primary schools, $10 (£1 3*s.* 4*d.*) a year, $7 (16*s.* 4*d.*) and $5 (11*s.* 8*d.*) a year for each pupil in average attendance. The grant system was extended in 1936 to Middle Schools at the rate of $18 (£2 2*s.*) a year or $12 (£1 8*s.*) a year for each pupil in average attendance. In order to qualify for the higher grade, schools must teach English with reasonable efficiency and must employ for that purpose a teacher who has passed the Cambridge Junior examination or a higher or equivalent examination. In addition to these grants certain schools with Normal classes receive a special grant of $25 (£2 18*s.* 4*d.*) a year in respect of a limited number of pupils in their normal classes. This number is determined by the number who may be reasonably expected to be absorbed as teachers in the local schools.

There are three types of schools:—

(i) those managed by properly constituted committees;

(ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.* schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own "committee members";

(iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on the school fees for his livelihood, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1*s.* 2*d.*) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about $2 (4*s.* 8*d.*) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Kuo Yue or Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller.

The Primary course in Chinese schools normally lasts for six years. The Government has little, if any, control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance, or the length of holidays except in the Aided schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curriculum.

Secondary education for boys was provided in Singapore at the Chinese High School. In Penang there were two schools for boys which provided a secondary as well as a primary course. In Malacca one boys' school provided post primary classes, but not a complete secondary course. One girls' school in Singapore provided a three year secondary course, followed by a three year Normal course. Three girls' schools in Singapore and two in Penang provided a post primary Normal course.

Inter-school Sports for Chinese Schools managed by the Education Department were held in the three Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca. There was keen competition amongst the schools, and although the smaller schools are handicapped by lack of playgrounds and facilities for training, a number of them sent in competitors.

The Inter-school examination started in 1935 was again held. The subjects in which pupils were examined were Chinese, English, Mathematics, History and Geography. This examination is helping to fix a standard and is stimulating improvement.

At the close of 1938, there were 518 registered schools with 2,098 registered teachers, and 47,167 pupils. The figures for 1937 were 476 schools, 1,809 teachers, and 40,293 pupils.

Tamil Vernacular Schools.—There are no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil Schools in Penang and Province Wellesley, and all those in Malacca, are estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder are private schools run by mission bodies or committees.

Education is entirely free in estate schools; in some of these the children also receive free uniforms (from toddy-shop profits), and the parents a gift of rice if attendance is satisfactory. The schools run by Christian missions or Indian Associations usually give free education to the poor. In proprietary schools the fees seldom exceed $1 (2*s.* 4*d.*) a month.

At the end of the year there were 65 Tamil schools in the Colony with 3,384 pupils. The figures for 1937 were 66 schools with 3,337 pupils.

For the first time four Singapore schools qualified for grants, but the standard of work in all the Singapore schools was low.

Co-education is not the policy of the Department but a number of girls attend boys' schools. There are two Tamil vernacular schools for girls in the Colony, the Convent Tamil school at Penang and the Ramakrishna Mission Girls' School in Singapore.

G.—MUSIC, ART, DRAMA AND RECREATION

Music.—The Master of Music, who was first appointed in 1936, paid regular visits to 18 Government and Aided English schools in Singapore and paid occasional visits to other schools. There was general improvement in the standard of singing. Much of this improvement was due to the teacher's classes. The standard of work varied from school to school dependent to some extent on the individual ability of teachers as pianists or vocalists. In diction and rhythmic sense noticeable advance was registered.

The Children's Concert Committee under the presidency of Major E. A. BROWN, O.B.E., V.D., arranged three children's concerts. The programmes consisted of orchestral, vocal, instrumental and choral items, the last contributed by girls' school choirs, and community singing. The Departmental Teachers' Music Library made the choice of songs easy. The revived Young People's Orchestra conducted by Major E. A. BROWN gave excellent performances.

In Penang, singing was taught in the primary divisions of most schools and several of the secondary schools had musical societies which presented very successful programmes.

In Malacca singing was taught at all girls' schools, at the Government Elementary Boys' English Schools and at the Anglo-Chinese Boys' School. Special attention was given to the teaching of singing to newly admitted Malay boys at Bandar Hilir English School.

Art.—The Art Superintendent in Singapore was on duty througout the year and paid regular visits to all Government and Aided English schools. The syllabus followed was the same as that of the past two years, covering all branches of observational work, imaginative drawing, design, manuscript writing and various handicrafts. It allowed sufficient latitude for teachers to choose those branches in which they had special interest or qualifications.

In Penang the Art Mistress was on duty for the greater part of the year. Progress was made in wood-block cutting and fabric printing. Outdoor sketching was taken up by some schools. The Malay Schools held a special central handicraft exhibition.

In Malacca Art continued to receive special attention. The crafts taught increased in number. Mention has already been made of the successful craft exhibits of the Malay schools at the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Exhibition at Kuala Lumpur.

Drama.—The Singapore Teachers' Association in co-operation with the Education Department again arranged for special courses for its members in Elocution and the Drama. Five teachers were awarded certificates for special proficiency.

Schools generally, both English and vernacular, make full use of Drama both in teaching and for the entertainment of parents and friends of the school.

Recreation.—Adequate provision was made in all boys' schools, English and Malay, for recreation. The more popular games, football, cricket and hockey, were played in all boys' schools and in many schools badminton, tennis, volley-ball and net-ball were played. Rugby football was played in two or three schools.

Organised games were conducted in most of the girls' English schools. In Malay girls' schools folk games were included in the physical training course. Most English schools had their own annual sports and the Malay schools had combined sports.

In Singapore five English and four Malay schools made regular use of the Y.M.C.A. Swimming Pool and 485 boys passed the swimming test during the year.

The Scout movement in Singapore flourished. The 1938 census showed a total strength of 1,873, an increase of 87. Four new Scout Troops and three new Cub Packs were formed. A Rally was held during the year when an appeal for a Singapore Headquarters Building was launched.

Eight schools had Cadet Corps which completed very full programmes.

Other juvenile organization working among boys and girls, though in most cases not through school organizations, were the Girl Guides, the Boys' Brigade, the Girls' Life Brigade, the Salvation Army Scouts, the Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A.

H.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas' Home (a Church of England Institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children, without restriction as to race or religion, from all over Malaya. There was an average of 15 boys and girls in the Home during 1938. This Home is at Penang and it gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor. The Government grant was $1,500.

There are 15 orphanages in the Colony (five in Singapore, five in Penang and five in Malacca), with 1,564 orphans in 1938, maintained by various religious bodies. All these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and, in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught housekeeping and needlework. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as *mui tsai* who complain of ill-treatment, are detained in the Homes where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 200.

The Salvation Army Industrial Home in Singapore for waifs and strays (boys) had an enrolment of 54 at the end of the year. The Home seeks to provide the boys with an elementary education, with a practical bias, in English or Malay.

The Home has been used since June, 1938, as a place of detention under the Children and Young Persons (Places of Detention) Ordinance, 1937. Boys and youths under the age of sixteen years who are arrested and not released on bail by the police or who are remanded by the Courts are sent to the Home until their cases are disposed of by the Courts. Youthful offenders may be committed to the Home by the Courts for a period not exceeding six months instead of being sent to prison. There was an average of nineteen boys in the Home detained under the provisions of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER XI

Communications and Transport

A.—SHIPPING

The Colony is very favourably situated for communication by sea with other countries. Singapore is a nodal point for traffic between Europe, the Netherlands Indies, British India and the Far East, and most mail and passenger liners between these places call both there and at Penang. There are also frequent and regular sailings between the various Settlements by ships belonging to the Straits Steamship Company, and many Chinese-owned vessels, too, are engaged in the coastal trade.

A weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan is maintained by the Straits Steamship Company, and Christmas Island is served by the s.s. *"Islander"*, which belongs to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company.

The tonnage of all vessels entered and cleared at the five ports of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island) during

the year 1938 was *47,880,557 tons, being *2,419,899 tons less than in 1937. Particulars are shown in Appendix "C". The decrease at Singapore, Penang and Christmas Island was *2,461,360 tons; Malacca and Labuan showed an increase of 41,461 tons.

The figure for merchant vessels above 75 tons nett register decreased by 2,564,017.

In the last six years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1933	...	...	...	... 43,056,128	tons
1934	...	...	...	... 44,006,480	,,
1935	...	...	...	... 44,959,859	,,
1936	...	...	...	... 45,530,894	,,
1937	..	...	...	... 47,709,291	,,
1938	...	...	...	... *45,145,274	,,

B.—ROADS

The road systems of the various Settlements comprise a total of 1,058 miles of metalled roads, of which the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca maintain 255 miles, the remainder, most of which is in Rural Board areas, being maintained by the Public Works Department. In addition, the Public Works Department maintains 162 miles of natural roads and hill paths.

The mileage in the various Settlements is given in the following table:—

Settlement	Municipal	Government and Rural Board Roads			Total Road Mileage
	Roads and Streets	Metalled	Unmetalled and Natural	Total	
Singapore	166·94	150·16	5·45	155·61	322·55
Penang	69·83	89·03	33·98	123·01	192·84
P. Wellesley ..	..	178·68	69·05	247·73	247·73
Malacca	18·68	365·72	31·73	397·45	416·13
Labuan	..	19·78	21·35	41·13	41·13
Total ..	255·45	803·37	161·56	†964·93	1,220·38

Expenditure.—Expenditure on the 929 miles entrusted to the Public Works Department falls under two heads, "Maintenance" and "Reconstruction", and totalled $885,081.60 of which $562,818.36 was for maintenance, and $322,263.24 was for reconstruction. The average cost of maintenance was $606 per mile.

Singapore Municipality spent $154,872.90 on maintenance and $31,020.31 on reconstruction making a total of $185,893.21 for the year 1938 as compared with $195,726.22 in the year 1937.

Penang and Malacca Municipalities spent $138,218.65 and $85,766.98 respectively as compared with $127,065.78 and $40,866.85 in the year 1937.

The most important road work started during the year was the reconstruction of the Changi Road from Bedok Corner to Tampenis Junction, a length of three miles. The carriage way will be finished with a semi-grouted granite surface which will be sufficiently rugose to reduce the chances of skidding to a minimum.

* Including one French Sloop entered and cleared tonnage unknown.
† Includes roads maintained by Government Departments other than P.W.D.

The following table which shows the number of cars, lorries and jinrickshaws licensed during 1938 shows a slight increase in the amount of motor transport but a decrease in the number of jinrickshaws.

Settlements	1937			1938		
	Cars	Lorries	Jinrick-shaws	Cars	Lorries	Jinrick-shaws
Singapore ..	9,382	2,753	4,634	10,170	2,864	4,598
Penang ..	2,708	589	2,489	2,444	586	2,378
Malacca ..	1,250	292	719	1,253	295	699
Total ..	13,340	3,634	7,842	13,867	3,745	7,675

Public transport is provided in Singapore by the Singapore Traction Company which operates a fleet of 108 trolley buses and 108 omnibuses on routes of a total length of 24·94 and 37·36 miles respectively. During the year 47,238,410 passengers were carried by the Company's vehicles.

In Penang public transport is provided by electrical tramcars and trolley buses operated by the Municipal Electrical Department over routes totalling 14·15 miles over which 13,125,042 passengers were carried during the year. The tramcars are gradually being replaced by trolley buses and a total length of only 1·62 miles of tramway track is now left in commission. The Penang Hill Railway, 1·25 miles in length, serves Penang Hill which is 2,250 feet above sea level. During 1938 it carried 138,521 passengers to and from the Hill, the total mileage run being 39,270.

C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Sigapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, communication between Prai and the Island of Penang is by ferry, and Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Province Wellesley a line runs north to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles.

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant or buffet parlour cars and sleeping saloons; and an air conditioned coach is provided on the Day Mail trains between Kuala Lumpur and Prai. The journey of 488 miles takes approximately 19 hours actual running time, but is broken by intervals of from one to four hours at Kuala Lumpur, which is situated 246 miles from Singapore.

D.—AVIATION

Air Services.—Messrs. Wearnes Air Services operate a regular daily air service between Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh (or Sitiawan) and Penang. The journey, including stops of 20 minutes at Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh is made in 3½ hours. This schedule has been regularly maintained.

Imperial Airways, Ltd. and Qantas Empire Airways provide a thrice-weekly service to England and Australia, the former Company operating between Singapore, Penang and Southampton and the latter between Singapore and Sydney.

The weekly service to Hong Kong, operated by Imperial Airways (Far East), Ltd., provides a connection at Bangkok between these services and the Hong Kong—San Francisco service of Pan American Airways.

The Royal Netherlands Airways (K.L.M.) maintain a thrice-weekly service between Amsterdam and Batavia, calling at Singapore and Penang en route.

The Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.) continue the service from Batavia to Sydney, Australia and operate a connecting service once weekly to Saigon *viâ* Singapore, as well as the local services throughout the Netherlands East Indies.

Aerodromes.—

Singapore.—This Airport, situated only two miles from the centre of the city, comprises a landing area 1,000 yards in diameter, suitable for use in all weathers. Immediately adjoining, there is an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes connected to the main alighting area by a protected channel demarcated at night by electric lights. Complete lighting equipment for night flying is available and all ancillary services including long and short wave and direction finding wireless equipment, and a fully staffed Meteorological Office, are provided.

Penang.—Bayan Lepas land aerodrome is used regularly by the Air Services to and from Europe in addition to the daily local service.

Full lighting equipment for night flying is available and a Meteorological Reporting Station is provided.

The landing area consists of two grass surfaced runways:—

N.E.—S.W.—950 yards long by 200 yards wide with an asphalt macadam runway 60 yards wide down the centre, provided with a turning area 133 yards wide at each end.

N.W.—S.E.—800 yards long by 200 yards wide.

Glugor marine aerodrome has been in service since the commencement of the Empire Air Mail Scheme, and Imperial Airways flying boats call there regularly on both outward and homeward runs.

Full facilities, including night landing equipment, are provided in the sheltered area 5,600 yards by 900 yards, which serves as the alighting area.

The aerodrome is in direct telephonic communication with Penang (Bayan Lepas) and with the main aircraft Wireless Station (Penaga) on the mainland.

General.—Aircraft may be chartered for long or short flights from Wearne's Air Services, Ltd. or from any of the four flying Clubs in Malaya.

The two subsidised Flying Clubs in the Straits Settlements continue to record satisfactory progress.

The Royal Singapore Flying Club now owns two Moth seaplanes and two Miles, one Hornet and five Moth Landplanes. The total hours flown by these aircraft exceeded 3,039 hours, and thirty-eight new members were trained on both land and sea planes during 1938.

The Penang Flying Club owns a fleet of three Moth landplanes and a B.A. Eagle. A total of 1,402 hours was flown by these machines and eight new members were trained during the past year.

The Malayan Air Pilot, prepared by the Department of Civil Aviation, was published during the year.

E.—POSTS, MONEY ORDERS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

(i).—Posts

The introduction of the "All-up" Empire Air Mail Scheme, which was foreshadowed in the report for 1937, took effect from the 2nd March, and, from that date, all first-class mail matter (letters and postcards) exchanged between Malaya and countries then participating in the Scheme has been despatched by air as the normal means of transmission. The postage rates were fixed at eight cents per half ounce for letters and four cents for postcards.

The Scheme was further extended to include Australia and New Zealand in August and Hong Kong in September.

The heavy Christmas mails carried during the period of pressure strained the resources of the mail carrying organisation to the utmost and, as was perhaps inevitable, some delay occurred in the transit of mails. In view, however of the vastness of the undertaking, the results on the whole were not unsatisfactory.

A weekly air mail service between Singapore and Saigon by means of the Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.) was instituted on the 30th August.

The internal air mail service by Messrs. Wearne's Air Services, Limited continued to operate during the year and was maintained with regularity and punctuality. The total weight of air mails carried by this Service in December amounted to approximately 435 pounds as compared with 385 pounds during the corresponding period in 1937.

Ocean mail services to and from Great Britain were maintained in a satisfactory manner during the year, the average number of days taken in transit being 22.

In the Straits Settlements there were, at the end of the year, 45 post offices which performed full postal services and 13 postal agencies offering restricted facilities. In addition 79 stamp-vendors were licensed by the Department to sell stamps on its behalf. In addition there were 213 letter posting boxes for public use excluding those available at post offices and postal agencies.

(ii).—Money Orders

The value of money orders issued and paid during 1938 amounted to $11,805,302 as compared with $11,479,859 in 1937.

(iii).—Telegraphs

The number of postal telegraph offices in the Straits Settlements is 44. Ten submarine cables radiating from Singapore are owned and operated by Messrs. Cable & Wireless, Limited.

The total number of telegrams sent and received in the course of the year was 771,250 as compared with 781,147 during the previous year. Actual cash revenue collected dropped from $207,619 to $204,141, but the value of the free services rendered by the Department in respect of Government and Aircraft service telegrams increased from $21,983 in 1937 to $63,692 in 1938. This increase is wholly attributable to the growth of aircraft traffic, the value of the free services rendered in this connection rising from $21,647 in 1937 to $63,423 in the year under review.

Telegraph Rates within the British Empire were unified on 25th April, 1938 by the introduction of a flat rate of 55 cents per ordinary word. Existing rates, however, which were lower than the revised charge remained unaltered.

Teleprinter working was introduced between Penang and Alor Star on 24th January, 1938 and between Penang and Taiping on 31st May, 1938.

Wireless working for the disposal of telegraph traffic to and from Trengganu was introduced between Singapore and Kuala Trengganu on the 1st October. Previously the traffic was transmitted by wireless telegraphy between Kuala Lumpur and Kuantan and by land line between Kuantan and Kemaman.

A direct regular wireless service was introduced on the 15th October between Penaga and Puket for the disposal of telegraph traffic for Puket, Takuapa and Bhanga.

(iv).—Telephones

(a) Development

The year has been one of steady progress, the total number of installations at the end of the year being 2,128, a new record, about 9% above that of 1937.

The nett revenue derived from the operation of the telephone service during 1938 was $473,354. This represents an increase of about 4·3% on the revenue for 1937. 60·5% of the revenue was due to subscriptions and miscellaneous charges and 39·5% to trunk fees.

(b) Types of Telephone Exchanges

The modern trend in technical development of telephone systems is towards the elimination of manual operation by the introduction of automatic apparatus. For the past few years the conversion of small "manual" exchanges to automatic working has been proceeding gradually and, at the present time, out of a total of 19 telephone exchanges in the Straits Settlements thirteen are either automatic or semi-automatic. In the final stage the layout will consist of a number of groups of automatic exchanges, communication within each group being automatic. For external traffic one manual exchange will be required for each group or combination of groups. This final stage has already been reached in Province Wellesley, where the three exchanges, Simpang Ampat, Nibong Tebal and Sungei Bakap obtain communication with each other by dialling, long distance calls being dealt with manually at Bukit Mertajam which is also accessible by dialling. This arrangement was introduced during the year.

(c) New Exchanges, Extensions and Conversions

During the year Klebang automatic exchange was opened near Malacca. Four manual exchanges were converted to full automatic working.

(d) Trunk and Junction Development

Owing to the general increase in traffic it was necessary to provide eleven additional junctions (short distance inter-exchange circuits) during the year.

(e) Radio Telephone Services

Further improvement in facilities was effected during the year by the extension of hours of service on the most important links (including that to Europe) from 19th April.

Revenue increased very considerably from $13,112 in 1937 to $31,090 in 1938. The Malayan share of this revenue was $10,354.

Reductions of fees for calls during the Christmas season again attracted much additional traffic and the available time was almost fully booked.

(f) Overhead routes

A considerable amount of reconstruction of junction and subscribers routes was carried out, the more important works being done in Malacca.

(v).—Wireless

Wireless services have been operated as heretofore from stations in Singapore, Province Wellesley, Christmas Island and Labuan.

New short wave transmitters were installed at the Singapore station and at Penaga (Province Wellesley) to cope with the increasing use of short waves in the ships, fixed station, and aeronautical services. An additional medium wave transmitter was also installed at the Penaga station to provide for the increasing aircraft and aeronautical services.

The installation of a Marconi—Adcock direction finding station at Penaga was completed and facilities for direction finding are now available in the north and south of Malaya. During the year 767 bearings were given to aircraft. In addition 2,763 test bearings for practice purposes were given.

Broadcasting continued to be carried out by the British Malaya Broadcasting Corporation on Singapore Island using a medium wave transmitter operating on 225 metres. On the 19th July, 1938, the Corporation began to radiate simultaneously on short waves and at present are using a frequency of 9,690 kc/s.

Broadcasting in Penang was carried out by the Penang Wireless Society on a short wave transmitter using a wavelength of 6,080 kc/s.

The number of Broadcast Listening Station Licences in force at the end of the year was 7,102 as compared with 5,653 at the end of 1937. This represents an increase of 25·6 per cent.

The number of licensed wireless dealers at the end of the year was 100.

Reception of the British Official and Reuters Press was carried out at the Penaga Wireless Station from whence the press messages were distributed to various newspapers and agencies thoughout the country. Owing to the increasing demand for Press messages it has been necessary to instal receiving apparatus at the Singapore station and this station will take its share of this work during 1939.

The inspection of wireless installations on merchant vessels for the purpose of issuing safety certificates under the Board of Trade regulations was carried out in Singapore where 56 vessels were inspected.

Epidemiologique messages for the League of Nations Far Eastern Bureau were received by the Penaga Station.

The number of Amateur transmitting licences in force at the end of the year was six.

One Second Class Certificate of Proficiency in Radio telegraphy for ships operators with full International validity was issued during the year.

CHAPTER XII

A.—PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works in the Straits Settlements are administered by the Director of Public Works, who is stationed in Singapore and is assisted by a Deputy Director and Head Office staff and a Government Architect and his staff. Work in each of the Settlements is controlled by a local head or Settlement Engineer who corresponds with, and takes his instructions from, Headquarters in Singapore in all matters of major importance. The approved establishment of the Department includes twenty-eight fully qualified European Engineers, six Architects, two Electrical Engineers, one Mechanical Engineer and two Quantity Surveyors.

During 1938 the total expenditure for Public Works in the Straits Settlements was $7,737,008.37 compared with $6,623,682.52 for the previous year. The details are shown in the following table:—

Head of Estimate	Expenditure	Settlement	Expenditure Extra-ordinary	Total Expenditure
	$ c.		$ c.	$ c.
Personal Emoluments	574,094.25	Singapore ..	2,293,718.50	3,625,508.33
Other Charges ..	149,933.63	Penang	788,688.79	1,226,225.96
Public Works Annually Recurrent ..	2,104,617.42	Province Wellesley	584,273.78	715,556.97
		Malacca ..	238,640.61	465,090.77
Public Works Extraordinary ..	4,759,104.94	Labuan ..	26,613.54	47,987.27
		Public Works for Rural Boards, S.S.	827,169.72	1,656,639.07
Work for Other Departments ..	149,258.13			
Total ..	7,737,008.37	Total ..	4,759,104.94	7,737,008.37

Annually Recurrent Expenditure was as follows:—

	1937		*1938*	
	$	c.	$	c.
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals ...	730,541	46	764,984	26
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works (including Sea and River Works) ...	1,260,483	27	1,339,633	16
	1,991,024	73	2,104,617	42

Expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary on reconstruction and special works under the heading Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was $634,786.67 in addition to the maintenance expenditure. The maintenance of 929 miles of road outside the Municipal areas cost $562,818.36 or $606 per mile.

Buildings and Miscellaneous Works.—The Extraordinary Expenditure under this heading amounted to $4,124,318.27. Important works completed during the year were the Civil Aerodrome, Singapore, and the Cherok To' Kun Dam, Province Wellesley.

The following works were in progress:—

Singapore

Supreme Court.—The estimated cost is $1,577,000. The expenditure during the year was $661,270.69. Excellent progress was made during the year and the major part of the structural work was completed.

Beach Road Reclamation.—The estimated cost of this work which is being carried out in combination with dredging in the neighbourhood of the Seaplane Channel is $988,900. The scheme which is now nearing completion will reclaim 47 acres of land along the sea front.

Geylang Reclamation.—This scheme, the object of which is to convert the area of pestilential swamps North East of Grove Road into land suitable for buildings, will require 2¾ million cubic yards of filling and is estimated to cost $2,250,000. One million, four hundred and sixty-two thousand cubic yards of filling were placed during the year.

Penang

Penang Rebuilding Scheme.—The whole scheme which includes new Police Headquarters, new Post Office and new Magistrates' Courts is estimated to cost $2,500,000. A start was made during the year with the new Police Headquarters and the foundations were completed at a cost of $300,000 approximately.

Province Wellesley

Extension of Water Supply.—The total estimated cost of the work is $850,000. The Cherok To' Kun Dam was completed at a total cost of $400,000. A contract, at a total cost of $121,885, has been let for the filtration plant and the work is in hand.

Muda River Bridge.—The bridge is estimated to cost $720,000. The total span is 896 feet, made up of a central span of 188 feet, two side spans of 133 feet, and a number of 50 foot approach spans. The main spans are carried on caissons sunk to a depth of 60 feet below normal water level. The contract has been let and the preliminary works are in hand.

Malacca

The dredging of the Malacca River was continued and 106,588 cubic yards of dredgings were dumped in the Reclamation Area.

Labuan

The new Meteorological Station was completed.

Waterworks.—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are up-to-date and excellent. Water can be drunk from the tap as safely here as in the leading towns in England. The various installations in the rest of the Straits Settlements are controlled by the Public Works Department and were well maintained throughout the year.

Electric Light and Power.—In Singapore and Penang the Municipalities own and operate their own power stations. In Singapore an additional power station is owned by the Singapore Harbour Board. The Penang Municipality supplies current on contract for Butterworth and Bukit

Mertajam in Province Wellesley. In Malacca a private Company supplies electricity in the Municipal area. Outside these areas the Public Works Department maintains small supplies, maintains the electrical services in Government Buildings and carries out new installations. In Labuan a start was made with the new Electric Supply Station. The total expenditure of the Electrical Branch in 1938 on Recurrent and Extraordinary Services was $159,352.

Sewage.—In Singapore and Penang the Municipal Sewage systems are being gradually extended. As the new sewers are made available Government Quarters and Buildings are connected up. Where no public sewers are available septic tank installations are used. The effluents of these are periodically analysed and give reasonably satisfactory results.

General.—At the beginning of the year the Public Works Department had 45 contracts in hand; 313 were entered into during the year and at the close of the year 77 were incomplete.

The annual estimates included 211 Special Service items of which 12 were deleted and to which 76 were added leaving a total of 275 to be carried out. Of these 191 were completed, 68 were started but remained unfinished, and no start was made on 16.

B.—DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

The Drainage and Irrigation Establishment consists of the Director, Drainage and Irrigation, Straits Settlements, with headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, two Drainage and Irrigation Engineers, one for the Settlement of Malacca and one for the Settlement of Penang and Province Wellesley and a subordinate staff of Technical Subordinates, Irrigation Inspectors and Overseers.

Penang Settlement

About 34,500 acres are available for padi cultivation, of which 31,127 acres in Province Wellesley and 2,150 acres in Penang are included in irrigation acres gazetted under the Irrigation Areas Ordinance in 1935.

Province Wellesley.—The principal areas are:—

Northern District—	
Penaga Area	8,368 acres
Sungei Dua Area	9,010 ,,
Central District—	
Sungei Kulim Area	3,279 ,,
Kubang Semang Area	5,545 ,,
Juru Area	622 ,,
Southern District—	
Tasek Junjong Area	403 ,,
Sungei Acheh Area	3,900 ,,

The following is a brief account of the work done during the year :—

Penaga Area.—The clearing of the Sungei Titi Serdang, begun in 1937, was completed early in the year and it was gated where it joins the Sungei Tembus.

Minor internal drains were also completed and the drainage system was in operation by the end of the year. Bunding of 2,000 feet of the Sungei Tembus was completed, and part of the Sungei Lahar Endin was deepened.

Sungei Dua Area.—The Sungei Alor Merah was deepened and regraded.

Sungei Kulim Area.—A scheme to irrigate 2,400 acres in this area, together with 2,100 acres in the Kubang Semang Area, was begun in 1937 when contracts were let for the construction of the headworks and the main canal.

The headworks, embodying three balanced steel radial gates, 19 feet long, and one mile of the main canal were completed early in 1938. The earthwork on a further 2¾ miles of main canal and one distributory canal, 60 chains long, was put in hand and completed by the irrigation season. Two syphons to carry the canal supply under the Sungei Bongkok Krian and Parit Indra Muda were completed in November and water was supplied as far as Permatang Pauh Road.

As the main canal and one distributary canal were completed as far as Bongkok Krian, it was possible to irrigate about 1,300 acres during the 1938–1939 season.

Kubang Semang Area.—A 36″ pipe tidal control gate was installed on the Sungei Permatang Rawa.

Juru Area.—A new bund 1,000 feet long and a 24-inch pipe control gate were constructed on the northern boundary of this area along the Sungei Wak Pauh to improve the drainage of this end of the Juru area and to protect it from tidal inundation.

Tasek Junjong Area.—The irrigation scheme for this area was completed in 1936. In 1938 the old river bed between the two canals was filled in to reduce losses by seepage and the old watergate at the roadside was repaired.

Sungei Acheh Area.—This area has been irrigated from the Krian Irrigation Works since the Krian Irrigation Extension Scheme was completed in 1937. During the 1938 season a more even distribution throughout the area was achieved. The main canal banks were strengthened and two control gates at Sungei Tanjong Berembang and Sungei Udang were constructed.

Muda Bund.—In 1937 a scheme was prepared for strengthening the Muda Bund, which protects almost the whole of the Northern District from flooding from the Muda River. The estimated cost of the scheme is $165,000. At the end of 1938 surveys for construction of the first section to the west of the Dusun Lada Road were in hand and a dragline excavator had been ordered.

Butterworth Drainage Scheme.—This scheme, designed to solve a serious rural anti-malarial problem by draining the swamp area and improving it for cultivation, was put in hand in 1937. The latter half of this $51,000 scheme was completed during 1938 and the whole is now working successfully. Deep drains lined with concrete slabs drain this area into the Prai Estuary through a tide gate on the Sungei Nyor.

Tasek Glugor Malay Settlement Drainage Scheme.—In 1937 work was begun on a scheme, costing $6,500, to drain 350 acres in the Malay Reservation at Tasek Glugor and was completed during 1938 by the construction of seven miles of deep earth drains.

Penang Island.—The area available for padi cultivation in the gazetted irrigation areas of Sungei Pinang, Sungei Burong and Pulau Betong is 2,150 acres. During 1938, 1,910 acres were planted, the remainder being newly reclaimed land at Sungei Rusa.

Sungei Pinang Area.—Work on the restoration of the channel of the Sungei Pinang, destroyed by flood in 1932, was continued and $1,987 were spent. The newly reclaimed area on the coast was opened up during the year and 127 acres out of 260 were felled and partly cleared; 37 acres were planted and produced an excellent crop of padi.

Removal of Silt from Rivers.—Throughout the year sand was removed from the river beds with spade and shovel. 83 coolies were continuously employed and barely kept pace with the rate of silting. 53,000 cubic yards of silt were removed from seven miles of rivers and the sum of $10,522 was spent.

The Hill Lands Ordinance, passed in 1937, was put into operation in 1938. It is designed to check the damage resulting from injudicious clearing of hill land and the consequent deposit of silt in streams and on the flat coastal areas.

Malacca Settlement

During the 1937–38 season 32,754 acres were planted with padi in Malacca, giving a total yield of 12,605,432 gantangs, an average of 393 gantangs per acre. This compares favourably with the corresponding 1936–37 figures of 12,275,440 gantangs and 375 gantangs per acre respectively.

There are 6 areas (Parit China, Tanjong Minyak, Bachang, Chohong, Sungei Putat and Merlimau) gazetted under the Irrigation Areas Ordinance. These total 7,946 acres of land suitable for padi cultivation. Additional areas at Jasin and Duyong are being gazetted.

Malacca River Improvement Scheme.—Approximately eight miles of the upper reaches of the Malacca River are to be dredged between Sungei Malim (one mile above Batu Berendam Bridge) and Belimbing Railway Station at an estimated cost of $200,000 spread over six years. The deterioration of the upper reaches of the river during the last half century can largely be attributed to the rapid development of the catchment for the cultivation of rubber with the result that much valuable padi land has gone out of cultivation and, without remedial measures, a further 3,000 acres would have been seriously threatened.

Commencing in 1935, a grab excavator has so far removed 350,000 cubic yards of material over a length of four and a quarter miles, and of this 150,000 cubic yards were removed during 1938. Benefit is particularly evident at Paya Rumput, Krubong, Durian Tunggal and Belimbing where drainage has greatly improved, flooding has been reduced and land brought back into cultivation.

Jasin Irrigation Scheme.—This is a scheme to irrigate 1,750 acres of existing padi land in the valley of the Sungei Kesang between Kesang Tua and Chin Chin at an estimated cost of $60,000. The original Malay brushwood dams, by arresting the travel of silt and promoting bank scour, caused serious interference with the regime of the river so that its capacity has become gradually reduced. Under the new scheme the control of water in the 16 mile long channel is effected by 41 controls, 41 offtakes and 25 syphons and culverts, all constructed in reinforced concrete. The earthwork in the

construction of the channel has almost all been carried out by local Malays. It is expected that the whole scheme will be completed and in operation for the next planting season.

Duyong Drainage Scheme.—Of the area of 4,191 acres covered by this scheme approximately half is swamp or abandoned padi land, which is now being reclaimed and which it is hoped will be brought into cultivation during the next few years. Of the remaining portion 600 acres are kampong land and 1,600 acres are already under padi cultivation. The scheme is estimated to cost $82,500 and was begun in 1937. A dragline excavator travels along each bank of the river in turn building a bund with the spoil excavated from the river bed. During 1937 15,340 feet of such bund were constructed, and a further 26,358 feet during 1938. The Sungei Duyong has been gated by a dam which will serve the dual purpose of preventing the influx of sea-water during spring tides and also of impounding fresh water for irrigation purposes during the dry weather. This reinforced concrete dam is fitted with a 20′ 0″ span radial gate weighing 8½ tons and is counter-balanced so that it can be lifted 15 feet in five minutes by one man.

It is expected that the present scheme will be completed in June 1939. The work so far carried out has proved of considerable assistance in accelerating run-off after heavy rain, but the full benefit cannot be felt until the internal drainage has been improved. Provision has been made in the 1939 Estimates for some improvements to the internal drainage.

Durian Tunggal Bund.—Two hundred and three acres of padi land near the main road at Durian Tunggal suffered constant damage in the past from flooding and from sand deposited during times of flood. Bunds constructed by the planters met with repeated failure and in 1938 $12,800 was voted for the construction of a bund, internal drains and drainage outlets. A bund 8,800 feet in length has been successfully completed by the local Malays under the direction of the Drainage and Irrigation Engineer.

Padang Sebang Irrigation Scheme.—The extensive padi lands in the valley of the Malacca River between Tampin and Gadek suffer severe damage from floods, which are caused by the deterioration of the river brought about by the construction of Malay brushwood dams and the rapid development of the catchment for the cultivation of rubber. During 1938 a concrete dam with a 15-foot span counter-poised gate was constructed at Tanjong Rimau for the irrigation of the area between Tanjong Rimau and Gadek. This, with the dam at Pulau Sebang reconstructed in 1933, provides irrigation for the whole of the Padang Sebang area of 450 acres.

Unemployment Relief Schemes.—Towards the end of the year, a sum of $19,000 was specially voted for the relief of unemployment among Chinese in Malacca. The desilting of Sungei Ayer Hitam was put in hand and plans were also completed for the bunding of the Sungei Ayer Salak.

Surveys and Investigations.—Surveys were carried out for the preparation of detailed irrigation schemes for the valley of the Malacca River in the vicinity of Malaka Pindah, Belimbing, Durian Tunggal and Simpang Ampat. The question of a comprehensive scheme for the Kesang valley below its junction with the Chohong River was also under consideration in conjunction with the Government of Johore.

Rural Board.—A sum of $6,741 was spent in the maintenance of rivers and canals from funds allocated by the Rural Board.

CHAPTER XIII

Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

A.—JUSTICE

Constitution of Courts

Straits Settlements

The Courts Ordinance *(Chapter 10)* provides for the following Courts for the administration of Civil and Criminal law:—

(*a*) The Supreme Court;
(*b*) District Court;
(*c*) Police Courts;
(*d*) Coroners' Courts.

The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance *(Chapter 11)* provides for appeals from convictions had in trials at Assizes.

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice, one or more Judges of Appeal and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and consists of:—

(*a*) the High Court which exercises original criminal and civil jurisdiction, and appellate criminal and civil jurisdiction in cases tried in District and Police Courts; and
(*b*) the Court of Appeal which exercises appellate civil jurisdiction in cases tried in the High Court.

An appeal lies from the Court of Appeal and the Court of Criminal Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Criminal trials at Assizes are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

A District Court, presided over by a District Judge and having both civil and criminal jurisdiction is constituted in each of the Settlements of Penang, Malacca and Labuan. There are two District Courts in the Settlement of Singapore, one for civil and the other for criminal cases. The District Judge, Penang also has jurisdiction as District Judge, Province Wellesley. The civil jurisdiction of a District Court is limited to suits involving not more than $500 when a District Judge presides and $100 when an Assistant District Judge presides.

Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The criminal jurisdiction of the District Courts and Police Courts is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

The Courts Ordinance also provides for the appointment of Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are not Courts and have no power to try cases.

The Criminal Procedure of the Colony is governed by the Criminal Procedure Code while Civil Procedure is governed by Rules of Court made under the Courts Ordinance. Civil Procedure in District Courts is governed by certain portions of the Civil Procedure Code which was repealed by the Courts Ordinance with a proviso that the provisions of the said Code relating to proceedings in the District Courts shall continue to apply to such proceedings until superseded by District Court Rules which may be, but have not yet been, made under the Courts Ordinance.

B.—POLICE

(i).—Organisation

The Straits Settlements Police Force is organized on a territorial basis. Each Settlement is in the charge of a Chief Police Officer, whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended, in most cases, by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca, the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties, but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

(*a*) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned with the investigation of any crime that is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(*b*) The Depôt at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men for the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent and for all training schemes. Each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

(*c*) The Financial Branch.

Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, officers of the Attorney-General's department who are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts. The Deputy Public Prosecutor at Singapore includes the Settlement of Malacca in his jurisdiction.

(ii).—Crime

The increase in seizable offences recorded in 1937 was continued during 1938 and was even more pronounced. The number of admitted reports recorded in the Colony was 9,337, an increase of 2,559, or more than 38% over the figure for the previous year. This is the highest number recorded since 1932. Only slight increases were recorded in Penang and Malacca, but those for Singapore and Province Wellesley were 47% and 29% respectively.

Arrests were made in 3,453 cases and convictions obtained in 2,499 cases. There were 326 cases awaiting disposal at the end of the year.

Cases of murder decreased from 31 cases in 1937 to 11 cases in 1938. Cases of attempted murder decreased from 15 in 1937 to 11 in 1938.

Cases of robbery increased by 41 to 118, Singapore having an increase of 38.

Serious cases of causing hurt increased from 371 to 431, minor cases from 7,868 to 8,921.

Thefts in dwellings increased from 1,353 to 1,754 cases and simple thefts from 2,180 to 3,270. House-breakings increased from 766 to 952.

Cases of extortion decreased from 64 to 59.

Cases of criminal breach of trust decreased from 374 to 338.

Offences relating to the illicit possession of arms and explosives rose from 17 to 29.

Admitted reports of non-seizable offences were as under :—

	1937	*1938*
Singapore	74,147	86,597
Penang	21,110	25,873
Province Wellesley ...	5,810	5,931
Malacca	9,993	11,150
Labuan	61	98
Total ...	111,121	129,649

The great majority of these reports were recorded under the ordinances named below :—

	1937	*1938*
Chandu Revenue	3,522	3,035
Merchant Shipping ...	3,872	8,209
Municipal	42,169	49,021
Traction Engines and Motor Cars	7,987	10,843
Traffic Regulations	12,946	17,721
Minor Offences	19,741	16,102

Under the less prominent headings there was an increase from 69 to 132 under the Second Hand Dealers Ordinance, while there were decreases under the Common Gaming Houses Ordinance (653 to 557), Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (545 to 344), Tobacco Duties (103 to 69) and the Weights and Measures Ordinance (687 to 413).

The total value of property lost as the result of criminal activities was $543,908.60, 13·88 per cent. of which was the result of criminal breach of trust, compared with $503,008.56 during the previous year. The value of property recovered by the Police was $172,778.52.

During the year an increasingly large number of the officers and members of illegal secret societies were locally-born. These societies showed a tendency to take advantage of times of public tension.

The Hokkien and Teochiu societies were responsible for much intimidation, hurt and damage to property under the guise of enforcing a boycott on Japanese goods in Penang and Singapore. There were several affrays between gangs, but only five cases of serious hurt and no cases of murder.

There was a recrudescence of activity by Cantonese gangsters twice during the year at times when Police preventive resources were being severely taxed. A large number of the armed robberies in 1938 were traced to persons connected with Cantonese illegal secret societies or

gangs. There were six shooting affrays and three stabbing cases caused by inter-gang feuds. On two occasions the gangsters opened fire on the Police when challenged.

There were no outstanding cases during the year and counterfeiting was kept well in check.

A serious feature of crime committed during 1938 was the large number of youthful offenders concerned in serious cases, especially in illegal secret society and gang affairs. The fact that a very large percentage of these youthful offenders were of local birth and education constitutes a serious problem.

The steady rise in crime generally can be attributed in part to defective preventive legislation; this aspect of the problem is under the consideration of the Government.

C.—PRISONS

Description

There are six prisons in the Colony located as follows:—

Changi (convict prison) } Singapore.
Outram Road (local prison) }
Penang.
Malacca.
Labuan.
Christmas Island.

The prison at Changi is a convict prison for the Colony; the other prisons are local.

Population

The total daily average population of the prisons in 1938 was 1,200 as compared with 1,011 during 1937.

At the beginning of the year, there were 935 prisoners in the six prisons of the Colony. Admissions during the year numbered 16,743 as compared with 14,865 during 1937. On 31st December, 1938 there were 1,084 remaining in all the prisons after 16,582 discharges, six deaths, two suicides and four executions.

There were 66 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year, and during the year 615 more were admitted. On the 31st December, 1938, after 584 had been discharged, 97 vagrants remained in custody.

Health

The health of the prisoners was maintained in a satisfactory state throughout the year.

Employment of Prisoners

Short-sentence and Revenue-grade men are mainly employed at husk-beating and on fatigue duties. Long-sentence prisoners are employed in industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making or mat and basket-making. Cooks, orderlies, clerks and such are selected from among the upper-grade prisoners when possible.

Remission

Remission of sentence may be earned by good behaviour by prisoners sentenced to penal servitude, rigorous imprisonment or simple imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile Offenders

Juvenile offenders are kept separate from adult prisoners so far as accommodation will permit and, under Section 290 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Courts may, in their discretion, release on probation any offender convicted of trivial offences.

D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory at Singapore is the only institution in Malaya specially organised for the reception of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and is not in any way connected with the Prisons Administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of seven and 16 are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of 18.

At the end of 1937 the inmates numbered 122. Forty-eight were released and 62 admitted during 1938. At the end of 1938 there were 136 inmates.

Of the 62 boys admitted during the year, 36 were from the Straits Settlements, 24 from the Federated Malay States, one from the Unfederated Malay States and one from Sarawak. There were 39 Chinese, six Malays and 17 Indians. Fifty-two were committed for criminal offences, including fraudulent possession of property, house-breaking, rioting, escaping from legal custody and theft, there being 36 cases of the last-mentioned offence. Of the remainder, one was committed for driving without a licence, five for vagrancy and four as being uncontrollable.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, grass-cutters, gardeners, dhobies, cooks, orderlies and house boys. They were taught Malay in Romanised script for two hours daily, with the exception of 17 who had their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football and boxing. The Scout Troop continued to make progress.

So far as was possible work was found on their release for boys who had no parents, relatives or friends to look after them, or arrangements were made for their adoption by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

CHAPTER XIV

Legislation

Forty-four Ordinances were passed during the year 1938. Of these, two were Supply Ordinances, twenty-eight were Amending Ordinances and the rest were new Ordinances (one being a private Ordinance).

The following are the more important:—

(1) The Rubber Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 163 so as to give effect to the provisions of Article 12 of the International Rubber Regulation Agreement by making provision in the year 1938 for the issue of new planting rights in respect of the year 1939, and to give power to the Controller of Rubber, exercisable by application to a Court, to eradicate and destroy rubber plants which are self-sown.

(2) The Conveyancing and Law of Property (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938 (No. 11 of 1938) amends Chapter 118 by making provisions for the deposit of office and true copies of powers of attorney in the Registry of the Supreme Court.

(3) The Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 20. This Ordinance abolishes the minimum life sentence on conviction for unlawful return from banishment and substitutes imprisonment for a term not exceeding the original term of banishment.

It also abolishes the minimum sentences of seven years imprisonment provided in section 397 and 398 of the Penal Code.

It makes punishable acts of gross indecency between male persons which do not amount to an unnatural offence within the meaning of section 377 of the Penal Code.

(4) The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938 (No. 16 of 1938) amends Chapter 10 by providing for the appointment of a Judge of Appeal and for his precedence among the other Judges.

It modifies the statutory qualifications and modes of appointment prescribed for the holders of the posts of District Judge and of Registrar, Supreme Court, Singapore, in consequence of the transfer of these posts to the Colonial Legal Service.

(5) The Wills (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 53. This amendment adopts in the law of the Colony the provisions of section 177 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, by which wills expressed to be made in contemplation of a marriage shall not be revoked by the solemnization of the contemplated marriage.

It embodies several other provisions of the English Acts relating to wills of soldiers, sailors and airmen.

(6) The Municipal Ordinance (Chapter 133) was amended twice. The principal amendments were :—

(*a*) relating to payment of compensation for land acquired for back-lanes;
(*b*) making the procedure for recovery of rates simple and elastic;
(*c*) making the powers of recovery of an arrear of rates alternative or concurrent instead of successive;
(*d*) assimilating the procedure for recovery of expenses more closely to that of recovery of rates and securing uniformity of remedies;
(*e*) giving power to spend the Municipal Fund on aquariums, walks, recreation or pleasure grounds, and on trolley vehicle systems operating outside the Municipality;
(*f*) housing of Municipal Staff;
(*g*) removing certain doubts and anomalies regarding land taken for footways;
(*h*) delegating the power of approval of building plans to the President instead of to the Commissioners;
(*i*) giving greater elasticity to the application of loan money;
(*j*) definition of Municipal Officer;
(*k*) introducing new forms of Mandatory Orders.

(7) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 150. The principal amendments were:—

(*a*) amendments based on Part II of the Merchant Shipping (Safety and Load Line conventions) Acts, 1932;

(*b*) provisions for the Governor in Council to make rules as to the assignment, making and survey of load-lines on local ships;

(*c*) definition of "Sailing Ship" and "Native Sailing Ship".

(8) The Fees (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 226 so as to provide for the remission of fees in proper cases.

(9) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 186. This Ordinance enables the Port Health Officer to examine immigrants in order to detect and exclude those who are suffering from leprosy and other diseases specified in section 69 (2) of Chapter 186.

(10) The Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 157 by making certain offences relating to infringement compoundable at the option of the complainant.

(11) The Singapore Improvement (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 134.

By this Ordinance the composition of the Board is increased to eleven: five ex-officio members, three unofficial members to be appointed by the Governor, two by the Municipal Commissioners, and one by the Rural Board.

(12) The Volunteer Force (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 99. This Ordinance changes the designation of the classes of Volunteer service.

The phrases "Auxiliary Service" and "Reserve of Officers" are replaced by "the Volunteer Reserve". The object of this is to avoid confusion with the "Corps of Auxiliaries" which is in process of formation.

(13) The Police Force (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 177. This Ordinance which is based on section 5 of the Volunteer Force Ordinance (Chapter 99) enables non-British Europeans to enrol in the volunteer police reserve.

(14) The Pineapple Industry (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amends Chapter 166. This Ordinance implements an arrangement made by the members of the pineapple industry to introduce a scheme for the central marketing of pineapples.

(15) The Local Forces (Increased Expenditure) Ordinance, 1938 (No. 2 of 1938). This Ordinance raises to $600,000 per annum the limit of $500,000 per annum imposed by the Contribution to Imperial Defence Ordinance (Chapter 169) upon expenditure in respect of local forces.

(16) The Lighting Control Ordinance, 1938 (No. 4 of 1938). This Ordinance enables the Governor in Council to provide for a "black-out" in any specified area or place in the Colony for the purpose of experiment, manoeuvres, or in an emergency, and also relieves from liability any person obeying any order giving effect to the purposes of the Ordinance.

(17) The Raffles College Ordinance, 1938 (No. 7 of 1938). This Ordinance repeals and re-enacts with considerable amendments the Raffles College Ordinance (Chapter 137) which was framed before the establishment of the College.

The principal changes made are:—

(*a*) provision for the appointment of a Principal;
(*b*) provision for the appointment of a Secretary;
(*c*) provision for a Subordinate Staff Provident Fund.

(18) The Road Traffic (Third-party Insurance) Ordinance, 1938. This Ordinance introduces compulsory third-party insurance, on the lines of the English law.

(19) The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance 1938 (No. 17 of 1938). This Ordinance confers upon the proprietor of a design registered in the United Kingdom the same rights in the Colony as he enjoys in the United Kingdom.

(20) The Sedition Ordinance, 1938 (No. 18 of 1938) repeals the Seditious Publications Ordinance (Chapter 27) and section 124A of the Penal Code (Chapter 20) and re-enacts the law relating to sedition.

The common ingredient of all offences under the Ordinance is the "seditious intention", the definition of which follows the principles of the corresponding English law.

(21) The undesirable Publications Ordinance, 1938 (No. 19 of 1938) gives the Governor in Council power to prohibit the importation of any publication which he deems to be contrary to the public interest.

(22) The Currency Ordinance, 1938 (No. 23 of 1938) repeals Chapter 219 and re-enacts the law relating to currency. This Ordinance authorises the constitution of a Currency Commission for the whole of Malaya in place of the present Currency Commission for the Straits Settlements.

The Colony and each of the Malay States, Federated and Unfederated, will by agreement make themselves jointly and severally liable for the solvency of the Currency Fund.

(23) The Bodies Corporate (Joint Tenancy) Ordinance, 1938 (No. 35 of 1938). This Ordinance which is based on the Imperial Bodies Corporate (Joint Tenancy) Act, 1899, enables corporations to hold real or personal property in joint tenancy in the same manner as private individuals.

(24) The Trade Marks Ordinance, 1938 (No. 38 of 1938). This Ordinance provides for the registration of Trade Marks in the Colony. The present Ordinance follows closely the English Consolidating Act of 1938, but provision is made by which proprietors of trade marks registered in the United Kingdom have six months before the provisions of Part III come into force in which to register their marks locally without opposition.

Provision is made to protect the interests of local proprietors of trade marks in cases where there has been no bona fide user of an United Kingdom trade mark which is identical or nearly identical with one which has been in use locally.

The registration of a trade mark is for a period of seven years and may be renewed for successive periods of fourteen years if application for such renewal is made in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance.

(25) The Poisons Ordinance, 1938 (No. 39 of 1938) repeals Chapter 195, and re-enacts the law relating to Poisons.

The Ordinance embodies such provisions of the Poisons and Pharmacy Acts of 1908 and 1933 as are considered suitable for legislation in the Colony, and thus ensures as far as possible uniformity with the English law.

(26) The Naval Police Ordinance, 1938 (No. 44 of 1938). The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have established a police force to keep watch and ward and to maintain order in Admiralty Waters and in the Naval Base and other naval establishments in Singapore; the purpose of this Ordinance is to confer upon the officers and men of this force the necessary legislative authority.

In time of war or other emergency the force may be embodied in the armed forces of the Crown.

CHAPTER XV

A.—CURRENCY

Legislation to implement an agreement executed between the Governments of the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang and of the Unfederated Malay States of Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perlis and Brunei for the establishment of a Currency Commission for Malaya was brought into force in the Colony on the 21st October, 1938. The adoption of this legislation marks the end, after a period of 40 years, of the system whereby the currency in circulation in Malaya was issued and backed solely by the Straits Settlements.

This change was the result of a report made by the late Sir BASIL BLACKETT in 1933 on the question of the establishment of a currency guaranteed by all the Malayan Governments who would also participate in the profits accruing therefrom. The Colony will thus in future derive less revenue from this source and this is the only aspect of the change that is of any real importance. The Malayan currency will continue to operate on precisely the same lines as the Straits Settlements currency has operated in the past.

Notes and coins will of course be Malayan notes and coins, but it will take some years before they will completely replace the present Colony issues which have been taken over by the New Currency Commission. The denominations of the new Malayan notes and coins, for which the designs have already been chosen, will remain as at present.

The history of the currency changes in Malaya from the first issue of notes in 1899 is contained in the Annual Report of the Currency Commissioners for 1938, and those interested in the various phases of it are recommended to a study of that document.

The currency in circulation at the end of 1938 consisted of $105,300,469.75 in notes and $17,205,534.97 in coins, (including nickel and copper coin); and bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai

Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China were still in circulation to the value of $134,985 compared with $135,105 at the end of 1937.

At the beginning of 1938 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to $104,975,521.75. There was a slight demand by the public for currency during the year and the consequent expansion in the note issue amounted to $255,400. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for coin during the period under review, the result over the whole year being that on the 31st December, 1938, the note circulation stood at $105,300,469.75.

The position of the Currency Fund on the 31st December, 1938, was as follows:—

	$ c.	$ c.
Assets		147,003,108.42
Liabilities:—		
Notes in circulation ...	105,300,469.75	
Silver coins in circulation ...	14,612,047.43	
	119,912,517.18	
Statutory Reserve of 10% ...	11,991,251.71	
Balance of amount due to Colony in respect of taking over subsidiary coin	1,251,716.38	
Sundry Creditors	17,512.63	
		133,172,997.90
Balance of assets over liabilities		13,830,110.52

B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
,, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
,, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
,, P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, Eastern Bank, Limited.
Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited.
The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
,, Banque de L'Indo-Chine.
,, National City Bank of New York.
,, Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
,, Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
,, Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
,, Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
,, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited.
,, Kwong Lee Banking Company.
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
,, United Chinese Bank, Limited.
,, Ban Hin Lee Bank, Limited.
,, Bank of China.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between 2/4⅛ and 2/3¾. The higher rate was obtainable in January.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December, was 53,483 as compared with 50,148 on the 31st December, 1937, an increase of 3,335. During the year 13,021 new accounts were opened while 9,686 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was $13,296,767 as compared with $11,946,537 on the 31st December, 1937. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was $238 and $249 at the end of 1937 and 1938 respectively.

The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December was $14,956,733 and the market value of these investments according to the Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was $14,468,866.

The number of depositors on 31st December, 1938, under the Fixed Deposit Scheme was 351 and the amount standing to their credit was $278,810.

C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

(*a*) Standard of Length, the Imperial yard.
(*b*) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.
(*c*) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes Chinese steelyards (called "daching") of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The following are the principal local measures used with their English equivalents:—

The chupak	equals	1 quart.
The gantang	,,	1 gallon.
The tahil	,,	1⅓ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	,,	1⅓ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	,,	133⅓ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	,,	5,333⅓ lbs.

CHAPTER XVI

Public Finance and Taxation

The Revenue for the year 1938 amounted to $69,955,265.02 which includes a sum of $33,437,129.45 transferred from the Currency Guarantee Fund, leaving a balance of Revenue of $36,518,135.57. This figure was $1,272,531.43 less than the original estimate of $37,790,667 and $1,264,751.43 less than the revised estimate of $37,782,887.

The Expenditure was $40,698,115.37 being $522,105.37 more than the original estimate.

The year's working resulted therefore in a deficit of $4,179,979.80. In addition there was a depreciation of the Colony's Investments amounting to $1,387,405.96.

(i).—Revenue

The Revenue was $32,606,881.60 more than that of 1937. Details are shewn in the following table:—

Heads of Revenue	1937	1938	Increase	Decrease
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light dues ..	2,404.10	2,410.96	6.86	..
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	24,906,592.49	24,078,826.88	..	827,765.61
3. Fees of Court or Office, payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ..	1,507,735.48	1,893,340.96	385,605.48	..
4. Post and Telegraphs ..	2,883,984.72	2,568,246.31	..	315,738.41
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,839,994.60	1,842,809.56	2,814.96	..
6. Interest ..	5,088,187.66	5,172,507.23	84,319.57	..
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	975,456.40	34,225,944.91	33,250,488.51	..
Total exclusive of Land Sales and Grants-in-Aid	37,204,355.45	69,784,086.81	33,723,235.38	1,143,504.02
8. Land Sales and Premia on Grants ..	143,856.54	167,214.00	23,357.46	..
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	171.43	3,964.21	3,792.78	..
Total Revenue ..	37,348,383.42	69,955,265.02	33,750,385.62	1,143,504.02

The decrease under the heading "Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" was due to decreases under the following Sub-Heads:—

	$ c.
Liquors	64,244 43
Opium Revenue	2,405,788 47
	2,470,032 90

Against this there were increases under the following Sub-Heads:—

	$ c.
Petroleum Revenue	194,409 14
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services)	3,009 29
Estate Duties	1,116,751 61
Tobacco Duties	210,736 44
Other Items	117,360 81
	1,642,267 29

The increase in "Fees of Court, etc." is due mainly to a change in the method of accounting for receipts under the Sub-Heads "Quarantine and Port Health, Expenses, recoverable" and "Contribution by F.M.S. on account of Joint Services". Gross receipts, amounting to $198,765.40, under the former sub-head as compared with the 1937 receipts of $17,997 and similar receipts under the later sub-head amounting to $146,013.16 as compared with the 1937 receipts of $48,794 were brought to account as revenue.

The decrease under "Posts and Telegraphs" is mainly due to a decrease in the "Postal Receipts" as compared with 1937.

Under "Interest" additional interest was earned through the transfer from the Currency Guarantee Fund of the sum already mentioned.

Similarly the large increase under "Miscellaneous Receipts" is due to the transfer of this sum.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of Expenditure are set out below :—

Heads of Expenditure	1937	1938	Increase	Decrease
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ..	18,541 70	..	..	18,541 70
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc.	2,410,378 16	2,561,049 85	150,671 69	..
3. Charitable Allowances	67,846 04	69,380 54	1,534 50	..
4. The Governor	119,622 10	124,047 46	4,425 36	..
5. Malayan Civil Service	481,758 63	431,101 75	..	50,656 88
6. Straits Settlements Civil Service ..	10,817 42	9,479 72	..	1,337 70
7. General Clerical Service	1,222,122 84	1,262,839 06	40,716 22	..
8. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	120,899 59	139,674 22	18,774 63	..
9. Secretary to High Commissioner ..	11,142 60	12,678 99	1,536 39	..
10. Malayan Establishment Office ..	..	..	..	..
11. Agricultural Department	97,662 62	105,771 81	8,109 19	..
12. Analyst	64,349 60	82,280 85	17,931 25	..
13. Audit	110,757 30	104,654 81	..	6,102 49
14. Chinese Secretariat	67,667 38	68,870 57	1,203 19	..
15. Co-operative Societies	26,462 11	28,586 70	2,124 59	..
16. Drainage and Irrigation	255,825 55	35,118 73	..	220,706 82
16A. Drainage and Irrigation. Recurrent Expenditure	..	64,425 49	64,425 49	..
17. Drainage and Irrigation, Extraordinary	..	241,259 96	241,259 96	..
18. Education	2,234,495 56	2,514,670 48	280,174 92	..
19. Estate Duty Office	..	35,903 22	35,903 22	..
20. Excise Department	1,152,962 59	1,204,095 08	51,132 49	..
21. Fisheries	43,807 25	58,980 88	15,173 63	..
22. Forests	51,429 86	51,087 23	..	342 63
23. Gardens, Botanical	122,957 45	123,808 75	851 30	..
24. Immigration and Passports ..	82,528 06	97,689 94	15,161 88	..
25. Labour Department	22,227 06	47,728 93	25,501 87	..
26. Land and District Offices	238,847 61	260,343 28	21,495 67	..
27. Legal	432,835 58	536,781 65	103,946 07	..
28. Marine	508,947 80	481,372 47	..	27,575 33
29. Marine Surveys	62,054 94	76,226 90	14,171 96	..
30. Medical	421,691 77	441,504 38	19,812 61	..
31. Medical, Health Branch	570,984 18	739,858 17	168,873 99	..
32. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch ..	99,273 42	104,530 50	5,257 08	..
33. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ..	2,425,559 13	2,783,601 00	358,041 87	..
34. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution. Provided by law	4,000,000 00	4,000,000 00	..	..
II. Defence Contribution, Special ..	..	1,500,000 00	1,500,000 00	..
III. Local Forces	456,348 01	569,999 38	113,651 37	..
35. Miscellaneous Services	12,495,417 74	6,845,896 66	..	5,649,521 08
36. Museum and Library, Raffles ..	48,658 63	45,164 26	..	3,494 37
37. Police	2,896,544 35	3,093,356 51	196,812 16	..
38. Post Office	1,907,352 33	1,940,885 63	33,533 30	..
39. Printing Office	212,508 16	247,613 99	35,105 83	..
40. Prisons	450,475 43	526,707 14	76,231 71	..
41. Public Works, Department ..	702,470 75	993,188 99	290,718 24	..
42. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure	1,234,128 80	1,275,139 56	41,010 76	..
43. Public Works, Extraordinary ..	3,304,249 92	3,939,405 44	635,155 52	..
44. Statistics	82,815 21	96,116 62	13,301 41	..
45. Survey Department	446,038 57	451,210 49	5,171 92	..
46. Transport	21,003 37	50,158 65	29,155 28	..
47. Treasury	144,226 12	121,398 05	..	22,828 07
48. Veterinary	77,169 79	98,777 54	21,607 75	..
49. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund	2,618 52	3,693 09	1,074 57	..
TOTAL ..	42,038,481 60	40,698,115 37	4,660,740 84	6,001,107 07

There was no contribution to the Sinking Fund in 1938 under "Charge on account of the Public Debt". This charge is met entirely by the Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards as explained later in this chapter.

"Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc." showed an increase as usual which is likely to continue for some years to come.

The decrease under "Malayan Civil Service" is due to the transfer of certain posts to the Colonial Legal Service, the removal from the cadre of the post of Registrar, Supreme Court, Penang, and the deletion of the post of Assistant Secretary to the High Commissioner.

The increase under "General Clerical Service" is due to normal increments and twenty-three new appointments.

The increase under "Analyst" is due to seven new appointments, normal increments of salaries, an increase in "Fees to Analyst" and an increase in the Other Charges Special Expenditure Votes.

Under "Drainage and Irrigation" Other Charges, Annually Recurrent and Special Expenditure were shewn under separate heads in the 1938 Estimates as "Drainage and Irrigation, Recurrent Expenditure and Extraordinary". The activities of this Department continue to expand and considerable expenditure took place on new works which in turn gives rise to increased maintenance expenditure.

Under "Education" increments, the filling of vacancies and increases in Grants-in-aid accounted for the larger expenditure.

The "Estate Duty Office" was shewn as a separate Department in 1938. In the 1937 Estimates it appeared under the Treasury.

The increase under "Excise Department" is due to a revision of the Salary Scheme of the Senior Customs Officers and Customs Officers, additional appointments of Revenue Officers, normal increments and an increase in the Other Charges, Annually Recurrent and Special Expenditure Votes.

Under "Fisheries" a new appointment of Assistant Director of Fisheries, Straits Settlements was created and a Fisheries School was inaugurated at Tanah Merah, Singapore. These are responsible for the increased expenditure.

Under "Labour" heavier expenditure was incurred in repatriation in 1938 with the decline in the prosperity of the tin and rubber industries.

Under "Legal" increased expenditure was incurred on account of two additional Relief Magistrates Courts and one Traffic Court in Singapore. Considerable arrears in the work of the ordinary Courts had accumulated and it was necessary to take immediate steps to remedy the situation.

Under "Marine" there was less Special Expenditure in 1938 as compared with 1937.

During the year a separate branch to deal with the Inspection of Machinery was formed under the control of the Marine Surveys Department and this accounts for the increase under that head.

The increase under Medical "General" is due to five new appointments, normal increments of salaries and increased expenditure in the Other Charges Annually Recurrent Votes.

The increase under Medical "Health Branch" is due to eighteen new appointments, normal increments of salaries, increased expenditure in connection with Quarantine Stations, S. and P. and Special Expenditure Vote.

The increase under Medical "Social Hygiene" is mainly due to increased expenditure under the Vote "Medical and Surgical Appliances."

The increase under Medical "Hospitals and Dispensaries" is due to an increase of staff, changes in the holders of appointments, normal increments of salaries and contributions to the Hospital Boards.

The statutory limit of expenditure on the "Local Forces" was raised in 1938 to $600,000 from $500,000 and increased expenditure was incurred in respect of all three branches—Military, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Volunteer Air Force.

By resolution of the Unofficial Members of Legislative Council passed in Council on 31st October, 1938, a special contribution of $10 millions towards the cost of Imperial Defence is to be made over the five years period commencing from 1st April, 1938 payable at the rate of $2 millions a year. The expenditure incurred for 1938 on this account was $1,500,000 representing the contribution in respect of the period of nine months.

Under "Miscellaneous Services" several large payments of a special nature were made in 1937 hence the decrease in 1938.

Under "Police" a revision of the salaries of European Inspectors took place and there was also a considerable increase in Special Expenditure Votes.

The increase under "Post Office" is due to the transfer of the Divisional Engineer's office from Seremban to Singapore, the retrospective promotions of the clerical staff with effect from 1st January, 1937 as the result of a revision of the scheme and the payment of corresponding arrears in 1938, the granting of normal increments of salaries, promotions of the Clerical and Technical Staffs and to certain additional appointment authorised by Government.

The increase under "Printing Office" is mainly due to extensions to the Votes "Purchase of Paper and Requisities" and "Extra Labour".

The increase under "Prisons" is mainly due to the introduction of new salary scales for European Warders and Sub-warders during 1938 with retrospective effect from 1st January, 1937.

The increase under "Public Works Department" is due to two additional appointments of Assistant Architects, one Quantity Surveyor and one new appointment of Settlement Engineer for Singapore, also an increase in Other Charges, Annually Recurrent Expenditure and the management of the Civil Airport Expenditure.

The increase under "Public Works Recurrent Expenditure" is due to the maintenance of buildings which have reverted to Government on expiration of a 99 years lease and arrears in Current Repairs (General).

The increase under "Public Works Extraordinary" is due to expenditure on the following major works:—

Geylang Reclamation
Beach Road Reclamation
New Supreme Court
New Analyst's Laboratory
Monk's Hill English School
Penang Rebuilding Scheme and
Extension of the water supply in Province Wellesley.

As regards "Transport" the transport votes of certain Departments were reduced and a corresponding increase in the "Transport" vote was made in order to provide a closer check on such expenditure. Provision of a new item, "Passages" for officers not on the Malayan Establishment, was also made.

As already mentioned the Estate Duty office was separated from the Treasury, and was shewn as a separate Department in the 1938 Estimates. This accounts for the decrease under the head "Treasury".

Under "Veterinary" considerable Special Expenditure was incurred in the suppression and control of the Outbreak of Rabies in Singapore, and a new appointment of a full-time Veterinary Officer for Malacca was provided.

(iii)—ASSETS AND

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1938

		$ c.	$ c.
Liabilities			
Deposits:—			
Courts		1,796,922.75	
Bankruptcy		843,584.28	
Mercantile Marine Fund		758,015.88	
Police Reward Fund		4,072.39	
Companies Liquidation Account		187,982.69	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		97,145.83	
Miscellaneous Singapore (including Labuan and Christmas Island)		9,692,822.80	
Miscellaneous Penang and Districts ..		516,188.37	
Miscellaneous Malacca and Districts ..		203,232,43	
F.M.S. Agency		61,602,84	
			14,161,570.26
Deposits by Insurance Companies, etc. as per contra		..	3,550,000.00
Drafts and Remittances		..	38,720.08
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ..		..	57,097,722.46
General Revenue Balance:—	$ c.		
Balance as on 30th November, 1938	98,708,572.71		
Revenue for December, 1938 ..	3,733,400.13		
	102,441,972.84		
Expenditure for December, 1938..	6,298,034.64		
	96,143,938.20		
Less, Depreciation of Investments 1938	1,387,405.96		
Balance 31st December, 1938 ..	94,756,532.24		94,756,532.24
Total ..		..	169,604,545.04

The General Revenue Balance on 31st December, 1938, amounted to $94,756,532.24 of which approximately $75.6 millions were liquid. Against this, commitments on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other Administrations amounted to $4,467,631.00 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounted to $4,714,053.00. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1939 amounting to $5,141,654.00 and further commitments amounting to $11,036,850.00 have to be met. The total commitments and contingent liabilities on 1st January, 1939, against the General Revenue Balance thus amounted to $25,360,188.00.

LIABILITIES

were as follows:—

	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Assets			
Cash:—	$ c.		
Cash in Treasuries	310,375.68		
Cash in Banks	3,551,858.27		
Cash with Crown Agents	3,781.11		
		3,866,015.06	
Cash in Transit		8,562.03	
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents) ..		36,351,428.57	
Fixed Deposits (Colony)		4,101,000.00	
			44,327,005.66
Suspense Account Miscellaneous		..	7,519,115.63
Investments held on behalf of Insurance Cos., etc. as per contra		..	3,550,000.00
Investments (Surplus Funds):—			
Sterling Securities		34,774,721.88	
Dollar and Rupee Securities		622,560.76	
			35,397,282.64
Investments (Specific Funds):—			
Court		808,339.56	
Bankruptcy		795,452.83	
Mercantile Marine Fund		707,263.34	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund		93,994.25	
Miscellaneous		154,247.33	
			2,559,297.31
Investments Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		..	57,097,722.46
Advances			
Boards:—			
Rural		8,315.87	
Education		9,500.54	
Hospital		2,147.56	
Building Loans		355,676.16	
Other Governments		181,008.19	
Postal Stores		300,000.00	
Miscellaneous		1,740,085.21	
			2,596,733.53
Imprests		..	4,091.86
Loans:—	$ c.		
Municipality, Singapore	73,418.05		
Municipality, Malacca	367,338.30		
		440,756.35	
Union Jack Club		25,000.00	
Kelantan Government		4,795,683.98	
Trengganu Government		2,860,000.00	
Singapore Harbour Board		6,113,531.00	
Penang Harbour Board		2,064,465.07	
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		49,400.00	
Tanglin School at Cameron Highlands ..		9,700.00	
Penang Sports Club		62,586.03	
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ..		63,173.52	
Perlis Government		50,000.00	
St. Nicholas Home, Penang		12,000.00	
Chong Cheng School, Singapore		7,000.00	
			16,553,295.95
Total ..			169.604,545.04

(iv).—Public Debt

The Straits Settlements 3% Loan 1962-1972 amounting to $30,000,000 was issued on the 15th October, 1936.

This issue was over-subscribed to the extent of over $1 million. The total cost of the issue including brokerage, management and redemption amounted to $75,000, *i.e.* ¼ of one per cent. The loan is being managed by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

This loan was allocated entirely to the Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards which bear all charges for Interest and Sinking Fund.

There is no public debt on purely Government account.

(v).—Taxation

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony and from the profits on the Government opium monopoly. The other main items are Stamp Duties, Estate Duties and Pawn-brokers' Licences which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years. The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from Licences.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licences for the year 1938 was $24,078,826.88 forming the greater portion of the Colony's Revenue and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	$	c.
Liquor Duties	3,703,697	28
Opium Revenue	6,433,600	66
Pawnbrokers' Licences	725,086	00
Petroleum Revenue	3,812,490	07
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services)	1,170,318	31
Estate Duties	2,198,115	16
Tobacco Duties	5,040,111	91

The only fiscal measure approximating to a customs tariff is the imposition of duties on Liquors, Tobacco and Petroleum imported and consumed in the Colony. Excise revenue is composed principally of the Revenue from the Opium Monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of a similar brand. The only liquors manufactured locally which are subject to this duty are samsu and beer. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy, but the revenue is unimportant.

Stamp duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance 1929.

The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only ...	25 cents.
Bill of exchange including Promissory Note ...	5 cents for every $100 or part thereof.
Cheque	4 cents.
Conveyance	$1.50 for every $200 or part thereof.
Mortgage	$1.00 for every $500 or part thereof.
Receipt	4 cents.

The Stamp Ordinance also provides for the imposition of a duty on bets and sweepstakes and the amounts collected in 1938 under this head in Singapore and Penang were $313,889.50 and $148,869.63 respectively.

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CHAPTER XVII

Miscellaneous

A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of many of the other settlers, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian. With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet, but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the South of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigrant Chinese population is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be:—

Hokkien 43·2%; Cantonese 21·4%; Tiu Chiu 17·4%; Hakka (Kheh) 7·9%; Hailam 5·4%; Hok Chhia 1·5%; Hok Chiu 1·3%; and other dialects 1·9%.

Nine-tenths of the Indian population are Southern Indians practically all of whom speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam. Of these the vast majority (over 90% speak Tamil).

The rest of the Indian population consists mainly of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Pushtu and Hindustani. There are also a few hundred natives of the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of people speaking Burmese, Nepalese and Uriya.

The great majority of Indians in Malaya quickly pick up a smattering of "Bazaar Malay" and there are few experienced labourers in well settled districts who cannot carry on a simple conversation in that jargon.

B.—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the leases for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first lease issued for a period of ninety-nine years, for land in the town, dates back to 1838.

publishing company, inc.

From 1845 onwards a large number of grants in fee simple was issued for land outside the limits of the town, though for town lands the issue of leases for ninety-nine years still continued. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally acquired for agricultural purposes.

After the transfer of the Settlements to the control of the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were leases for terms of 99 or 999 years, but Ordinance No. 11 of 1886, now the Crown Lands Ordinance *(Chapter 113)*, introduced a statutory form of Crown Title, the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and to various implied conditions and covenants which before the passing of the Ordinance had to be expressly provided for in the document of title itself. This Statutory Grant became then, and until recently continued to be, the usual form of title issued, but the present policy is to restrict the issue of grants in perpetuity, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding ninety-nine years.

Penang.—The earliest titles to land in Penang and Province Wellesley derive from the East India Co., later titles from the Crown under Grant in fee simple, Statutory Grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. Unoccupied Crown Land is now ordinarily alienated under lease.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. The remainder of the land in the Town is mostly held under Crown leases for 99 years, but there are a few leases for 999 years and a few Statutory Grants. Alienated land in the country is generally held under Statutory Grants or leases from the Crown for 99 years, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Customary Rights Ordinance *(Chapter 125)*. There is a small number of grants in fee simple both in town and country areas.

Labuan.—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of the Labuan Ordinance *(Chapter 6)* and is alienated ordinarily by public auction. Some titles are in fee simple, but the majority are leases, for the term of 999 years or less. Since 1919 leases for not more than 30 years have been granted.

Throughout the Colony.—Temporary occupation of Crown Land is possible under licence for periods not exceeding a year at a time, and similar licences, as well as leases, may be issued for foreshore and sea-bed under the provisions of the Foreshores Ordinance *(Chapter 122)*.

General.—In recent years there has been a growing demand for the introduction of Registration of Titles. During the year steps were taken to give effect to such a policy and a small Committee was appointed, and is now sitting, to formulate the legislation necessary to carry it out.

C.—CO-OPERATION

The year 1938 was a difficult one in rural areas owing to the fall in prices of agricultural products and the increased restriction on the out-put of rubber. For the first time for six years the amount of overdue loans in rural credit societies increased. In spite of adverse conditions the turn-over of rural societies was greater than in any year since the

break in prices in 1930. Societies whose members owned rubber holdings made some progress and much of the borrowing was for the purpose of buying rubber land. Members who were dependent on coconuts were fortunate if they could maintain their position without mortgaging their future.

Indian labourers, too, felt the effects of the reduction in the out-put of rubber. Wages were reduced in May and many members of societies returned to India. Total membership fell for the first time since 1930, but total savings reached a new high record. Generally speaking the reduction in wages did not affect the amount each member saved each month.

The record of the societies amongst salary earners was satisfactory. There was a small increase in membership while the paid-up capital passed the $2 millions mark for the first time. At the same time there was an increase in the withdrawable deposits made by members in their societies. Altogether, with a few exceptions Co-operative Societies in the Straits Settlements weathered 1938 reasonably well, and are in a good condition to take advantage of any future improvement in prices.

Singapore.—There was no change in the number of societies for salary earners in Singapore which remained at 23. Membership increased from 7,491 to 7,833. Subscription Capital rose from $1,065,000 to $1,154,500 and investments in trustee securities from $895,719 to $961,800.

Societies for Indian Labourers showed a slight decrease in membership, from 2,450 to 2,384, the number of societies remaining unchanged at 13. Subscription Capital increased from $101,954 to $112,101 and investments in trustee securities from $89,184 to $108,337.

Malacca.—The figures in connection with the Rural Societies are not very encouraging. The nine societies had a membership of 288 as against 308 and Share Capital of $8,428 as compared with $8,581 at the end of 1937. There was a slight reduction in the number of members of the four societies for salary earners from 1,279 to 1,268, though the Subscription Capital increased from $250,000 to $268,600. Investments in trustee securities rose from $212,500 to $238,200.

Membership of the 37 societies for Indian Labourers decreased by 657 from 6,741 to 6,084. On the other hand savings as denoted by Subscription Capital rose from $160,258 to $198,804. The investments of these societies rose from $157,756 to $196,091.

Penang and Province Wellesley.—Two new Rural Credit Societies were registered during the year bringing the total number to seven with 185 members and Share Capital of $4,019 as compared with five societies with 124 members and Share Capital of $3,883 at the end of 1937.

There was a slight decrease in the membership of the 10 societies for salary earners which fell from 3,744 to 3,713. Subscription Capital and investments both increased from $598,700 and $459,700 to $624,600 and $551,700 respectively.

The number of societies for Indian Labourers increased by one from 20 to 21 with a membership of 3,269 and Subscription Capital of $120,482 as compared with 3,701 and 93,879 at the end of 1937. Investments amounting to $106,875 were held by these societies.

D.—MUSEUM AND GARDENS

The Raffles Museum and Library was an integral part of the Singapore Institution (later called the Raffles Institution) in 1823. In 1844 the Singapore Library, a proprietary concern, was established and in connection with this a museum was formed in 1849. The Government took over the Department, thenceforth called the Raffles Museum and Library, in 1874.

The estimated number of visitors to the Museum showed little variation, and remained at about 250,000. The revenue from public subscriptions to the library was $15,602.50, and the number of books issued was 216,864.

An important event in the scientific life of the Colony was the "Third Congress of Prehistorians of the Far East" held in the museum 24th—30th January. Thirty delegates included official representatives of the Governments of Hongkong, the Netherlands Indies, French Indo-China, the Philippine Islands and various Malay States, institutional representatives of Dutch, Australian and Malayan scientific societies and institutions, and some associate members. The social side of the Congress culminated in a banquet in the old Dutch Stadt House in Malacca by kind invitation of the Malacca Historical Society.

An innovation was the establishment of a departmental provident fund for the members of the locally engaged staff. Although in certain cases provision had been made for a retiring allowance or a gratuity, no systematic scheme for the provision of payments on superannuation, resignation, retirement, discharge or death was hitherto in existence. It should be noted that members of the locally engaged staff are employés of the Departmental Committee and paid from a Government grant.

During the year a new post with the title of "Archivist" was created. The appointment was filled by a Chinese graduate of Raffles College, in itself an event of much significance. The duties of the post are to trace, record and preserve historical and Colonial records and to perform research and routine work of an allied nature.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York made a further appropriation of money ($13,602.55 Straits currency) to the Raffles Museum for a three-year period of prehistoric research in the Malay States. The first appropriation took place at the end of 1934. It is gratifying to record that almost as soon as field-work restarted the museum expedition made a very important discovery of a palæolithic culture in Upper Perak. A major excavation of some high-level river gravel underlying a deposit of volcanic ash revealed quantities of crude stone artefacts that point to a very ancient and primitive type of humanity that existed probably more than 100,000 years ago. The generosity of the Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation is much appreciated.

The "Friends of Singapore", a local society of altruistic aims, presented to the museum a beautiful series of water colours, prints, letters and documents relating to the Colony and to Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES, the founder of Singapore.

The Botanic Gardens, Singapore were founded in 1858 by a private society and taken over by the Government in 1874. In 1879 the Economic Garden was added, and served as the only official agricultural station in Malaya for nearly 30 years, before the establishment of the Department of

Agriculture. Through this garden many useful plants, including Para rubber, were introduced to local cultivation from other parts of the tropics. In 1884 the Waterfall Gardens at Penang were established, and in the same year the administration of the forests of the Colony was added to the duties of the Gardens Department. Later with the establishment of the departments of Forestry and Agriculture, the scope of the Gardens Department became restricted to the botanical study of the Malayan flora, and the less economic aspects of horticulture. In addition to the two public gardens at Singapore and Penang, the Department has charge of Government House Domain, Singapore, and at Penang the gardens at the Residency, Bel Retiro, the Crag Hotel and other hill bungalows. In both Singapore and Penang the Department advises the Municipal Commissioners on questions concerning the maintenance of roadside trees and public parks.

The Botanic Gardens at Singapore and the Waterfall Gardens at Penang provide in each case a public park laid out in landscape, and a large named collection of living plants. Special attention is given to displays of named ornamental plants, both local and introduced, which are suitable for general use in gardens, thus providing a practical demonstration to the local public interested in gardening. Many useful tropical plants, and local plants of special interest are also represented. New introductions of plants from other countries, and from the jungles of Malaya, are constantly made for purposes of trial. During the past few years a considerable number of hybrid orchid seedlings have been raised. During the latter part of 1938 several of these flowered for the first time, including some fine Dendrobiums and also two hybrids between the genera Vanda and Arachnis. Particular attention was also given to the genus Bougainvillea which provides such a wealth of colour in tropical gardens, and a number of new varieties were introduced. Several articles on horticultural subjects were published by members of the staff during the year.

The maintenance of three forest areas in the island of Singapore as nature reserves has been continued, and the boundaries of the areas surveyed. In the Bukit Timah reserve new paths have made for greater convenience of patrolling, and also to give easy access to parts of the forest not usually seen by visitors. The collection of tree specimens has been continued regularly, and by this means much information of botanical value has been obtained and recorded. A number of additional trees have been named and provided with aluminium labels.

The two principal expeditions for the collection of botanical material outside Singapore were to Kedah and Sarawak. The latter expedition was undertaken in collaboration with the Forest Research Institute, and resulted in the addition of valuable material to the Singapore herbarium. Herbarium work on the systematy of Malayan plants continued, having as principal objects the stabilization of the names of some common trees, and the study of the important genus Eugenia, and of certain groups of palms. A series of papers, embodying some of the results of this work, were published in the Gardens Bulletin.

By arrangement with the Education Department, members of the Gardens staff have continued to hold classes on Malayan plant life for local teachers.

The Gardens Department of this Colony is unique in that for the purpose of collecting specimens from tall trees and other plants which are inaccessible by the ordinary methods of botanical collection, it employs two Bĕrok-monkeys, of the species *Macaca nemestrina*. These monkeys

were purchased in Kelantan in October, 1937 after an experiment by the Assistant Director of Gardens had proved satisfactorily that the Bérok could be made into an efficient collector, if properly trained. It is believed that this is the first occasion in which botanists have enlisted the natural talent of wild monkeys for their particular science. The success of the venture was proved during the year 1938 by the constant employment of the two monkeys now possessed by the Botanical Gardens. One or other of the two, which are called Jambul and Puteh, were used almost daily for the collection of tree-specimens in Singapore and Johore. Apart from a large amount of flowering and fruiting material of general interest, they obtained many new records and several new species of trees from localities the flora of which had been considered well-known.

E.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The construction of the Naval Base is, in the words of the telegram sent by His Majesty the KING on the occasion of the opening of the KING GEORGE VI Dock, a symbol of the Empire's powerful resolve for peace. The opening ceremony was performed by His Excellency the Governor on the 14th February and its Imperial significance was marked by the presence of many distinguished representatives. The American light cruisers "Trenton", "Milwaukee" and "Memphis", under the command of Rear Admiral Julius C. Townsend, were present. The occasion was to the people of the Colony the outstanding event of 1938 and served as a striking reminder of the increasing importance of Singapore within the framework of the Empire.

Events in China must naturally have repercussions in a Colony where so large a proportion of the inhabitants consists of Chinese immigrants. The hope that no violence would result, which was fostered by the calm and peaceful attitude of the Chinese population during the first six months of the Sino-Japanese conflict, was rudely shattered in January when rioting took place in Singapore, and again in July when a most serious outbreak occurred in Penang. These disturbances were the work of agitators whose motives were not entirely prompted by patriotic fervour, and it was necessary for the Government on two occasions to administer stern rebukes to the alien elements in its population and to take drastic action against the instigators of the trouble. Fortunately the law-abiding section of the Chinese community quickly responded to the Government's measures and for the latter part of the year the only visible evidence of the existence of Chinese feeling has been afforded by meetings and collections for the China Relief Fund.

A strike of the Singapore Traction Company employees began on 7th July and lasted for four months, during which period transport services in Singapore, though not paralysed, were seriously dislocated. The dispute was finally settled by reference to an arbitration tribunal presided over by the Chief Justice. The appointment of this tribunal is a noteworthy event in the history of labour disputes in the Colony.

In October Malaya was visited by a Commission appointed to survey existing facilities for higher education and to report on the desirability of their extension. It also investigated the question of the establishment of a university in Singapore, a subject which has been extensively discussed locally; the report of the Commission is therefore awaited with special interest.

The world wide despondency caused by the international crisis in September was particularly reflected among the cosmopolitan population of Singapore and the many offers of voluntary service made during those anxious weeks testified once again to the strength of the bond which unites so many races and creeds in the Colony.

In addition to the gift of $500,000 voted by the Legislative Council in February for purposes of Imperial defence, a further grant of $10,000,000 to be spread equally over five years was authorised in October as a special contribution on the proposal of the Unofficial Members of Legislative Council. In effect this means that the annual contribution of the Colony to the cost of Imperial Defence for the next five years will be $6,000,000.

A further gift of $500,000 was made to the Penang and Province Wellesley Jubilee Fund, bringing the total amount donated by Government to $800,000.

In November His Majesty the KING of SIAM visited Penang and Singapore on his way to Bangkok. Other distinguished visitors, apart from those who attended the opening of the KING GEORGE VI dock, included Lord GOWRIE, Governor-General of Australia and Vice-Admiral LE BIGOT, Commander in Chief of the French Naval Forces in the Far East.

The Parade in Singapore on the occasion of the celebration of the King's Birthday was successfully held at Farrer Park instead of on the Padang as in former years. The more spacious, if less picturesque, area admitted of the participation of nearly 3,000 troops, a number greatly in excess of that possible on the Padang.

Sir THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, G.C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, was on duty throughout the year.

Major-General W. G. S. DOBBIE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, was on duty throughout the year.

Air Vice-Marshal A. W. TEDDER, C.B., Air Officer Commanding the Royal Air Force, Far East was succeeded on the 10th September by Air Vice-Marshal J. T. BABINGTON, C.B.E., D.S.O. Commodore M. L. CLARKE, D.S.O., R.N. was succeeded by Commodore T. B. DREW, O.B. R.N. as Commodore-in-charge, His Mejesty's Naval Establishments on the 18th November.

New Year Honours contained the following awards:—

C.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. HUSEIN HASANALLY ABDOOLCADER.

C.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. JOHN DEWAR.

O.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. JAMES WATSON.

O.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. AW BOON HAW.

M.B.E. (Civil Division)—Miss RITA FENOULHET.

M.B.E. (Military Division)—Lieut. RAHMAT BIN ABBAS.

Medal of the O.B.E. (Military Division)—Sergeant ERNEST HENRY HANSON.

Medal of the O.B.E. (Military Division)—Sergeant ALFRED SHIPWRIGHT.

King's Police Medal—Mr. WONG CHIN YOK.

Birthday Honours:—

C.M.G.—Mr. FREDERICK JOSEPH MORTEN.

O.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr. REGINALD HUGH MCCLELAND.

M.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mr WILLIAM WALTER BACHELOR.

Medal of the O.B.E. (Military Division)—Colour Sergeant ABRAHAM DAVID STEVENSON.

Hon. M.B.E. (Civil Division)—Mrs. SHIU KEI WONG.

A. S. SMALL,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, *7th October*, 1939.

APPENDIX *A*

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Dominions Office and Colonial Office List	35/-	Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London.
Blue Book (Straits Settlements)	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Annual Departmental Reports (Straits Settlements) ...	$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Census Report, British Malaya 1931	$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
Malayan Year Book, 1938 ...	$1.50	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
	3/6	The Malay States Agency, London.
Report by the Rt. Hon'ble W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit to Malaya, Ceylon and Java, 1928	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 5th March, 1937. (Hartland)	2/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. (I. H. Burkill). 2 Vols.	30/-	The Crown Agents for the Colonies.
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50 *cts.*	Dept. of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S., Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ...	Various prices	Forest Department, F.M.S. and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
The Geology of Malaya, 1931. (J. B. Scrivenor)	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, 1925. 5 Vols. (H. N. Ridley)	£11-11-0	L. Reeve & Co., London.
The Negritos of Malaya, 1937. (I. H. N. Evans)	16/8	The Cambridge University Press.
Malayan Fishes, 1921. (C. N. Maxwell)	$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society and Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Matriarchy in the Malay Peninsula. (G. A. de C. de Moubray)	15/-	Kegan Paul.
Oxford Survey of the British Empire, 1924. Vol. 2. (Editors A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth)	15/-	Oxford University Press, London.
One Hundred Years of Singapore, 1921. 2 Vols. (General Editors W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke and R. St. J. Braddell) ...	out of print	John Murray, London.
One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore, 1923. (Sir Ong Siang Song)	30/-	John Murray, London.
Handbook to British Malaya, 1935. (R. L. German)	2/6	J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London.

APPENDIX *A—continued*

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—*continued*

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Historical Geography of British Dominions. Vol. I. (C. P. Lucas)	not sold separately	Oxford University Press, London.
A History of Malaya. (Sir Richard Winstedt) ...	$7.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1824-1867. 1925. (L. A. Mills)	$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1929. (Sir F. A. Swettenham)	12/6	J. Lane, London.
Papers on Malay Subjects. (Incidents of Malay life, law, etc. Ed. by R. J. Wilkinson) ...	$1 each	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore S.S.
Malaya. The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, 1923. (Sir Richard Winstedt)	12/6	Constable & Co., London.
Report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya, 1932. 3 Vols.	$12	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to Malaya, 1932 ...	50 *cts.*	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934. Vol. I ...	$5	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934. Vol. IV. (Appendices)	$10	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.

APPENDIX *B*

TABLE I

EXCESS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA DURING THE YEAR, 1938

Race	By Sea							By Air			By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
Europeans ...	1,593	740	4	19	− 25	...	− 3	2	7	...	63	− 30	6	154	2,530
Eurasians ...	6	− 5	...	8	1	...	...	...	− 1	...	12	− 20	2	− 13	− 10
Japanese ...	− 306	22	.	5	...	...	...	4	0	...	34	− 11	19	16	− 217
Chinese ...	44,863	6,285	...	236	− 1,276	...	2	17	4	..	409	− 393	1,219	1,814	53,180
Malays ..	3,140	193	...	103	71	...	...	− 1	...	...	− 30	− 9,723	415	84	− 5,748
Northern Indians ...	1,534	1,239	7	7	206	...	...	− 12	− 5	...	135	− 31	61	...	3,141
Southern Indians ...	− 754	− 8,697	...	17	− 14,021	...	...	1	...	...	155	24	24	.	− 23,251
Others ...	205	− 152	...	25	4	...	− 1	− 4	2	...	553	− 73	7	847	1,413
Total ...	50,281	− 375	11	420	− 15,040	...	− 2	7	7	...	1,331	− 10,257	1,753	2,902	31,038

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1937 AND FOR THE YEAR, 1938 ARE:—

	By Sea							By Air			By Rail		By Road		Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
1937	169,704	57,654	7	749	43,209	– 2	– 8	87	0	...	– 246	– 7,270	484	2,838	267,206
1938:—															
January ...	13,724	356	2	140	– 505	...	...	– 8	– 5	...	543	– 223	394	564	14,982
February ...	7,945	386	2	31	– 738	...	...	7	2	...	– 85	– 240	153	168	7,631
March ...	16,158	5,747	...	2	– 1,286	...	0	27	9	...	– 559	468	212	169	20,947
April ...	17,665	45	1	13	– 806	...	– 1	14	– 14	...	– 166	– 1,384	178	322	15,867
May ...	– 3,827	– 230	2	88	– 891	...	...	– 7	5	...	74	– 2,280	177	303	– 6,586
June ...	835	– 1,769	...	94	– 1,615	...	...	– 16	9	...	153	– 181	37	182	– 2,271
July ...	309	– 1,650	...	54	– 3,190	...	...	0	3	...	119	– 23	41	298	– 4,039
August ...	– 462	– 1,820	...	73	– 1,926	..	...	5	– 11	...	4	– 795	136	218	– 4,578
September ...	– 347	1,086	2	– 9	– 709	...	1	4	7	...	416	– 803	82	52	– 218
October ...	– 702	– 1,488	3	– 74	– 901	...	– 2	1	0		321	– 504	91	191	– 3,064
November ...	– 105	32	– 1	47	– 1,034	...	...	– 2	0	...	129	– 1,431	101	275	– 1,989
December ...	– 912	– 1,070	...	– 39	– 1,439	...	...	– 18	2	...	382	– 2,861	151	160	– 5,644
Total ...	50,281	– 375	11	4 0	– 15,040	...	– 2	7	7	...	1,331	– 10,[illegible]57	1,753	2,902	31,038

TABLE III

Arrivals and Departures of Passengers by Sea, Land and Air, by Countries of Origin and Destination, during the Year, 1938

ARRIVALS FROM

BY SEA

Race	The Netherlands Indies					China (2)					India (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total	M	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	4,912	2,735	489	443	8,579	2,007	772	76	74	2,929	995	625	55	33	1,708
Eurasians ...	270	236	3	9	518	3	4	...	1	8	19	15	2	5	41
Japanese ...	406	74	30	35	545	31	3	..	..	34	42	11	1	7	61
Chinese ...	53,068	9,401	3,702	2,176	68,347	39,214	44,993	15,787	9,750	109,744	151	29	7	6	193
Malays (5) ...	23,944	7,877	3,652	2,961	38,434	61	2	...	...	63	273	10	2	...	285
Northern Indians ...	2,211	155	87	65	2,518	285	14	13	5	317	10,737	1,474	850	537	13,598
Southern Indians (6)	1,701	74	57	40	1,872	38	...	...	1	39	38,635	5,696	4,435	2,213	50,979
Others ...	525	87	42	23	677	16	4	...	...	20	194	17	15	3	229
Total ...	87,037	20,639	8,062	5,752	121,490	41,655	45,792	15,876	9,831	113,154	51,046	7,877	5,367	2,804	67,094

BY SEA

Race	Siam					Other Countries					Total				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	509	214	31	34	788	11,093	5,586	932	949	18,560	19,516	9,932	1,583	1,533	32,564
Eurasians ...	7	6	...	1	14	72	55	24	16	167	371	316	29	32	748
Japanese ...	6	2	2	...	10	743	264	76	85	1,168	1,228	354	109	127	1,818
Chinese ...	953	241	146	80	1,420	7,518	1,728	708	510	10,464	100,904	56,392	20,350	12,522	190,168
Malays (5) ...	69	23	9	8	109	4,516	2,386	608	482	7,992	28,863	10,298	4,271	3,451	46,883
Northern Indians ...	130	4	3	2	139	1,709	155	110	81	2,055	15,072	1,802	1,063	690	18,627
Southern Indians (6)	98	15	16	12	141	907	130	75	62	1,174	41,379	5,915	4,583	2,328	54,205
Others ...	107	120	37	28	292	1,142	151	101	36	1,430	1,984	379	195	90	2,648
Total ...	1,879	625	244	165	2,913	27,700	10,455	2,634	2,221	43,010	209,317	85,388	32,183	20,773	347,661

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1938

ARRIVALS FROM

Race	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	1,326	193	12	7	1,538	1,539	535	54	11	2,139	22,381	10,660	1,649	1,551	36,241
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	75	60	5	14	154	446	376	34	46	902
Japanese ...	61	2	...	...	63	155	21	2	...	178	1,444	377	111	127	2,059
Chinese ...	157	15	4	1	177	29,635	5,561	2,021	1,107	38,324	130,696	61,968	22,375	13,630	228,669
Malays ...	11	1	...	...	12	36,169	14,686	3,228	1,937	56,020	65,043	24,985	7,499	5,388	102,915
Northern Indians ...	14	1	...	...	15	1,497	160	111	26	1,794	15,583	1,963	1,174	716	20,436
Southern Indians ...	3	...	...	...	3	1,415	132	88	21	1,656	42,797	6,047	4,671	2,349	55,864
Others ...	14	1	1	...	16	8,719	4,493	1,681	921	15,814	10,717	4,873	1,877	1,011	18,478
Total ...	1,586	213	17	8	1,824	79,204	25,648	7,190	4,037	116,079	290,107	111,249	39,390	24,818	465,564

DEPARTURES TO

Race	BY SEA														
	THE NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	5,379	2,927	514	431	9,251	1,402	896	121	115	2,534	1,114	783	64	53	2,014
Eurasians ..	257	235	6	15	513	4	2	2	...	8	16	27	7	12	62
Japanese ...	304	33	12	12	361	55	8	...	5	68	50	13	2	5	70
Chinese ...	51,170	11,080	4,370	2,709	69,329	33,129	14,381	5,210	3,874	56,594	129	45	9	8	191
Malays (5) ...	23,336	7,656	3,348	2,741	37,081	12	3	...	.	15	76	9	4	2	91
Northern Indians ...	2,059	188	93	57	2,397	242	9	2	1	254	9,064	1,518	861	580	12,023
Southern Indians (6)	1,488	74	59	20	1,641	16	4	1	...	21	52,657	13,293	5,986	3,365	75,301
Others ...	746	44	75	13	878	8	2	1	...	11	65	16	7	7	95
Total ...	84,739	22,237	8,477	5,998	121,451	34,868	15,305	5,337	3,995	59,505	63,171	15,704	6,940	4,032	89,847

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1938

DEPARTURES TO

Race	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	583	235	29	38	885	9,081	4,764	904	803	15,552	17,559	9,605	1,632	1,440	30,236
Eurasians ...	12	10	1	2	25	57	48	13	12	130	346	322	29	41	738
Japanese ...	17	...	...	...	17	898	351	146	186	1,581	1,324	405	160	208	2,097
Chinese ...	1,185	276	239	93	1,793	8,554	2,551	609	437	12,151	94,167	28,333	10,437	7,121	140,058
Malays ...	33	8	2	2	45	3,574	1,804	437	329	6,144	27,031	9,480	3,791	3,074	43,376
Northern Indians ...	117	4	7	3	131	695	78	26	30	829	12,177	1,797	989	671	15,634
Southern Indians	78	7	9	7	101	549	30	11	6	596	54,788	13,408	6,066	3,398	77,660
Others ...	121	161	44	40	366	1,000	138	49	30	1,217	1,940	361	176	90	2,567
Total ...	2,146	701	331	185	3,363	24,408	9,764	2,195	1,833	38,200	209,332	63,711	23,280	16,043	312,366

Race	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	1,321	183	17	8	1,529	1,407	474	40	25	1,946	20,287	10,262	1,689	1,473	33,711
Eurasians ...	...	1	...	...	1	82	73	6	12	173	428	396	35	53	912
Japanese ...	59	...	...	...	59	104	16	...	...	120	1,487	421	160	208	2,276
Chinese ...	145	10	...	1	156	26,944	5,497	1,814	1,020	35,275	121,256	33,840	12,251	8,142	175,489
Malays ...	12	1	...	...	13	43,161	16,204	3,669	2,240	65,274	70,204	25,685	7,460	5,314	108,663
Northern Indians ...	25	5	2	...	32	1,405	124	76	24	1,629	13,607	1,926	1,067	695	17,295
Southern Indians ...	2	...	...	...	2	1,294	94	41	24	1,453	56,084	13,502	6,107	3,422	79,115
Others ...	17	...	1	...	18	7,732	4,236	1,518	994	14,480	9,689	4,597	1,695	1,084	17,065
Total ...	1,581	200	20	9	1,810	82,129	26,718	7,164	4,339	120,350	293,042	90,629	30,464	20,391	434,526

TABLE III—*continued*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1938

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

Race	BY SEA														
	THE NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	Children (1) G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans (4) ...	− 467	− 192	− 25	12	− 672	605	− 124	− 45	− 41	395	− 119	− 158	− 9	− 20	− 306
Eurasians	13	1	− 3	− 6	5	− 1	2	− 2	1	0	3	− 12	− 5	− 7	− 21
Japanese	102	41	18	23	184	− 24	− 5	...	− 5	− 34	− 8	− 2	− 1	2	− 9
Chinese	1,898	− 1,679	− 668	− 533	− 982	6,085	30,612	10,577	5,876	53,150	22	− 16	− 2	− 2	2
Malays (5) ...	608	221	304	220	1,353	49	− 1	...	...	48	197	1	− 2	− 2	194
Northern Indians ...	152	− 33	− 6	8	121	43	5	11	4	63	1,673	− 44	− 11	− 43	1,575
Southern Indians (6)	213	0	− 2	20	231	22	− 4	− 1	1	18	−14,022	− 7,597	−1,551	−1,152	− 24,322
Others	− 221	43	− 33	10	− 201	8	2	− 1	...	9	129	1	8	− 4	134
Total ...	2,298	− 1,598	− 415	− 246	39	6,787	30,487	10,539	5,836	53,649	−12,125	− 7,827	[illegible],573	−1,228	− 22,753

Race	BY SEA														
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans ...	− 74	− 21	2	− 4	− 97	2,012	822	28	146	3,008	1,957	327	− 49	93	2,328
Eurasians	− 5	− 4	− 1	− 1	− 11	15	7	11	4	37	25	− 6	0	− 9	10
Japanese	− 11	2	2	...	− 7	− 155	− 87	− 70	− 101	− 413	− 96	− 51	− 51	− 81	− 279
Chinese	− 232	− 35	− 93	− 13	− 373	− 1,036	− 823	99	73	− 1,687	6,737	28,059	9,913	5,401	50,110
Malays	36	15	7	6	64	942	582	171	153	1,848	1,832	818	480	377	3,507
Northern Indians ...	13	0	− 4	− 1	8	1,014	77	84	51	1,226	2,895	5	74	19	2,993
Southern Indians ...	20	8	7	5	40	358	100	64	56	578	−13,409	− 7,493	−1,483	−1,070	− 23,455
Others	− 14	− 41	− 7	− 12	− 74	142	13	52	6	213	44	18	19	0	81
Total ...	− 267	− 76	− 87	− 20	− 450	3,292	691	439	388	4,810	− 15	21,677	8,903	4,730	35,295

TABLE III—*concluded*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1938

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

Race	BY AIR — FOREIGN COUNTRIES					BY LAND — SIAM					GRAND TOTAL (7) (8)				
	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	Children G.	Total
Europeans	5	10	− 5	− 1	9	132	61	14	− 14	193	2,094	398	− 40	78	2,530
Eurasians	...	− 1		...	− 1	− 7	− 13	− 1	2	− 19	18	− 20	− 1	− 7	− 10
Japanese ...		2	...	...	4	51	5	2	...	58	− 43	− 44	− 49	− 81	− 217
Chinese	12	5	4	0	21	2,691	64	207	87	3,049	9,440	28,128	10,124	5,488	53,180
Malays	− 1	0	...	...	− 1	− 6,992	− 1,518	− 441	− 303	− 9,254	− 5,161	− 700	39	74	− 5,748
Northern Indians ...	− 11	− 4	− 2	...	− 17	92	36	35	2	165	2,976	37	107	21	3,141
Southern Indians ...	1	...	...	...	1	121	38	47	− 3	203	−13,287	− 7,455	−1,436	−1,073	− 23,251
Others	− 3	1	0	...	− 2	987	257	163	− 73	1,334	1,028	276	182	− 73	1,413
Total ...	5	13	− 3	− 1	14	− 2,925	− 1,070	26	− 302	− 4,271	− 2,935	20,620	8,926	4,427	31,038

Notes:—

1. Children are under 12 (English) years of age.
2. China includes Hong Kong.
3. India includes Ceylon.
4. Europeans include Americans.
5. Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago.
6. Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore.
7. For movements *viâ* individual ports or land-routes, *see* monthly Return Statistics *3*; for movements of deck passengers (Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indians) *see* monthly Return Statistics 13.
8. Net Arrivals, 1938: 31,038.
   Net Arrivals, 1937: 267,206.

TABLE IV

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE, JAVANESE AND SOUTHERN INDIAN DECK PASSENGERS DURING THE YEAR, 1938

Race	Singapore		Penang		Port Swettenham		Total		Net Arrivals during the year	Net Arrivals for the Years 1936 and 1937	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures		1936	1937
1. Chinese from and to China including Hongkong *(a)* ...	93.217	47,481	11,892	5,804	39	1,318	105,148	54,603	50,545	69,244	176,802
2. Javanese from and to Java *(b)* ...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	60	– 60	38	...
3. Southern Indians from and to Presidency of Madras *(c)* ...	13,390	15,833	21,164	32,954	9,352	26,301	43,906	75,088	– 31,182	3,353	78,194
Total ...	106,607	63,374	33,056	38,758	9,391	27,619	149,054	129,751	19,303	72,635	254,996

(a) For Chinese: all deck passengers by all steamers.

(b) For Javanese: all labourers recruited for Malayan estates as reported by recruiting agencies and the Labour Department at Singapore.

(c) *For Southern Indians:* all deck passengers embarked and disembarked by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers between Malayan Ports and Madras as reported by the Labour Department.

TABLE V

Arrivals and Departures of Chinese Deck Passengers from and to China during the year, 1938

Port	Arrivals				Departures				Total Arrivals		Total Departures	
	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	Men	Women	Boys *(a)*	Girls *(a)*	1937	1938	1937	1938
Singapore	32,574	38,487	13,835	8,321	28,235	11,925	4,210	3,111	213,270	93,217	56,467	47,481
Penang	3,709	5,462	1,553	1,168	2,905	1,631	718	550	29,948	11,892	8,758	5,804
Port Swettenham ...	6	18	4	11	694	301	176	147	86	39	1,277	1,318
Total ...	36,289	43,967	15,392	9,500	31,834	13,857	5,104	3,808	243,304	105,148	66,502	54,603

(a) Under 12 (English) years of age.

APPENDIX *C*

NATIONALITY, NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS WITH CARGO AND IN BALLAST AND NATIVE CRAFT OF ALL TONNAGE (INCLUDING THEIR REPEATED VOYAGES) WHICH ARRIVED AND DEPARTED AT THE PORTS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS DURING THE YEAR, 1938

Nationality	SINGAPORE						PENANG					
	MERCHANT VESSELS				MEN-OF-WAR		MERCHANT VESSELS				MEN-OF-WAR	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	4,618	10,867,405	..	..	44	275,820	2,640	7,821,478	..	..	62	151,382
American ..	46	210,881	..	..	..	..	43	178,776	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	141	36,147	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	200	707,276	..	..	..	..	116	464,892	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	4,496	7,756,584	..	..	..	..	1,116	1,402,697	..	..	..	..
Finnish ..	2	5,778	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	382	1,859,250	..	..	16	86,888	..	..	..	..	6	15,600
German ..	338	1,744,078	..	..	..	..	155	810,359	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	28	89,590	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	200	1,337,058	..	..	2	10,000	32	114,138	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	849	3,739,056	..	..	2	22,000	192	912,768	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	1,052	2,092,821	..	..	..	..	185	386,422	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	89	150,518	..	..	..	..	58	81,458	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	4	6,940	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	56	172,148	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	171	87,209	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	203	139,870	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	2,696
Swedish ..	70	251,602	..	..	..	..	24	84,231	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian ..	2	6,428	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	12,943	31,253,699	37,134	1,391,860	68	401,648	4,561	12,257,219	11,854	557,675	76	169,678
± 1937 ..	−579	−1,537,716	−925	+143	−12	+32,200	−288	−1,016,668	+572	+45,186	−28	+28,524

APPENDIX *C—continued*

NATIONALITY, NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS WITH CARGO AND IN BALLAST AND NATIVE CRAFT OF ALL TONNAGE (INCLUDING THEIR REPEATED VOYAGES) WHICH ARRIVED AND DEPARTED AT THE PORTS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS DURING THE YEAR, 1938

THEIR REPEATED VOYAGES) WHICH ARRIVED AND DEPARTED AT THE PORTS OF THE

Nationality	MALACCA						LABUAN					
	Merchant Ships				Men-of-War		Merchant Ships				Men-of-War	
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under				Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British ..	510	688,998	..	..	8	9,440	242	227,442	..	..	24	66,754
American ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	64	260,482	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch ..	42	3,360	..	..	..	..	6	2,268	..	..	..	..
Finnish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German ..	22	103,694	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greek ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japanese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian ..	162	136,494	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama ..	46	54,458	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese ..	8	5,934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	854	1,253,420	5,527	98,758	8	9,440	248	229,710	2,595	39,460	24	66,754
± 1937 ..	+44	+11,102	−119	−8,154	+8	+9,440	+20	−7,696	−369	−2,164	+10	+38,933

Note.—To the above figures must be added:—

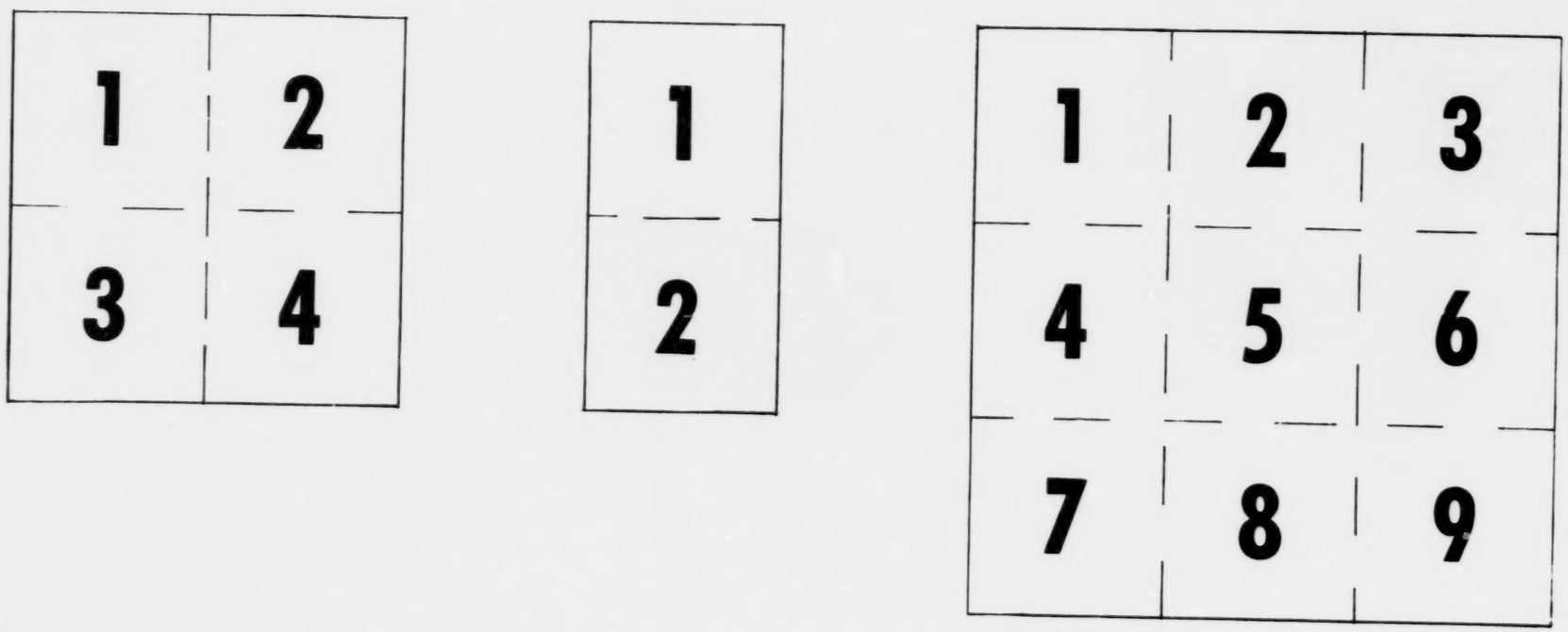
(*a*) Christmas Island: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1938 was * 151,236 tons—a decrease of * 13,029 tons.

The total tonnage of vessels arrived and departed at the Straits Settlements ports during the year 1938 was * 47,880,557 tons or a decrease of 2,419,899 tons as compared with the year, 1937. This comprised (*a*) merchant vessels 47,233,037 tons of which

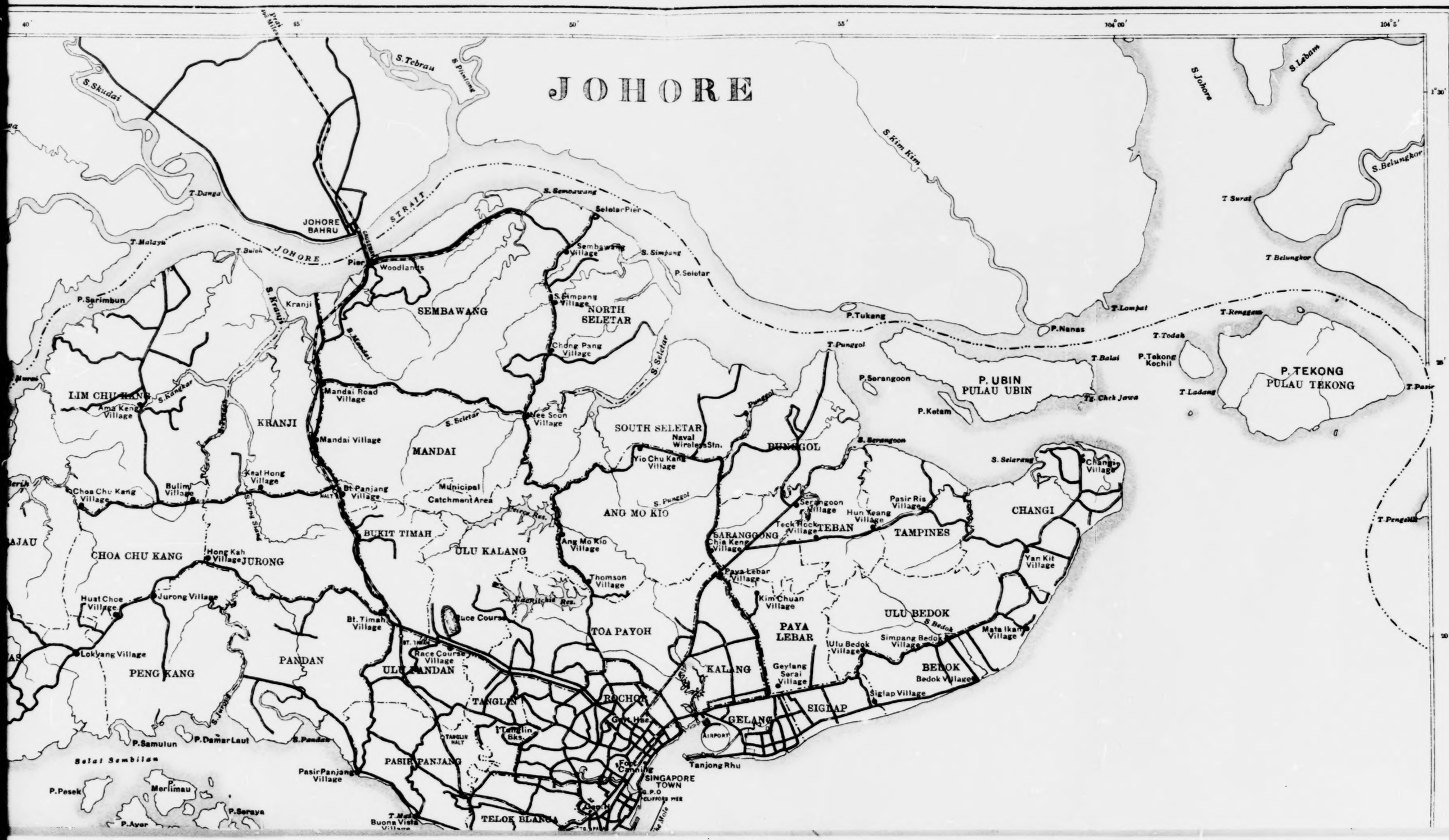
(i) over 75 tons	45,145,274	tons
(ii) 75 tons and under and native craft ...	2,087,763	tons
(*b*) warships	* 647,520	tons
Total ...	* 47,880,557	tons

* Including one French Sloop entered and cleared tonnage unknown.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.



JOHORE
STRAIT
JOHORE
JOHORE BAHRU
Causeway
Pier
Woodlands
S. Skudai
S. Danga
T. Danga
S. Malayu
T. Malayu
T. Buloh
S. Tebrau
S. Pisiang
S. Kim Kim
S. Johore
S. Semawang
Seletar Pier
Sembawang Village
S. Simpang
P. Seletar
S. Simpang Village
NORTH SELETAR
SEMBAWANG
Chong Pang Village
S. Seletar
P. Tukang
P. Nanas
T. Lompat
T. Todak
T. Balai
P. Tekong Kechil
T. Ladang
Tg. Chek Jawa
P. UBIN
PULAU UBIN
P. Serangoon
P. Ketam
T. Punggol
S. Punggol
S. Serangoon
S. Selarang
Changi Village
P. Surimbun
Kranji
S. Kranji
S. Mandai
S. Sungei Kechil
S. Murai
LIM CHU KANG
Ama Keng Village
S. Kangkar
KRANJI
Mandai Road Village
Mandai Village
MANDAI
Nee Soon Village
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
Yio Chu Kang Village
PUNGGOL
S. Berih
Choa Chu Kang Village
Bulim Village
Keat Hong Village
Bt. Panjang Village
HALT
Municipal Catchment Area
Lorong Res.
ANG MO KIO
Serangoon Village
Teck Hock Village
Hun Yeang Village
Pasir Ris Village
CHANGI
BAJAU
CHOA CHU KANG
Hong Kah Village
JURONG
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
Ang Mo Kio Village
SARANGOONG
Chia Keng Village
TEBAN
TAMPINES
Yan Kit Village
S. Tengah
T. Kelang
Huat Choe Village
Jurong Village
Thomson Village
Paya Lebar Village
Kim Chuan Village
Kallang Res.
Race Course
Bt. Timah Village
TOA PAYOH
PAYA LEBAR
ULU BEDOK
S. Bedok
Mata Ikan Village
Simpang Bedok Village
Ulu Bedok Village
T. Merawang
TUAS
Lokyang Village
PENG KANG
PANDAN
Race Course Village
ULU PANDAN
KALANG
Geylang Serai Village
BEDOK
Bedok Village
P. Merambong
T. Tuas
Tuas Village
T. Teritip
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
S. Pandan
TANGLIN
ROCHOR
Tanglin Bks.
Govt. Hse.
GELANG
AIRPORT
SIGLAP
Siglap Village
Selat Sembilan
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang Village
Fort Canning
SINGAPORE TOWN
G.P.O.
CLIFFORD PIER
Tanjong Rhu
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
P. Seraya
P. Ayer
T. Mati
Buona Vista Village
TELOK BLANGAH


JOHORE
STRAIT
JOHORE
JOHORE BAHRU
Pier
Causeway
Woodlands
SEMBAWANG
NORTH SELETAR
SOUTH SELETAR
Naval Wireless Stn.
Seletar Pier
Sembawang Village
Simpang Village
Chong Pang Village
Mandai Road Village
Mandai Village
MANDAI
Municipal Catchment Area
Bt. Panjang Village
BUKIT TIMAH
ULU KALANG
Race Course
Race Course Village
Bt. Timah Village
ULU PANDAN
PANDAN
TOA PAYOH
ANG MO KIO
Ang Mo Kio Village
Thomson Village
Yio Chu Kang Village
Nee Soon Village
KRANJI
Keat Hong Village
Bulim Village
Choa Chu Kang Village
CHOA CHU KANG
Hong Kah Village
JURONG
Jurong Village
Huat Choe Village
Lokyang Village
PENG KANG
LIM CHU KANG
Ama Keng Village
Kranji
Sembawang
Seletar
Simpang
Punggol
Serangoon
Ketam
Tukang
Nanas
Lompat
Todak
Balai
Tekong Kechil
Ladang
Tg. Chek Jawa
Pasir
Pengelih
Renggam
Belungkor
Belungkor
Lebam
Johore
Kim Kim
Surat
P. UBIN
PULAU UBIN
P. TEKONG
PULAU TEKONG
PUNGGOL
Serangoon Village
Teck Hock Village
Chia Keng Village
SARANGOON
TEBAN
Hun Keang Village
Pasir Ris Village
TAMPINES
CHANGI
Changi Village
Yan Kit Village
Paya Lebar Village
Kim Chuan Village
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Ulu Bedok Village
Simpang Bedok Village
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Bedok Village
Geylang Serai Village
KALANG
GELANG
SIGLAP
Siglap Village
ROCHOR
Tanjong Rhu
Tanglin Bks.
TANGLIN
PASIR PANJANG
Pasir Panjang Village
TELOK BLANGA
Buona Vista Village
SINGAPORE TOWN
Fort Canning
Cliffords Pier
Government House
AIRPORT
Selat Sembilan
P. Samulun
P. Damar Laut
P. Pesek
P. Merlimau
P. Seraya
P. Ayer
P. Serimbun
Tebrau
Pisirlong
Skudai
Dunga
Malayu
Bulok
Kranji
Kangkar
Mandai
Seletar
Punggol
Serangoon
Selarang
Pandan
Jurong
Sembawang
Simpang
Kim Kim
Johore
Lebam
Belungkor
Surat
Belungkor
Lompat
Renggam
Todak
Balai
Ladang
Pengelih
Pasir
Tukang
Nanas
Punggol
Serangoon
Ketam
Seletar
Pandan
Jurong
Mandai
Kranji
Kangkar
Lim Chu Kang
Choa Chu Kang
Bt. Timah
Bt. Panjang
Thomson
Ang Mo Kio
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Peirce Res.
Macritchie Res.
Kallang
Geylang
Siglap
Bedok
Tanjong Rhu
Tanglin
Rochor
Pasir Panjang
Telok Blanga
Pasir Panjang
Buona Vista
Merlimau
Seraya
Ayer
Pesek
Samulun
Damar Laut
Selat Sembilan
Tanglin Halt
Bt. Panjang Halt
Keat Hong Halt
Bulim Halt
Jurong Halt
Bt. Timah Halt
Race Course Halt
Tanglin Halt
Kranji Halt
Seletar Halt
Punggol Halt
Serangoon Halt
Ketam Halt
Tukang Halt
Nanas Halt
Todak Halt
Balai Halt
Ladang Halt
Pasir Halt
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Tanjong Rhu Halt
Siglap Halt
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Punggol Halt
Serangoon Halt
Ketam Halt
Tukang Halt
Nanas Halt
Todak Halt
Balai Halt
Ladang Halt
Pasir Halt
Pengelih Halt
Tanjong Rhu Halt
Siglap Halt
Bedok Halt
Changi Halt

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PENANG ISLAND
AND
PROVINCE WELLESLEY
1938

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

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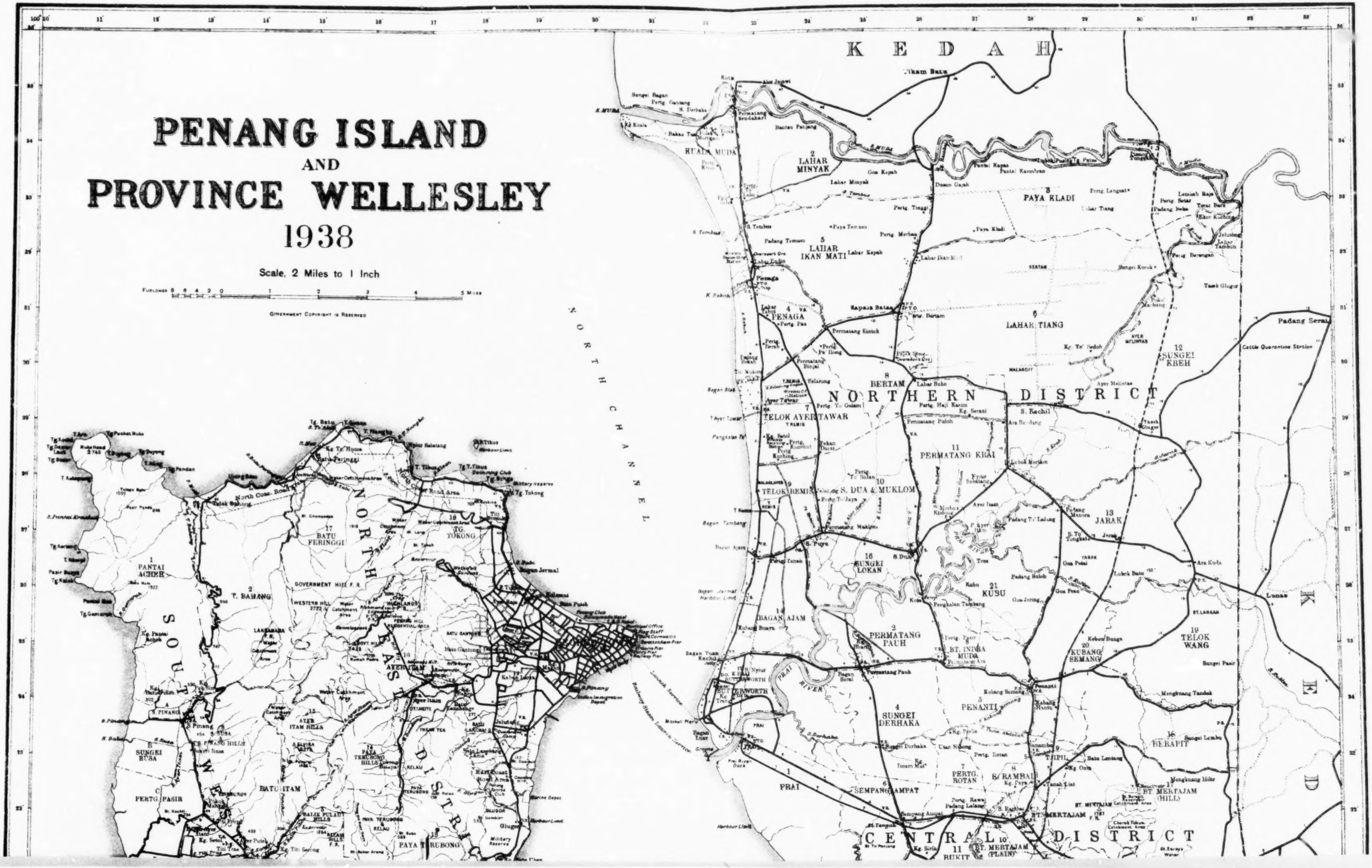
KEDAH
NORTH CHANNEL
NORTHERN DISTRICT
CENTRAL DISTRICT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
KEDAH
KUALA MUDA
2 LAHAR MINYAK
3 PAYA KLADI
5 LAHAR IKAN MATI
4 PENAGA
6 LAHAR TIANG
8 BERTAM
12 SUNGEI KREH
7 TELOK AYER TAWAR
11 PERMATANG KRAI
9 TELOK REMIS
10 S. DUA & MUKLOM
13 JARAK
16 SUNGEI LOKAN
21 KUSU
14 BAGAN AJAM
2 PERMATANG PAUH
20 KUBANG SEMANG
19 TELOK WANG
4 SUNGEI DERHAKA
5 PENANTI
16 BERAPIT
1 PRAI
6 SEMPANG AMPAT
7 PERTG. ROTAN
8 S. RAMBAI
11 BT. MERTAJAM (PLAIN)
1 PANTAI ACHEH
2 T. BAHANG
17 BATU FERINGGI
18 TG. TOKONG
8 SUNGEI RUSA
C PERTG. PASIR
BATU ITAM
14 PAYA TERUBONG
15 PAYA TERUBONG
Padang Serai
Cattle Quarantine Station
Lunas
PRAI RIVER
BUTTERWORTH
PRAI
Bagan Jermal
Harbour Limit
Mutiara Pier
Bagan Ajam Harbour Limit
Bagan Tiram Harbour Limit
Bagan Tiang Harbour Limit
Bagan Bloh
Bagan Tambang
Bagan Ajam
Bagan Jermal
Bagan Tiram
Bagan Tiang
Bagan Serai
Bagan Dalam
Bagan Ular
Bagan Tuan Kechil
Bagan Nyior
Bagan Dorkaka

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LABUAN

1938

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3880 — 0 — 2 — 4 Miles

REFERENCE

Earth Road & Bridle Path

Roads: Metalled

Point, Tanjong, River ..... Pt. T. R.

Pulau, Light House ..... P.

Kampong, Lobok ..... Kg. L

Flashing Light or Buoy

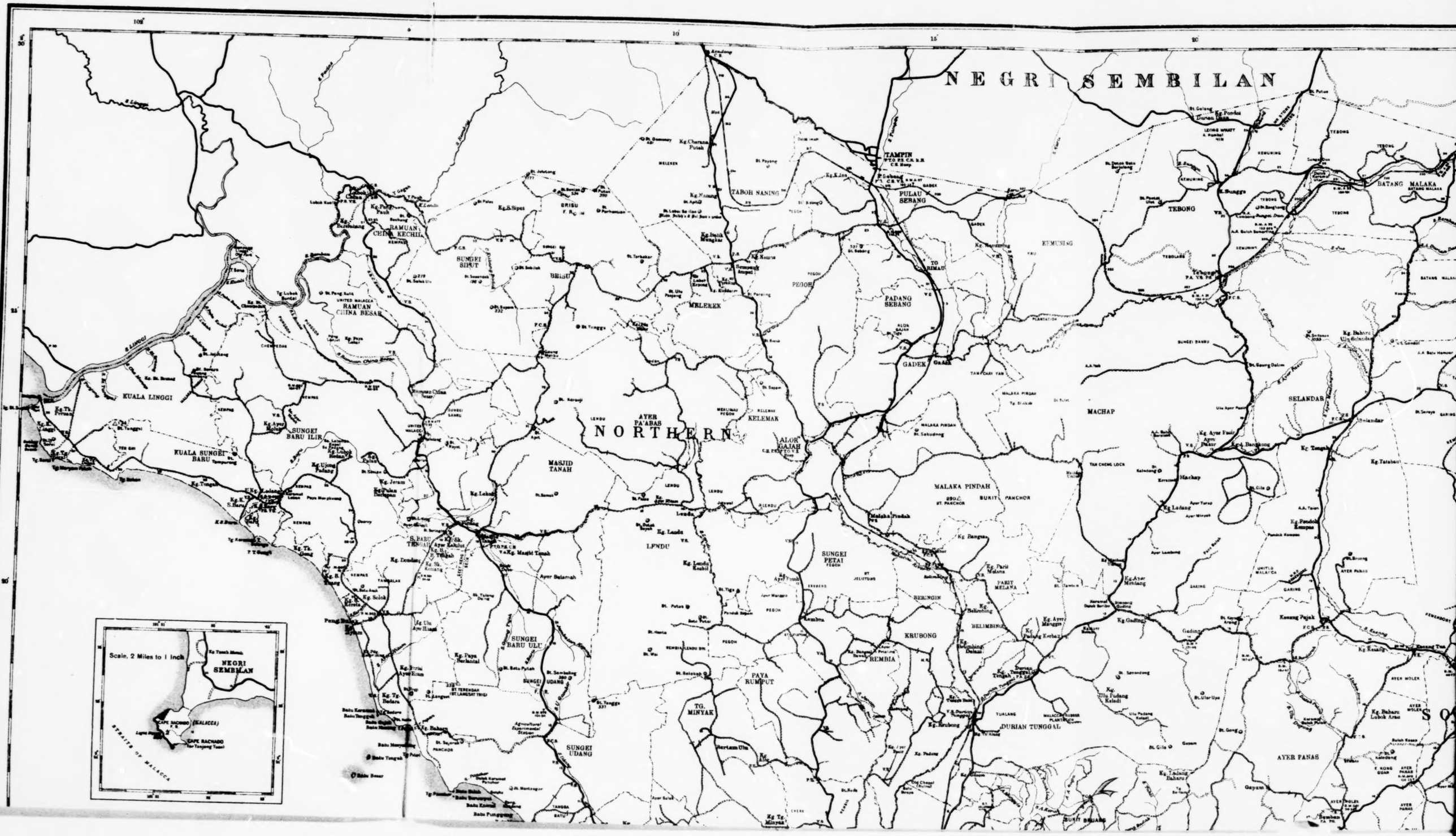
Fixed Light, Sungei ..... F★ S

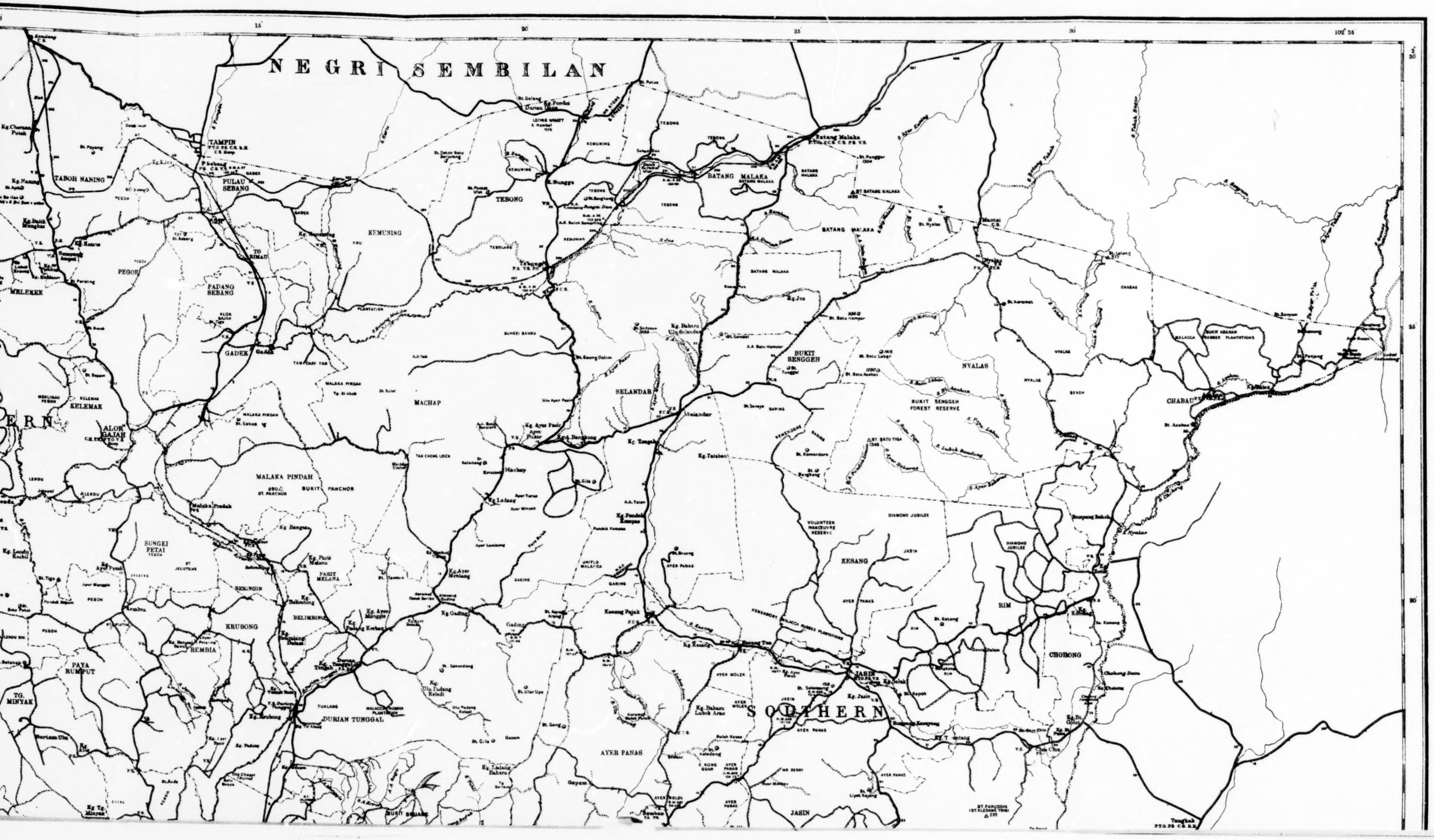
Mukim Boundary, Height 336

Country, Suburban ..... C. S.

Districts (1) Town (2) Suburban (1) (2)

BRITISH NORTH
CHINA SEA
Merinding 316
Sagumau
C. MUKIM No 6
Ganggarah R.
T. Layangan Luke Pt.
Kg. Kilan
Kg. Layangan
Timbunan
P. Akar Dewar
HAMILTON ROAD
NEW LILLAH RD.
BIG ARTHUR RD.
COAL POINT RD.
Kg. T. Aru
T. Aru
Kg. Pantai
Layangan Bay
Layang Layangan
Malay School
Kg. Kerupang
Kg. Nagalang
Kg. T. Aru
Labu R.
Kg. Labu
C. MUKIM No 1 275
C. MUKIM No 2
Membidai
Kg. S. Bedawon
Lada R.
Kg. Lada
S. MUKIM No 1
S. MUKIM No 2
Klias Pt.
Mulan Kassan Is.
Miri R.
Kg. Miri
C. MUKIM No 3 224
Kg. S. Sembilang
C. MUKIM No 4
Collier Head
Kg. Buton
Kg. Belulon
Kg. Belukut
Belulok R.
Belukut R.
Pagar R.
Kg. Pagar
Ct. Tinbalai
P. PATAN ROAD
VICTORIA TOWN
Ramsay Pt.
P. Daat
Victoria Harbour
Sawangan Aru
C. MUKIM No 5
L. Sanundoct
L. Payau
L. Ranggas
L. Bahar
Sawangan Buaya
T. Punia
Kiam Sam Pt.
Richardson Pt.
R. Rancha Pt.
Eno Is.
Bappan Is.
Burong Is.
Kuruman Is.
Rusukan Besar
Rusukan Kechil
B R U N E I B A Y
Barat Bank
GOVERNMENT COPYRIGHT IS RESERVED
115° 10' E. of Greenwich
15'
20'
20'
15'
15'
5° 10'


NEGRI SEMBILAN
NORTHERN
KUALA LINGGI
KUALA SUNGEI BARU
SUNGEI BARU ILIR
RAMUAN CHINA KECHIL
RAMUAN CHINA BESAR
SUNGEI SIPUT
BRISU
TABOH NANING
TAMPIN
PULAU SEBANG
TO RIMAU
PEGOH
MELEKEK
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
KEMUNING
TEBONG
BATANG MALAKA
MACHAP
SELANDAR
KELEMAK
ALOR GAJAH
AYER PA'ABAS
MASJID TANAH
MALAKA PINDAH
BUKIT PANCHOR
LENDU
SUNGEI PETAI
PARIT MELANA
BERINGIN
BELIMBING
KRUBONG
REMBIA
PAYA RUMPUT
TG. MINYAK
SUNGEI BARU ULU
SUNGEI UDANG
DURIAN TUNGGAL
AYER PANAS
BUKIT BRUANG
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
NEGRI SEMBILAN
CAPE RACHADO (MALACCA)
CAPE RACHADO (Tanjong Tuan)
STRAITS OF MALACCA


NEGRI SEMBILAN
SOUTHERN
TAMPIN
TABOH NANING
PULAU SEBANG
TEBONG
KEMUNING
BATANG MALAKA
PEGOH
PADANG SEBANG
GADEK
MELEKEK
KELEMAK
ALOR GAJAH
MACHAP
SELANDAR
BUKIT SENGGEH
NYALAS
BUKIT SENGGEH FOREST RESERVE
CHABAU
MALAKA PINDAH
BUKIT PANCHOR
SUNGEI PETAI
KESANG
RIM
CHOBONG
KRUBONG
REMBIA
PAYA RUMPUT
TG. MINYAK
DURIAN TUNGGAL
AYER PANAS
JASIN

MALACCA
1938
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Furlongs 8 6 4 2 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
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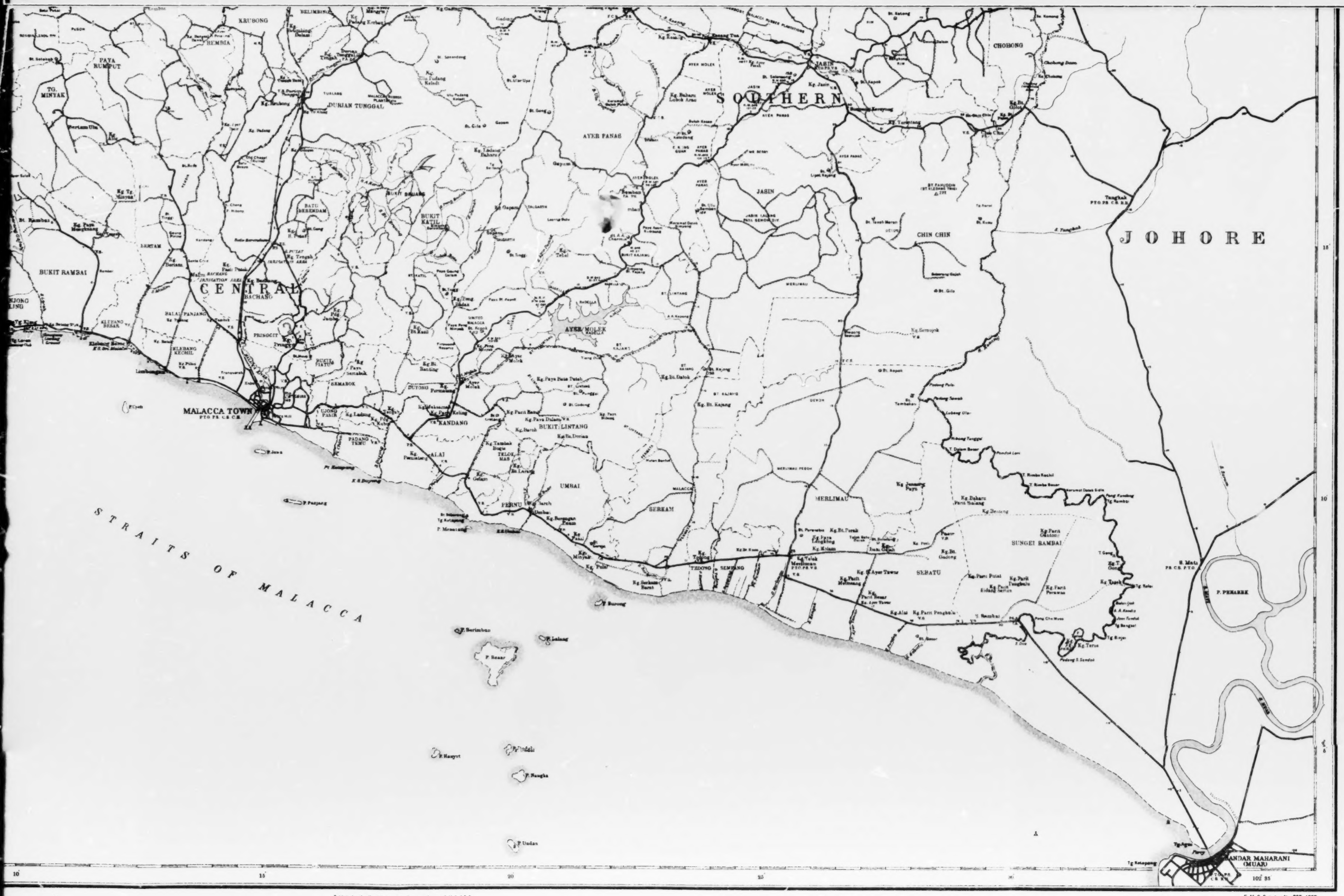
REFERENCE
Railways, Open with Station & Mile Plate
First Class Asphalt Surfaced Roads with Mile Stone
Other Metalled Roads
Cart Tracks
State Boundary with Pillar
District Boundary, Mukim Boundary
Municipal Limit
Vernacular School, Police Station V.S. P.S.
Post and Telegraph Office, Hospital, Postal Agency P.T.O. Hosp. P.A.
Court House C.H.
Forest Checking Station, Customs Station F.C.S. C.S.
Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch
Negri Sembilan
Cape Rachado (Malacca)
Straits of Malacca
Sungei Baru Ulu
Sungei Udang
Tanggal Batu
Bukit Rambai
Tanjong Kling
Krubong
Rembia
Paya Rumput
Tg. Minyak
Durian Tunggal
Central
Bachang
Bukit Katil
Ayer Panas
Ayer Molek
Malacca Town
Kandang
Bukit Lintang
Umbai
Pernu
Serkam
Tedong
Straits of Malacca
P. Besar
P. Dodol
P. Undan



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GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
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HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
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KELANTAN
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
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ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
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